

## BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)

[www.ballaterandcrathiecommunitycouncil.com](http://www.ballaterandcrathiecommunitycouncil.com)

Minutes of a Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022, Beaton-Craigie Room at 7pm

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Also present:</b>
James Anderson - Chair (WJ)	Richard Frimston	John Burrows (BRD-JB)
Jo Croll (JC) - Vice Chair	Nadine Stuart	Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB)
William Braid (WB)	Cllr Sarah Brown	
Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer	Cllr Anouk Kloppert	
John Bannerman (JB)	Janet Feeney	
Ellie Kinghorn (EK)	Gordon Riddler	
Gareth Johnston (GJ)	Scott Peacock	
Tom Flynn (TF)	Lewis Macdonald	
	Linda Drever	
	Mike Forbes	

### 1 Welcome

**2 Emergency Services** Police were called to Aboyne Academy as there were a few concerns regarding the behaviour of pupils on last day of school as leavers. Reports of youths on the roof of Ballater School, but no damage, police attended, and details noted. A house fire in Ballater is being treated as wilful, and inquiries ongoing. Members of the public are urged to report instances of youth-related annoyances so that police can be better deployed in the area. There have been several scams reported, both by e-mail and telephone, so please be aware. Police are responding to an increasing number of mental health concerns in the community and will continue to work with partner organisations in the area.

### 3 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of April meeting were approved.

### 4 Matters arising from previous meeting.

Nil

### 5 Action Tracker Update

No 73 removed from list. No 92, Self-build housing - awaiting a meeting with Director of Business Services regarding ownership of land. The allocation of housing at Old School is ongoing, but there had been a hold up due to need to enlarge water pipes. No 103, the Draft Procedure following a SEPA flood warning was accepted and **RF** to forward to Aberdeenshire Council for consideration. No 105, Deebank Road, still waiting for No Entry sign to be installed and drain clearance added to list.

**CGB** will request Briefing Notes from Abco services outlining work previously undertaken by Cllrs Peter Argyle and Paul Gibb to be passed on to new Cllrs Anouk Kloppert and Sarah Brown.

## 6 Sub Committee Reports

### FIG

**JB** asked if minutes from April flood meeting had been posted on Facebook and website. **JC** confirmed they were on Facebook, but **RF** to post on website. An article updating FIG activities would appear in the Eagle. FIG had met with Alan Wood, Director of Infrastructure Services. Despite mixed messages from AbCo it appears that there is limited flexibility in the route of Option 3A, should funding be available, which means it will be difficult to fully address the concerns of the Caravan Park and Golf Club. It seemed that AbCo would not address any community concerns until the conclusion of the ongoing study at the earliest. FIG made clear that the Public Meeting indicated there had been a breakdown in trust between AbCo and the community, but AbCo may not address this matter until the conclusion of the on going study.. **JB** urged new councillors to make themselves aware of local feeling regarding flood defences so that we can discuss at the level of the community council, options for the way forward on 3A, that the community are most likely to support.

**TF reported that FIG** had met with SEPA. The meeting was constructive but FIG were concerned that SEPA did not at present seem to have a strategy to consider drought as a serious future problem, even though a drought warning has been announced in this area within the last week.

### Ballater Resilience Group (BRG)

A report was received from Mike Forbes. BCCC has applied to the SSEN Resilient Communities Fund on behalf of BRG for equipment for Ballater, Crathie and the Victoria Halls. An April induction course has increased the total number of helpers to 28. The two new summer wardens at Ballater Caravan Park have been given flood response training. There will be a training course for all 9 coordinators later in May. A full review of the Ballater Resilience Plan is underway, and the updated plan will be released in May. The BRG Emergency Contacts List has also been updated and circulated to coordinators.

### Crathie Resilience Group

Two meetings have been held with Braemar Resilience Group. Also in discussion with Neil Evans of SFL Radios to discuss options for radio communications between Resilience Groups. Emergency Contact Numbers List in development with good input from Angus McNicol of Invercauld Estate.

## 7 Crathie Issues

Awaiting final planning approval for Balnault Farm Shop and Play Park. Planning application in place for new noticeboard, which will be part Community, part Resilience, part School, with funding to be discussed with BRD Limited. Awaiting confirmation of when repairs to Inver underpass will take place and if there will be any diversions through any adjacent land. **CGB** reported that there will be £50,000 available for the car park at Crathie School. The gardens in front of Crathie School is part of landscaping services. **CGB** will check what is happening. No further updates on speed

limit adjustments. **CGB** agreed the new mast was unsightly - sadly not painted brown to tone in with environment, but verges should green up in due course.

## **8 Other Reports**

### BRD

**BRD-JB** sent in a report to BCCC. This covered payments from Johnston Oils to the community, the Jubilee Derby, the Duck Festival, Hardship Fund, Ballater Memorial Centenary Re-dedication and Town Centre regeneration. The Keep Care in the Community Team had been in a zoom meeting with Healthcare Improvement Scotland to ensure that all are prepared for dialogue with Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care, in respect of Aboyne Hospital, to ensure that the community is properly consulted on its health needs.

**BRD-JB** had received a proposal for the installation of lifebuoys on the river banks. However, the number of riparian owners, risk of vandalism and difficulty in determining where to place these suggested it might not be an issue for the CC.

### BCE

**WB** reported that the site is fully booked most weekends. The memorandum of understanding had been signed with BRD Limited.

### Aberdeenshire Council

**CGB** will meet with Inspector Keith Greig and **WJ** to discuss the location of the snow gates on the Crathie-Gairnshiel Road.

### CNPA

**CGB** reported that the Big Nature Weekend would take place in May.

The National Park Partnership Plan should be signed off by June. **CGB** acknowledged the tensions between various strategies regarding the protection of wildlife in CNPA.

### CAP

**Ade Scripps** would send out a circular to all participants in the Community Action Plan to review the current plan. **CGB** raised the issue of Place Plans under the Planning Act Scotland 2019, which allow local communities to influence planning at local level.

### Halls

**WB** reported that the lift is now installed and working.

### CAN

**TF** reported that Scott & his team had planted over 300 trees on Balmoral.

**EK** would e-mail a detailed map of the village to **SP** so that **SP** could clearly mark any areas proposed for wildflower planting. The BCCC agreed in principal to the planting but required more detailed plans.

## **9 Planning Matters**

**EK** had contacted CNPA and Abco about planning restrictions imposed on Bus Depot and was waiting for a response. **TF** asked if there had been any further information about plans for Craigard.

**CGB** would invite chief executive of Fife Arms Hotel to attend a future meeting of BCCC to discuss Hauser & Wirth plans for any properties purchased in Ballater. **CGB**

had asked about the possibility of re-introducing Heather Hopper buses over to Perth to assist in recruitment of young people to Braemar so that Edinburgh & Glasgow might be more easily accessible.

#### **10 Correspondence**

Nothing to report.

#### **11 Finance**

**RF** to confirm that option C of a fixed grant of £500 plus an amount based on number of electors to be selected.

#### **12 AOCB**

Nadine Stuart would report at the next meeting on her findings regarding E3 business support opportunities being offered by local government.

**WJ**, on behalf of BCCC, expressed thanks to Peter Argyle and to Paul Gibb for all their assistance in the past and to wish them well in the future.

**The meeting ended at 20.45**

**The next meeting and AGM is planned for Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm in the Mike Sheridan Room.**