



CRIEFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of 5th September 2024

Strathearn Community Campus, Crieff, 7.30pm

Present: 8 members of the public inclusive of community groups pertaining to Crieff and surrounds

Community Councillors: Brian Wilton (Chair), Kayleigh Keith, Pete McCarra, Elaine McDonald, Iona Macgregor

Ward Councillors: Bailie Rhona Brock, Councillor Stewart Donaldson

Apologies: Community Councillor Marlene Galashan, Ward Councillor Noah Khogali

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed all those present and gave apologies for Community Councillor Marlene Galashan - battling with dental surgery including 17 stitches - and Ward Councillor Noah Khogali.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

As August's minutes had only been circulated the previous day, the Chair asked that they be discussed at the next meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Weeds at site of former Strathearn Hotel, King St

Community Councillor Elaine McDonald had organised a tidy-up by volunteers until it was discovered that the sap from a fleshy plant (Euphorbia) growing there could cause serious eye problems. Chair asked Community Services if they could step in but hadn't had a response, only to discover that the majority of weeds have been removed by the community service group, to whom he expressed gratitude.

Drovers Gate housing estate and blockage with Broich Ave

Chair said there had been a slight escalation of the situation in that landowner had chopped more trees down and laid them across the boundary. Chair spoke to

landowner and went to see Ogilvie employee in the showhouse. Chair said problem seems to be that Ogilvie oversold the access over the fence into someone else's land, allegedly without speaking to the landowner. Councillor Stewart Donaldson has been looking at the plans and is trying to get access to the original plans. The showhouse shows, clearly, four paths going at right-angles towards the boundary with Broich Ave and marked as 'potential future footpaths' – this was sold to potential buyers. Many residents are peeved that this isn't the case - as is the landowner who doesn't want people going over the fence and dumping grass and hedge cuttings. Councillors trying to see if the original plans were passed by Perth & Kinross Council or if Ogilvie were over-selling the facilities.

Banking Hub

Chair said he wasn't sure when this was opening. Bailie Brock mentioned that there was going to be a new ATM on the High St. Chair expressed curiosity as to why it wasn't nearer the hub. The Bailie said it was up to the hub to instal one nearer to its premises and that this could be looked at when banking change soon re this. Chair said the ATM was going to go into what was Jazz Computers, which he thought was to become a vape shop.

Civic Chairs

Chair Wilton had appointment next day with upholsterer re quote for re-covering 11 chairs. One individual was offering to pay for one chair. Chair suggested that if prices aren't too high he might ask local businesses and individuals to sponsor a chair being re-covered. It would be used upstairs in the Crieff Museum with a brass plaque, for instance, with the name of the sponsor. Might ask for funding. We will see how the prices work out.

4. POLICE REPORT

No police report had been received and there wasn't one last time, Chair said this was indicative of the workload of the Police, particularly as there had been a major incident earlier in the day at Crieff Primary School.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Shop Signs

Chair pointed out there had been many complaints over some of these in the past year. Chair discovered from PKC Department Head that new shop signs are classed as advertisements and don't fall under conventional planning regulations. As well as this, if signage is up for more than four years there is nothing the council can do about it. Also, many businesses do not apply to the council re new shop signs with the result that much signage is felt to detract from the heritage of the Victorian buildings in Crieff. Councillor Donaldson, Chair said, might try to revisit a fascia board change/financial incentive.

Chair mentioned in passing the **following planning applications**:

- Installation of solar panels at Crieff Hydro Hotel

- Change of use to a flat to form an extension to Little Scallywags Nursery, Galvemore St, Crieff
- Retrospective change of use of land to form a campsite, Comrie Croft Hostel

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

20mph implementation: the background is a **default 20mph national strategy on all urban roads by the end of 2025**, introduced as a road safety measure to reduce road casualties. Most likely will commence with the following communities along the A85: Methven, Crieff, Comrie and St Fillans. Police stance re 20mph zones is that they will not enforce but will listen to community concerns as resources permit (have the same position re 30mph limits). Chair said the community can complain to the Community Council (and indirectly to the police), which may trigger action.

(Chair had at the meeting a map showing major roads affected which could be looked at afterwards by attendees.)

