



CRIEFF
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL

Minutes for Community Council Meeting held on 7th April 2025

Strathearn Community Campus, Crieff, 7.30pm

Present: 11 members of the public

Community Councillors: Brian Wilton (Chair), Kayleigh Keith (Vice Chair), Pete Macarra (Treasurer), Marlene Galashan (temporary Minute Secretary), Iona McGregor, Nikki Livett.

Associate Councillors: Eilean Growzicki, Stephen Huntly.

Ward Councillors: Stewart Donaldson. Baillie Rhona Brock, Associate Councillors Mark Hunter and Alice Jeakins. Marlene Galashan, Eileen McDonald, Pete McCarra

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed all those present and gave apologies for Baillie Rhona Brock, Associate Councillors Mark Hunter and Alice Jeakins

2. Police Report

A hearty welcome was extended to the two police officers whose informative session dealt largely with concerns from the floor on the subject of vandalism. The officers explained that offenders under 16 cannot be arrested, but are, after repeated offences, cautioned, charged and referred to social and education services. The fire service frequently deal with under 16 offenders.

As far as presence in troublesome areas was concerned, however much they planned ahead, serious incidents elsewhere, even as far away as Dundee, could interfere with intentions.

Police still give talks in schools, particularly at the primary stage and did letter drops to encourage the public to report crimes, even anonymously.

3. Planning applications

Very little to report, other than the delayed start date for Starbucks Drive-thru.

4. Chairman's Report

The first Community Council Newsletter had recently been produced by the chair. It dealt comprehensively with the current challenges for the town, as well as dates for future events and activities. It had been circulated both on paper and on-line.

The Drummond Arms Hotel was about to be demolished. A Participation Request had been submitted by the community council to Perth and Kinross Council in February, in relation to the future development of the site. Crieff Community Council, as an officially recognised "community participation body" representing the citizens of Crieff, wished to ensure that the economic and aesthetic needs of the town centre were considered and that community views were sought. However, the request had been denied at this point in the proceedings, with PKC stating that once the demolition was underway, it would "commit to community engagement around the decision of the committee to allocate the site for affordable housing". At a recent, well attended public meeting called by the community council, PKC's intention to use the site for this purpose was met with a great deal of resistance. A mix of public space, parking and space for local/artisan activities was favoured. It was also noted that Historic Environment Scotland were not entirely happy with PKC's seeming haste to demolish the whole building in what was a conservation area and had withdrawn from discussions on major funding for regeneration of the town centre – an extremely disappointing move. A comment from the floor regarding PKC and the financial support it may receive from The Scottish Government should affordable housing be built, caused concern. Affordable housing is Housing Association built homes which include an option for co-ownership between the occupier and the council.

Crieff Regeneration Group would shortly become known as "Experience Crieff". A decision had been made to concentrate its efforts for the next two years on supporting and promoting events in the town.

Community Benefit from Glenlednock Windfarm was being discussed with appropriate bodies in settlements from East Strathearn to Killin. Foundation Scotland, on behalf of the Renewables Sector, award funds to communities in the area of wind farms, to promote community improvements. Proximity to the project is a funding criteria.

Bookshop for Crieff? The chair was aware of a long term desire by many Crieff residents, for a bookshop in town. He was currently investigating the possibility of establishing, initially, a second-hand book shop in conjunction with a well known children's charity. The location would, ideally, be an empty high street property which the owners would allow to be occupied on a "pop-up" basis. Watch this space!

5. Events Committee Report

The vice chair Kayleigh Keith outlined already planned events for the rest of the year.

The Spring Fair would take place on Easter Sunday at McCrosty Park. On the 4th of May, a V.E. Day afternoon celebration would be held in James Square, Crieff Food Fest on 13th-19th October around the town, a Jigsaw Festival on 15th -17th November in St Andrews Hall and the council would help coordinate and organise some activities for the Crieff at Christmas Event.

6. Litter picking.

The group, which Mark Hunter leads, meets regularly on weekend dates and does a stalwart job. Additional volunteers are always welcome. Further information can be found on the council website.

7. Treasurer's Report.

A modest but healthy bank balance of £3,158.99 is currently held.

8. Any other Business.

European Pipe Band Championships: Although normally held in Perth, Owen Sweeney would like to explore the possibility of this event being hosted at Braidhaugh Park. Cllr Donaldson agreed to investigate costs and subsidies, and the vice chair suggested the "Experience Crieff" group or the impending Tourist Levy may be a source of some funding. Crowd Funding or becoming a charity was also suggested for this popular idea.

Cllr Donaldson reported that PKC's Tourism Strategy, which every Scottish council has been instructed to have, is being produced. Stirling's Tourist Tax is now in operation.

Next meeting

Monday 5th April 2025. Strathearn Campus. 7.30pm.