



CROMAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING at Tarland Primary School 24th April 2024

Present: Simon Welfare (Chairman), Dave Ellis, Sandra van Heusden, John Rogie, Linda Moffat, Janet Urquhart, Stewart Urquhart, Councillor Sarah Brown, Sgt Masson and one member of the public (Alastair Scott).

Apologies: Apologies had been received from Joyce Lovie, Andrew Wilson, Councillor Geva Blackett and Councillor Anouk Kloppert.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 27th March, were approved. Acceptance was proposed by Sandra van Heusden and seconded by Stewart Urquhart.

2. Matters Arising

Aberdeenshire Council has inspected the graveyard of the Auld Kirk in Tarland and cordoned off some gravestones with tape for safety reasons. The reduction in school rolls was discussed. Members noted that there had been no new affordable houses built for families in the area for many years and that this was likely to have affected the number of families with children living in Cromar.

2. Police Report

Sergeant Allan Masson presented the quarter 1 2024 report. Overall, the level of illegal behaviour in the area remains low. The attempted theft of an expensive jacket from a shop in Ballater was discussed. It was disappointing that the persons concerned had managed to leave the area. There had been an incident of fly tipping on the Aboyne to Tarland road, but this had been cleared quickly, presumably by Aberdeenshire Council. Members thanked Sergeant Masson for his reports and for taking the time to attend the meeting.

3. Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Sarah Brown reported that the ordering and installation of the bike racks for Tarland Square were awaiting the allocation of new budget codes by Aberdeenshire Council.

She said that Aberdeenshire Council had decided that traffic flow over the Dinnet Bridge would be changed to single-lane working. This would preserve the bridge while it was handling the increased traffic due to the closure of the Aboyne Bridge. Information about Aboyne Bridge can be found here: <https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/aboyne-bridge>.

Cllr. Brown said that Aberdeenshire Council was conducting a consultation as to how residents should book the various services that are offered by the Council.

4. Cromar Report

Bridges, Roads and Flooding

The Chairman planned to circulate a SEPA consultation and encouraged all Members to participate. There was as yet no news of progress of the community flood action scheme (supported by the MacRobert Trust estate) that had been discussed a few weeks earlier .

There was no news concerning improving the access track to the pedestrian bridge across the Tarland Burn. The Chairman and Sandra Van Heusden planned to write again to the MacRobert Trust estate about this.

More substantial barriers have been placed on Burnside Road. It is hoped that the long-promised repairs to the kerbside will take place in the next few weeks.

Resilience Plan

The application to the National Centre for Resilience for a grant of £500 to cover the shortfall in the funds for the Resilience Plan Z-cards was still pending.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer said that the account balance stands at £823.95. There was no change from the March balance.

6. Logie Coldstone Trust

A car wash event was planned for Logie Coldstone, with funds raised going to benefit Logie Coldstone Primary School.

7. Tarland Development Group

No recent minutes were available from the TDG. There had been correspondence with the TDG Chair regarding the possible flood risk to the composting toilet proposed for Tarland Trails 1 (TT1). He had also been asked to ensure that walkers and those exercising dogs in Drummy Wood would not be asked to pay car parking charges.

The Community Council had been asked by the TDG to progress the consultation about the ideas for further development at the TT2 car park at Smallburn. It was suggested that a leaflet drop with a space for comments should be issued to households throughout Cromar and that this should be followed up with a meeting in the MacRobert Memorial Hall, Tarland, to discuss any issues raised by the ideas. It was agreed that the leaflet should be drawn up by the Chairman and Sandra Van Heusden in cooperation with the TDG.

8. Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications.

9. Any Other Business

It was reported that Aberdeenshire Council is proposing changes to the timetable for Community Council elections. The Secretary was asked to summarise and circulate these.

The Secretary reported that a long-term forest plan titled LTFP Chraad had been received. It was agreed to circulate the document once it had been updated.

Arrangements for the hanging baskets in Tarland were discussed. Sandra van Heusden said that she would help organise this and Stewart Urquhart offered the use of his large trailer for transporting the plants. The Chairman and Secretary agreed to find volunteers to plant and water the baskets.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at Logie Coldstone School at 19.00 on Wednesday 22nd May.