Chair also noted that re **Strowan Rd**, the back road from Crieff to Comrie, Crieff Community Trust had received a proposal re the increased amount of traffic on this minor road, with many driving too fast, and the **hope for a reduced speed limit of 40mph** leading to a, hoped for, reduced Satnav use of the road. The Chair suggested that the route may change, when funding permits, to a walking- and cycling-friendly road and asked the room what their thoughts were. There was general approval for a cycling-friendly road on this route.

Bailie Brock mentioned the road around **Balloch** also, which a lot of locals are asking to be made a **40mph zone too**.

Refurbished Murray Fountain, James Square

Chair described the pipe-band-led opening event as 'splendid', adding that provision had been made for water at fountain if/when funding allows. Chair asked Colin Crawford if he was involved in funding: he said no.

James Square Air Sensing Unit: Chair said that this had been changed, it is bigger but it is clean now and not such an eyesore.

Community Shop

Chair said that Bailie Brock had brought this up previously. The thinking was if the town could acquire a shop, rent, leased, bought for a year, etc. that this could be made available for a week, there could be a bring and buy, etc., and that it would be an excellent facility to offer to any organisation in town. It would also be a useful office and storage facility for Crieff Community Council (CCC) who could present a physical presence therein, on a Saturday, for example, if any local residents wanted to discuss any services, etc. Bailie Brock made the suggestion that the location for this building should be the former Nip, Tuck and Sew retail outlet with rent of £6,000 a year. If the CCC raised this amount and got funding for electricity, it would be rates-free and could be offered to all the other organisations in the area.

At this point Councillor Stewart Donaldson arrived at the meeting.

Crieff Regeneration Group might take this up in the future – Chair pointed out that CCC can initiate these projects but they really need to be in the hands of other organisations.

Crieff Regeneration

The first meeting has taken place. Committee members were ex-Crieff Food Company Jamie Landale (Chair), David McCann (Secretary), Bailie Rhona Brock, Colin Crawford, Karen McCartney, Caroline Murphy of Logos, David Agnew of Valentine's, and Community Councillor Kayleigh Keith.

There are only two groups represented at the meeting: Crieff Community Trust and Crieff Community Council, all the others are individuals. The Community Council can have a stand-in if the Chair can't go, that's the only difference. They've had one meeting with the main topic being the public toilets. Chair presented plan of action. It was felt that Jamie was keen on a quicker plan of action to get toilets open as soon as possible. Sustainable feasible facility open straight from the start. This is funded by £120,000 a year match-funding and then money that David managed to get from Dior.

Crieff Newsletter

Community Councillor Marlene Galashan had offered to set up a newsletter. Physical copy is small, newsy and printed by the Community Council. Chair said Marlene had put a lot of effort into it. Chair's feeling was that it should be bigger but said it was an excellent first step. The size, readability, etc. was praised from audience members.

Councillor Stewart Donaldson gave an update on the following:

20mph Implementation Paper: road safety officers' meeting on 19th September so could direct any thoughts re this to Councillor Donaldson. There will be a Pavement Parking Meeting re new legislation later in month. Bailie Brock felt there was good coverage on the 20mph zones. Re Broich Rd, Morrison's and around schools – Councillor Donaldson felt there should be much more in the way of handheld police cameras at specific times of the day. Community Speedwatch – Tayside Police have never taken this on although Fife do it. Councillor Donaldson said he thought they'd done it in Fossoway, near Kinross.

Chair mentioned the unveiling of **Murray Fountain**. Councillor Donaldson said he was pleased, as was Bailie Brock, mentioning Historic Environment Scotland's Susan O'Connor, also that Vivien Hawick lives nearby, they are looking at options. There is a new tourism and culture officer, Steve Macdonald, who has joined the council from Stirling. Councillor Donaldson said he would talk to him.

Chair mentioned the **Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks' (SSEN) Transmission** launches and the two types of funding: erection of huge

pylons – John Alexander. Councillor Donaldson mentioned there was a £2m fund for the north of Scotland, Chair said that Crieff came under that term and that a regional benefit fund of £10m will cover a tranche of communities. Local funds are expected to be launched next year, next to ‘new infrastructure developments’. Councillor Donaldson mentioned wind farms at Glen Tarken and Glen Lednock but said there was no community benefit for that. Chair said that priority funding would be based on three indicators: people, place, and reducing fuel poverty levels. There will be more details re this in the Spring. Chair said he was sure the Community Trust and Colin (Crieff Regeneration) would be looking at this. Colin said he had a few ideas re projects. Bailie Brock said that the panel would meet in January to determine which groups would get the funding.

