

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CCC)

www.ballaterandcrathiecommunitycouncil.com

Minutes of Meeting held at Michael Sheridan Room, Ballater on Monday 11th March
2024 at 7.00pm

Present: Jim Anderson - Chairman (WJ) Richard Frimston (RF) - Secretary Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer Bill Braid (BB) Ellie Kinghorn (EK) John Bannerman (JB) Tom Flynn (TF) Jo Croll (JC) - Vice Chair Gareth Johnston (GJ) Simon Mearns (SM)	Apologies Cllr Geva Blackett Cllr Anouk Kloppert Calum Halhead	Also present: Cllr Sarah Brown (CSB) Linda Drever - BRG (LD) Ron Drever Kate Allum (KA) Ben Allum Paul Gibb (PG) - CNPA Bruce Lawson (BL) Dougal Morgan Athol Bowman Scott Peacock (SP) Ray Riddoch - BRD (RR) Weston Main - Ballater Golf Club John Morrison - FIG Martin Ellison
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1 Welcome

WJ welcomed all to BCCC meeting.

2 Conflicts of interest. WJ indicated Riverside footpath as possible conflict of interest.

3 Emergency Services Report

No report received.

4 February minutes were approved

5 Matters arising from previous meeting.

6 Action Tracker Update.

Jim Bowe and Abco had come up with proposals for the bus stop relocation and suggested a TEAMS meeting with members of BCCC to discuss. JC would accept on

behalf of **RF**, **WJ**, and **BL**. **CSB** would also attend on 26th March, 2-2.30pm. There would then be a public meeting and consultation to discuss (no 6). **WJ** commented that bollards at the crossing were mismatched. **JC** suggested that a snagging visit should be made as there were uneven paving stones. **CSB** would investigate this (no 69). A new road sign is proposed for the western end of Crathie (no 122), but there was concern that new posts would be required and it could not be attached to current 50mph sign. Request **CGB** to investigate further. **KA** had received no further communication from Bank of Scotland. The application for a banking hub had been rejected. Regulations are currently unhelpful and need to be amended. This is currently under consultation with all banks, so might be possible in the future. **KA** has received an assurance that the ATM cannot be closed or removed. The current ATM is obsolete, and a new/upgraded facility should be installed in the next few months. **KA** had requested a cash deposit facility as well. **KA** had been informed that the supply of cash to the ATM is plentiful and any issues with obtaining cash had been due to technical malfunctions. There had been a considerable reduction in cash requests in the village over the last 12 months. **PD** commented that this was in great part due to the lack of confidence in the ATM's functionality and location. **KA** emphasised that the Co-op has no responsibility for the ATM and urged any issues to be reported to Link and NCR. **RF** had put a notice on the ATM with contact numbers and urged BCCC members to notify him should it be removed. Link appeared to respond to quantity of complaints. While some cards now incur a charge for being used, this applies to cards from banks that are not members of Link. A warning should show that you may be charged for a transaction. Cashback is still available at the Co-op, but the Co-op is restricted in how much cash it might hold at any time. Atholl Bowman had spoken with Andrew Bowie MP to make clear the community dissatisfaction with the current ATM situation. The issue with Seven Bridges footpath is ongoing (no 128). No 130 regarding on pavement parking may be removed. **BL** had forwarded note to Stagecoach regarding infringement of planning regulations at the Bus Station and this had been forwarded on to management. He would request an update. **CSB** will follow up the location of more dog waste bins in the village.

7 Sub-committee Reports

Housing & Planning

- a) No contentious applications.
- b) **EK** reported that Scotia would be interested in giving update to BCCC at next meeting.

Flooding Issues Group (FIG)

JB reported that there had been a meeting with CBEC to assess potential protection for the Hesco boxes. There would also have to be future fundraising for further reports from CBEC.

John Morrison had completed a paper bringing together all aspects of Property Level Protection.

BRG - Ballater Resilience Group

LD reported that a tabletop exercise had been undertaken for coordinators to ensure that there was a range of personnel available in the event of a flood warning. There are also plans for induction training for new volunteers. A meeting with Abco Flood and Resilience Group is planned.

