



Minutes for 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024

at Strathearn Community Campus, Crieff at 7.30pm

**Present:**

**Community Councillors:** Brian Wilton (Chair), Pete McCarra, Iona Macgregor, Marlene Galashan, Kayleigh Keith.

**Ward Councillors:** Bailie Rhona Brock. Later: Cllr Stewart Donaldson

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman welcomed all those present and gave apologies for Marlene Galashan

**2. Previous Minutes**

The previous minutes had been circulated. Their acceptance was proposed by Pete McCarra seconded by Eileen MacDonald and assigned by the Chairman.

**3. Police Report**

No police report had been received although a warning on bike theft had been circulated.

**4. Planning Application**

There was nothing further regarding the Persimmons Application and no new information on the rumoured Starbucks on the site of the old D & D Dairies.

The derelict site of the old George Hotel on King Street was once again in an overgrown state, reported the Chairman but Perth and Kinross Council's powers seemed to be limited and it was unlikely that any clearance would be undertaken by the Dundee-based owner, despite a relevant order being issued. David McCann suggested that an informal group should be formed to undertake the clearance before the Crieff Highland Gathering and that was agreed.

Vaguely connected with planning, said the Chairman, was the blockage at **Drover's Gate** development on Broich road which was still in place. He reminded the meeting that a local

farmer seemed to have some disagreement with the developers and had objected to residents of the new estate accessing what they had been told by the developers, was a right of access to Broich Avenue over an almost non-existent dividing hedge. He had initially blocked the space with large tree trunks and when that didn't deter the dog-walkers and the children, he then heaped fresh cow manure on top.

**Banking Hub.** The conversion of the old SemiChem property into the new, permanent banking hub was well underway and would be opening in September. Councillor Stewart Donaldson had been largely instrumental in the campaign and the Chairman expressed the Community Council's appreciation.

The Chairman reported that the rather dilapidated Tower Bakery was in the process of closing which was, he said, yet another unwelcome blot on the high street landscape that enforced the Community Council's long campaign for positive action on the vacant properties.

## **5. Reports**

The Chairman reported spending some time in Yorkshire and had consulted Thirsk Town Council on the management of their public toilets. The discussions had proved very valuable and lessons learned would be noted.

### **Capital Projects**

The Murray Fountain had been in dire need of renovation having suffered from many years poor maintenance. Councillor Stewart Donaldson and the Crieff Community Trust had been instrumental in securing around £120,000 for its renovation. The funding had been provided by a range of organizations responsible for funding historical projects. The official unveiling took place on the 15th of August 2024 in James Square, next to the Murray Fountain, at 6 p.m.

### **Creative Crieff:**

The demolition of the old Crieff Hotel was due to start in September, and the project planners had confirmed that they would keep the Community Council updated.

### **Remake:**

The lease of the vacant CeeGees property had acquired by Remake, who planned a major refillery project and a café within the property. The Chairman suggested that together with the Gills operation, this would add to Crieff's growing attraction for environmentalist visitors.

### **Drummond Hotel:**

The Drummond Arms Regeneration Company having had many meetings over the future of the hotel, had reluctantly decided that the only option was demolition. Being a listed building, approval would first be needed from the appropriate authority.

### **MacRosty Park:**

The new tenants of the Pavilion Café – Carys & Derek Hughes – had opened to great success. The long-vandalised standalone toilet had still not been repaired but visitors were using the Café facilities, the facility having been registered with PKC as a comfort stop.

**Litter Picking:**

The turnout for two events focused on litter picking and weeding had been very well supported and the Chairman thanked Mark Hunter for his considerable input and congratulated him on his Keep Scotland Beautiful award.

**Civic Chairs:**

Three of the civic chairs had been recovered and were in use at the Crieff Museum. The rest were in the basement, which was not the best place for them. A donor had come forward and indicated they might pay for one or more of the remaining chairs to be recovered and estimates were being sought.

**6. Treasurer's Report:**

There had been little action in and out of the bank account, and the current balance was £1,731.26. More money was due to arrive in the coming weeks from Food Fest event.

**7. Events****Crieff Food Fest:**

Although the event had been welcomed, there was still a need to chase businesses to sign up. The fact that it was not scheduled until October had contributed to the slow uptake despite all relevant businesses being circulated with event details and application forms. Chair of the Events committee, Kayleigh Keith, had mentioned that a team had been organized to take on different responsibilities as a sub-group for the Food Fest. This team consisted of volunteers who had responded to a Facebook post requesting volunteers.

**Car Boot Sales:**

One of the ideas to attract people to Crieff on a regular basis was to establish a monthly Car boot sale. This could potentially bring hundreds of people into the town on a Sunday for up to six months a year. The Community Council had been in contact with PKC and the Crieff Campus, and it was believed that this idea was perfectly feasible. However, the Chairman emphasised that the Community Council was not able to take on such a project but was merely acting as an initiator and facilitator, and anyone interested, should contact them.

**Facebook:**

A new Crieff Community Council Facebook page had been started and the prime contacts were Stephen Huntly, Kayleigh Keith and Elean Grodzicki.

**8. Crieff Regeneration**

Jamie Landale and David McCann were in attendance, representing the newly formed Crieff Regeneration group, an independent offshoot of Crieff Community Trust charged with overseeing existing and future agreed regeneration projects. Initial funding of £120,000 over

three years had been provided by PKC with matched funding sourced by David McCann and supplemented by a grant from Dior – in the wake of the fashion show at Drummond Castle.

Jame Landale explained that the Regeneration Group comprised individuals and two organisations — Crieff Community Trust and Crieff Community Council. The ambition of the group extended beyond the three years of funding currently acquired.

‘Baby steps’ were already being taken, he explained, to demonstrate that the regeneration process was underway. One of those was the widespread replacement of many of the promotional banners hung from lamp posts in the town. Another was to initiate meetings to acquire a short term lease and reopen Crieff’s public toilets.

Councillor Stewart Donaldson proposed the idea of using windfarm money after the three-year period. This idea was still in its early stages, but the proposed area windfarms were expected to be linked up to the grid by 2031. Crieff may be in line to received funding but the town – by way of its community council - would need to collaborate with other local councils to form a consolidated negotiation group.

## **9. AOB**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 22,50

Next meeting. Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Crieff Campus. 7.30pm