Banking Hub: Councillor Donaldson said that there would be a formal opening towards the mid or end of September. He said that there is a Link access banking rule change that comes in on 18th September and said he’d been advised not to do anything till that rule change comes in. He mentioned the planning application for a new cash machine at Jazz Computers which the Chair said was to become a vape shop. Bailie Brock said that Lesley Wilson is hoping it would open in mid-September but can’t guarantee that.

7. EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair passed to Events Committee members Kayleigh Keith and Elean Grodzicki for an update.

Crieff Food Fest

The first planned Crieff Food Fest would be held from Monday 7th-Sunday 13th October 2024. There was a £25 charge to businesses supporting this event. Some big names are involved, including Valentine’s who are doing a display. Tickets for events can be booked on Eventbrite. Various events taking place including fish filleting, a food-themed film at Strathearn Arts, etc. A showcase of things baked will be held on Saturday 12th, Kayleigh is looking for entries. Crieff Food Fest can be found on Facebook. Anyone can enter their products. There will be a public vote on bakers. The winner gets a chef’s apron. Chefs Praveen and Kumar in Perth will host an authentic Indian cuisine pop-up – tickets are £30 each and include a 3-course meal. Best bake is held on the Sunday. Alastair Gourlay is selling the hog roast on the Sunday. Bread and broth is a free event hosted by Crieff Connexions with all the vegetables donated by The Handy Shop. Crieff Food Company have a make your own pizza on Sat 12th costing £5. Gills are doing a lot of tastings. The Fish Bar in King St has been taken over and the new owners are very keen to get involved in anything that promotes the town. Chair spoke of his disappointment at lack of interest in this event from some takeaways in particular. **Councillor Donaldson** raised the number of Ukrainians’ in Strathearn and asked whether there could be borscht, etc. a themed night – Kayleigh said this could be done next year, a taste from around the

world theme. MacRosty Pavilion are doing a world theme this year so this might be included.

Halloween Fancy Dress Parade, James Square

Elean mentioned that there would be a Halloween fancy dress parade, potion making, etc. Crieff Connexions' are linking with the Events Committee to do Halloween-themed bunting in the Square, dooking for apples with a fork. This will be held on Halloween Night from 4.30 in the Square, allowing time for individual guising afterwards.

Christmas Events

Elean said it was felt that this was well covered already in the town.

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Alan Murphy, vice-chair of **Crieff at Christmas**, then said that the **Christmas market switch on** will take place on 30th November which was their biggest market of the year and biggest fundraiser for the town's Christmas lights display. He said they're not allowed to touch the lights on the High St as they belong to BEAR. Tayside Contracts do this. The money brought in from the Christmas market covers about half of the costs of putting the lights up and down - the cost for this is £1200. There are other costs, pipe and brass band, etc. Alan had heard rumours that there might be an indoor fair and is glad this is not happening as they need the funds from this for the lights. They've been doing it for six or seven years. Kayleigh suggested a sweetie box at end of bar for donations to Crieff at Christmas. Chair said that the CC should have bit of surplus and could contribute. Alan wondered about the Common Good Fund – deadline could be at the end of this month. Meeting at 26th of November. Ellen suggested other grant funders. Community Investment Fund closes tomorrow at 5pm. Bailie Brock said there is an investment fund of £26,000 approximately, for Crieff for any projects for the area.

Elean said that the last Event would be **Bringing Hogmanay back to James Square** from 2330 – 0030 hours, providing stovies, music, BYOB. They are hoping to grow this year on year. **Easter Fayre** will be held again next year.

Chair thanked Elean and Kayleigh for their time planning and organising these events.

Chair then mentioned the following:

Crieff: Tales of Fire And Folklore – Step Back In Time, possibly to be held in March 2025. This is planned to be a rich history, video, interactive, immersive and live performance, suitable for all ages, and a chance to discover the legends of Crieff, Highland folklore such as Rob Roy and the Jacobite burning of the town. A similar event happened in the past.

