



MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 10 FEBRUARY 2016 AT TARLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRESENT: Simon Welfare (Chairman), Alec McVean, David Ellis and 8 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Geva Blackett, Cllr. Peter Argyle, Cllr. Katrina Farquhar, Sue Erskine, Joyce Lovie, Veronica Ross, Evelyn Smith & Police Scotland.

1. Proposed Housing Development at Coull

Mr Ian Livingstone, Planning Consultant of Ryden LLP, made a presentation on behalf of Mrs Barbara Reid, who was also present, to inform and consult the community about a small housing development proposed for Coull in advance of a planning application to be submitted in the near future to Aberdeenshire Council. He showed plans for 4 houses, one of which would be affordable, and answered questions from Community Councillors and the members of the public present. He promised to inform the Community Council when an application had been lodged so that any members of the community who might wish to comment could do so.

2. Minutes of 10 February Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting on 13 January 2016 at Logie Coldstone Hall were discussed and approved.

3. Police Report

Police Scotland said that Cromar continues to be a low crime area, although the Community Council noted an alleged incident in Tarland that had occurred after the preparation of the Police Report. The Report added that there had been a few incidents of people entering insecure vehicles in nearby towns and it reminded local residents to keep their property – houses and vehicles – secure at all

times. The Report also pointed out that anglers fishing for salmon on the River Dee and River Don must return all fish caught between now and April, in line with new legislation that came into effect last year. Operation Cedar, Police Scotland's initiative to reduce road casualties, continues.

4. Cromar Report

4.1: *Alastrean House Fire*

The Community Council was told that the staff of Alastrean House had coped 'magnificently' with the fire at the beginning of the year and its immediate aftermath. The Chairman agreed to write to Balhousie Care to enquire about its future plans for the nursing home.

4.2: *Aberdeenshire Council Winter Roads Policy*

The amendments to Aberdeenshire Council's winter roads policy, about which the Community Council had expressed concern at previous meetings, were discussed. These changes, brought about by a reduced budget, have now been agreed. Primary roads will not be affected, but non-primary roads will not be treated unless there are sub-zero road surface temperatures, or if air temperatures below 3C are forecast to persist for 48 hours.

4.3: *Flooding & Resilience Report*

Good progress has been made in clearing up after the flooding in Tarland. Thanks were again expressed to the volunteers from across the Howe of Cromar and beyond who had freely given their time to help during the crisis and to Donald Gordon for his thorough and thoughtful report on the problems encountered in Tarland. Alec McVean agreed to organize a meeting to consult local residents on what measures should be taken to reduce future flood risks to the area. He will also lead consultations about a Resilience Plan that the Community Council hopes to put in place in the coming months. The Community Council noted with regret that the Tarland Trails had been closed due to damage by the weather, and a member of the public present said that stretches of the Tarland Way had also been affected.

4.4 *Improvements to Local Environment*

The Community Council is asking local residents through its Facebook page to suggest where small improvements and repairs to the local infrastructure could be made.

<https://www.facebook.com/Cromar-Community-Council-485641004819178/>

5. Tarland Welfare Trust

Nigel Healey said that the Trust had submitted a revised application to install external air source heat pumps at the MacRobert Memorial Hall. The installation of a hearing loop was still pending.

6. Tarland Development Group

The Community Council agreed to take part in the TDG's Community Groups Event on 14 May 2016.

7. A.O.B.

The Community Council decided to seek the community's views on the operation and availability of local bus services so that the provision of public transport in the area can be reviewed.

Next meeting: Logie Coldstone Hall on 16 March 2016 at 7 p.m.