



## CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING at Logie Coldstone School 22nd May 2024

**Present:** Simon Welfare (Chairman), Dave Ellis, Sandra van Heusden, John Rogie, Janet Urquhart, Stewart Urquhart and three members of the public (Steve Hancock, Alec McVean and Katrina Lovie).

**Apologies:** Apologies had been received from Joyce Lovie, Linda Moffat, Andrew Wilson, Councillor Sarah Brown, Councillor Geva Blackett and Councillor Anouk Kloppert.

#### 1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 24th April, were approved. Acceptance was proposed by Sandra van Heusden and seconded by Janet Urquhart.

#### 2. Police Report

There had been no report since the last meeting. There had been reports of damage caused by vehicles to the track on the hill passing Loch Coull House. The forestry company RTS had also said that locks and chains appeared to have been cut on the forestry gates linking the hill at Coull to Lumphanan.

#### 3. Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Sarah Brown reported that the funding of the bike racks was agreed and an officer of the Council would contact the Community Council as the project advanced.

The Road and Infrastructure works planned for 2024/25 were described. There were no roads in the Cromar Community Council area that were scheduled to be resurfaced in this budget year. The resurfacing of part of The Square in Tarland was still at position 10 on the dynamic list of priorities.

There was an update from the April discussion of the forecasts for the school roll at Logie Coldstone Primary School. In the August 2024 academic year, there were forecast to be nine pupils at the school. With this number, the school would remain open. However, if the roll were to fall to eight or fewer, the school might be subject to 'mothballing'. This can be decided by the Director of Education and does not need a statutory consultation.

This information prompted much discussion. Katrina Lovie said that there is another local Aberdeenshire school at Tullynessle, that is in a similar situation and added that parents

from Logie Coldstone planned to join with the Tullynessle parents in their planned action to lobby Aberdeenshire Council to emphasise to the importance of village schools. It was noted that no 'mothballed' school in Aberdeenshire seems ever to have reopened.

#### **4. Cromar Report**

##### **Bridges, Roads and Flooding**

There was as yet no news of progress of the community flood action scheme (supported by the MacRobert Trust estate) that had been discussed in February. A number of key participants had been away.

The Secretary said that new signage at the Coull Bridge had been installed /repositioned. This was an improvement on what was there before. The black and yellow chevron markers for the bridge supports were still awaited.

Improving the track to the pedestrian bridge across the Tarland Burn was discussed. The Chairman planned to respond to a communication from the MacRobert Trust estate about this and Sandra Van Heusden planned to check with householders as to what was written in their deeds regarding the path. She agreed to report back on this at the next meeting.

##### **Social Media**

Sandra Van Heusden said that it is difficult to measure the impact of the Community Council's social media activity. The recent post about an application from the TDG for a compost toilet and parking meter at Tarland Trails 1 (TT1) at Drummy Wood had resulted in the largest number of reactions ever. It was agreed that the posting of planning applications on the Community Council's facebook page would continue. This would increase their visibility and bring them to the attention of local residents.

##### **Hanging Baskets**

Preparations were in place for the arrival of the bedding plants and the placing of the hanging baskets in Tarland.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer said that the annual payment of £35 had been made to the Information Commissioner. The account balance stands at £788.95.

#### **6. Logie Coldstone Trust**

Katrina Lovie said that a successful car wash event for the benefit of Logie Coldstone Primary School had just taken place. The next month was busy with events, including the LCT Community Cafe, the Duck Race, the Morven Walk, and on 29th June, the Fun Games. Members said that they hoped to encourage more residents of the Logie Coldstone area to join the Community Council.

#### **7. Tarland Development Group**

The most recent minutes of the TDG had been circulated. Two members of the public attended the meeting to give their views on the TT1 planning application for a compost toilet and parking meter at Drummy Wood. In the discussion, concerns were expressed about the proposal to install a parking meter to raise money for the trails since the car park was a

mixed-use facility to be shared by mountain bikers, walkers and those exercising dogs. There were worries that the proposed location of the composting toilet might be vulnerable to flooding. Members agreed that there was support for a public toilet at Drummy Wood but decided to submit a comment to Aberdeenshire planners about the siting of the toilet and the question of the parking meter.

The planned consultation over the possibility of further development at TT2 was also discussed. It had been agreed that it would be facilitated and monitored by the Community Council. The "Your Cromar, Have Your Say" leaflet, commissioned by the TDG for the survey of residents within the Community Council's area, was being designed and would be distributed by Church volunteers. The public meeting was scheduled for Monday, 10th June, at the MacRobert Memorial Hall.

#### **8. Planning Applications**

Members discussed current planning applications. As well as the one for Tarland Trails 1 (TT1), there were applications for 'Culloden' Cottage, Kirklands of Cromar and a house at Boig, all in Tarland.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

There were no AOB items

#### **10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be at Tarland School on Wednesday 19th June. The AGM will take place at 19.00 and the ordinary meeting will begin at 19.15..