Chair mentioned that **Crieff Regeneration** are launching **Crieff Cultural Celebration Week** – looking at August 2025 – all-age art exhibitions and storytelling, lectures, fun activities for children and families, local culinary experiences and partnerships with local organisations with participation of many local groups. Regeneration Group and Community Engagement Group.

Santa's Workshop will be held again this year which will be a huge event.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

Community Councillor Pete McCarra announced that the financial affairs had settled down with the Community Council's new account with RBS. 3 signatories – Brian Wilton, Elaine McDonald and Kayleigh Keith. There is access to online banking now and CCC has a mobile banking app. The balance to date was £1857.75. The total income from the Food Fest is £773. Total outgoings on Food Fest are £118 (banners, specifically). Pete said it was looking healthy. Chair said there was more money to come in from Food Fest. Chair added that the original idea was to produce a printed programme for Food Fest but the slow take-up meant that the deadline has passed, thus it will be online. The window notices on businesses in Crieff have a QR code which will take you to the Facebook page and the programme events, meaning that events can be added later than previously anticipated.

Kayleigh pointed out that events are also listed in the Town Diary – Elaine said that people were starting to send in events and that there was a link now.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bailie Brock referred to the previously mentioned **Treasurer's Report** and asked if the CCC's accounts were going to be sent to PKC or if there had been any notification from the council re them as it was coming to the end of the financial year. Chair said there hadn't yet. The next meeting would probably be held on 24th October, Chair thought, with the AGM then, and documenting the accounts and having them audited them. Bailie Brock asked that the expenses be input, as otherwise the printing for the leaflet – which she said was excellent - and the room bookings wouldn't be included, and the Community Council would only get a grant of £700 if all the expenses were not input. (The Chair added that the Newsletter would be sent online in the future also so they would be looking for email addresses.)

Crieff Primary School Evacuation today: Councillor Donaldson said that Bailie Brock had been contacted about this earlier. Councillor Donaldson mentioned that the primary school was evacuated during the course of the day and that children were moved to campus following the first reports of a smell and a staff member taking unwell. Following this operation the children were all collected at the campus.

It transpired that a number of members of staff were taken to Ninewells Hospital. People jumped to conclusions. It was a gas leak or perhaps a chemical leak but from what we have ascertained so far this is not the case. No-one - staff, non-teaching staff or children - has been severely affected. However as a precautionary measure the primary school will close all day tomorrow, Friday 6th September, and there will be a deep clean. Hopefully it will reopen on Monday 9th. Bailie Brock praised the quick action taken by the staff today and the response by the emergency services. Councillor Donaldson said the incident had been dealt with very efficiently.

On the back of this, the Chair mentioned the **old Crieff Primary School** with the sale not finalised. Councillor Donaldson took this up and said it had been marketed again and there were expressions of interest. A deadline had been set for Conclusion of Missives on 31st October. There is an interested party. It would take six months after the conclusion of missives to seal the deal. If the sale fails, it would then be converted into social housing. Any proposals for affordable housing will have to go through planning. The land is jointly owned by both the council and Drummond Estates, apart from the refectory.

Bailie Brock then mentioned David Campbell in James Square on Saturday – the **Sculpture Trail** and the woodcarver there. Colin said the funding was looking at what kind of things you would like to have created. Colin Crawford asked for more people to do the survey as it could lead to funding for an arts trail. 80 people have already submitted the survey. Colin has uploaded the survey to Facebook – will put on Crieff and Strathearn Facebook page tonight. The sculptor is wanting to donate a chair to **Lady Mary's Walk** perhaps, when the new walk is in place.

Paths Network – Councillor Donaldson mentioned that they were looking for fundraising for **Turretbank Wood**.

Doors Open Day – Councillor Donaldson said that this was being held on weekend of September 14 and 15th. The former Regal Cinema in Auchterarder would be open.

Vicki from **Scotland Shop**, High St, was in the audience – Chair asked when the retail outlet would be officially launching: 26th September, Vicki said. She said that a Polish tour had come in today. On Monday there were 20 Americans. Tour groups were encouraged to come in. New owners trying to sponsor as many events as possible.

Remake were organising a **Community Fruit Pick** for Crieff Food Fest.

The meeting ended on a positive note for the future with Chair praising developments.

Next public meeting: Crieff Community Council's AGM will be held at 7.30pm on **Thursday 24th October** at Strathearn Community Campus.