CRG - Crathie Resilience Group

Nothing to report.

Roads and Paths

SM reported that Ken Gibson had been successful in obtaining a grant of £25,000 to assess what needed to be done on cinder path linking the village with Morven Way. There would then be a need for further funding to plan and build the improvements to the path. **KA** reported that Abco were keen to join the discussions with paths network and to close the loop again with Ken Gibson, BCCC and other interested groups, proposing six-monthly meetings. Ken Gibson had put in considerable amount of work to obtain support for this. It was understood that this path is important to link parts of the village and required attention sooner rather than later. Although Scotia might affect the path once building starts, this might not be for a few years and work needed to be done now. Also, should Scotia damage the path in any way, they fully understood and were aware that they would have to rectify it. **SM** reported that further signage had been put up in event of spates. He was also in talks with Abergeldie Estate about the possibility of an off-road path from Ballater to Balmoral.

8 Crathie issues

Nothing to report.

9 Other Reports

Aberdeenshire Council

CSB had spoken with Stagecoach who were aware of connection issues with the 201 and 203 service to Braemar. A Stagecoach survey would be undertaken to determine public concerns.

CNPA - Cairngorm National Park Authority

PG reported that Colin Simpson from CNPA would give a talk at Probus this month on Cairngorm 2030. He had also attended a meeting chaired by Grant Moir, bringing together all agencies concerned in the Dee Catchment area to try to create a shared view of what could be done.

CAP - Community Action Plan

Recreation - Ray Riddoch stressed importance of ensuring a revenue stream before taking ownership of Monaltrie Park.

The Hub - **KA** reported that a shared management team between the halls and BRD was now in place to try and ensure the Hub was financially sustainable.

Economy - **RF** reported that Visit Ballater website would come under the management of BRD from BBA. Funding for this still to be sorted out. BCCC would need to ensure that the economic interests of the entire community were represented.

Environment - **SP** and **TF** were in consultation with commercial and public bodies to set up an event in the Halls for energy saving and usage. A survey was also on Facebook BCCC page to find out about interest in a Car Club. An article had been published in The Eagle to ascertain interest in allotments, compost and possibility of tool rental/borrowing. It was hoped, for example, to bring together people who had gardens, but were unable to use them, with those who would like access to a garden. **RF** reported that it is hoped to have a meeting on 19th April with all group leaders to ensure that the CAP can be presented to the community in the Autumn.

BRD - Ballater (RD) Limited

Ray Riddoch urged members of community to have a look at the new BRD website, created by Philippa Franks. It shows the range of BRD investment in the community.

BCE - Ballater Community Enterprise Ltd

Ray Riddoch reported that the caravan park was fully booked on its first weekend opening.

Halls

BB reported that a new Halls Manager had been appointed and there were also 2 new trustees.

CAN - Climate Action Now

SP urged community to follow the BallaterCan facebook page. There were still 3 places left of a visit to the Torry Incinerator Plant. Litter Picking would take place on 23rd March. Tree planting was being undertaken at Loch Muick. Work was ongoing on the squirrel bridge. Medical packs could be recycled at the Hub. **CSB** highlighted various events taking place in March during Climate Week Northeast.

10 Correspondence

11 Finance

PD indicated that she would stand down at the end of the financial year (March, 2024). **WJ** proposed **EK** as Treasurer, seconded by **RF**.

13 AOCB

BL reported on a meeting with SSEN regarding the replacement electricity supply to Glenmuick House and Glenmuick. All plans and maps can be viewed on APP/2023/1896. **GJ** asked how they planned to remove the pylons, since those in the river might result in dredging. It has been suggested that they will probably be cut at ground level. A single track access to the river bank will be created at the current footpath between caravan park and golf course at Anderson/Salisbury Road. The generator plug in on Invercauld Road should now usually ensure a rapid return of power to the village in event of an outage.

The meeting ended at 20.05

The next meeting will be held on 8th April 2024 at the Moxon Quarry Studios,
Crathie at 19.00hours.

Approved