

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEIGLE AND ARDLER COMMUNITY COUNCIL – 10 OCTOBER 2022

Like the previous year, 2021/22 has also been a year of change and transition for the Community Council. Bob Ellis, the Community Council chair prior to me taking on the role, stood down from the Council and Ruth Mutch and Kenny Archer joined our ranks. Following the Perth & Kinross Council elections, Colin Stewart was re-elected and now he, and a number of new Councillors, represent the Strathmore Ward and provide support to our Community Council. Lewis Simpson did not stand for re-election, and I would like to thank him for all his work for the Community Council throughout his time as a Councillor.

I would also like to note that the Community Council initiated the hustings for those Council elections that were successfully held here in the Kinloch Memorial Hall.

We were pleased to welcome PC Munro as our link to Police Scotland and he was very active in supporting the Community Council but, unfortunately his time in post was unexpectedly short. However, we are optimistic that we will soon regain an active presence from the Police Scotland at our meetings.

Our monthly meetings were interrupted in December 2021 by the resurgence of Covid, resulting in the unfortunate necessity to cancel the December meeting at very short notice, followed by a brief return to virtual meetings over Microsoft Teams. Covid also forced the postponement of the planned Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch but, fortunately, the lunch was eventually able to go ahead - albeit a few months late!

We finally managed to routinely post the minutes from our meetings onto the Smart Village website and, more recently, we have also begun to also post them on FaceBook, though this process requires further development before it can be seen as being routine and reliable. However, our ability to publicise our activities to the public were somewhat hindered when the Meigle bus shelter, which housed our noticeboard, was taken away for repair leaving several months when this facility was not available to us.

The Community Council successfully hosted the Gala Day on 6 August which, although I was unable to attend, I have only heard glowing reports from attendees on how well it was organised and how enjoyable it was for all concerned. It also raised a significant sum of money for both the Kinloch Memorial Hall and to also help maintain the availability of the defibrillators in both Meigle and Ardler.

In respect of the day-to-day issues facing the Community Council, the year has been very frustrating with progress on addressing speeding issues in both Meigle and Ardler, the potholes in Meigle Square and parking on Glebe Way moving ahead at a snail's pace, despite our Secretary's rigour in avidly following up all of the issues with great regularity with the relevant authorities.

However, we have gained a range of small achievements. The speed cushions on the Dundee Road have finally been repositioned to how they should have been from the very outset. Meigle has gained new handsome village road signs and Peter Kinnear did a splendid

job on repainting the milepost on the Dundee Road. Ardler gained the larger postbox demanded by its residents.

The handover of the lead for the major projects to the Meigle and Ardler Community Development Trust have now been completed. These were taken on by necessity by the Community Council at the beginning of Covid, but have now, rightly, been handed over to the Development Trust. The Community Council remain involved in the Development Trust's projects with the Chair routinely invited to attend the Trust meetings and Community Council representation on various project-specific working groups.

Finally, I would like to thank those who have given their time and effort to our community and helped us in our work: The Perth & Kinross Councillors; PC Gavin Munro; the volunteers who have helped improve village life; the Community Councillors themselves, who have stuck with what is a largely thankless task and the members of the public who have attended meetings, raised issues of concern or otherwise helped make Meigle and Ardler better places to live.

Rae Taylor

Chair

Meigle & Ardler Community Council

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