

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

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

Minutes of Meeting held at Michael Sheridan Room, Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at  
7.00pm

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Also present:</b>
James Anderson - Chair (WJ) Jo Croll (JC) - Vice Chair John Bannerman (JB) Richard Frimston (RF)- Secretary Janet Feeney (JF) Tom Flynn (TF) Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer William Braid (BB) Ellie Kinghorn (EK) Gareth Johnston (GJ)	Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB) Lewis Macdonald Scott Peacock	Linda Drever (LD) - BRG Dougal Morgan (DM) John Burrows - BRD Cllr Sarah Brown (CSB) Cllr Anouk Kloppert (CAK) Anna Ronayne - Heritage Horizons Iain Henderson (IH) Simon Mearns (SM) Fiona Sawyer (FS) - Mid- Deeside CC Mike Hadley Atholl Bowman Alan Nicoll

### 1 Welcome

WJ welcomed BCCC.

### 2 Resignation of Nadine Stuart.

### 3 Vote on appointment of Simon Mearns as a co-opted member

Simon has been born and brought up in Torphins and has recently returned to Deeside with his wife & family who come from Ballater. His work in digital product design allows him to work remotely from home. RF proposed co-option, seconded by JB and all voted in favour.

### 4 Conflicts of interest. A reminder to all members of BCCC.

### 5 Emergency Services Report

A detailed report had been received from Sergeant Masson and was most welcome. He will attend BCCC meetings on a quarterly basis.

### 6 CNPA presentation on Heritage Horizons by Anna Ronayne

Anna is employed by CNPA as a sustainable transport officer. Lottery funding had been received by CNPA to look at a range of 24 projects ranging from health emergencies, climate, nature and travel to name a few. Anna is looking at how to change how people travel to, from and around the national park. She is currently gathering information on what exists, what people want, both locals and visitors, in order to come up with a shortlist for further funding applications in June 2023. Issues raised so far have included condition of paths & pavements for walkers & wheelchair users, parking issues at popular spots, lack of paths in certain areas (eg

between Ballater & Braemar), flood damage to paths, lack of public transport outside central Deeside corridor. She had 3 basic questions for BCCC:

What are the main barriers to wheelchair users & others to gain access to the park?

What are the issues with public transport?

What would make people choose a sustainable form of transport?

**GJ** pointed out that narrow pavements was an issue, especially when clearing snow for walking access. Also the reliability of Stagecoach was questioned both in terms of timetable, quality of buses and reliability of service and information regarding service & other issues. **SM** suggested that Deeside would be an ideal pilot area for on-demand buses. **JC** suggested an express service to Aberdeen would be helpful as current journey time is 1 hour 45 minutes. **IH** mentioned that public buses had poor heating. There is no storage for cycles on the older style of buses. **LD** pointed out that the 201 service was being used by travellers making the short trip to Peterculter or Banchory, which meant that travellers to Ballater were sometimes unable to get on the bus on Union Street because it was already full.

**JC** was concerned that dipped kerbs were adjacent to flooding drain gullies which were not being cleared, thereby causing flooding and making them inaccessible to electric buggy users. Indeed, unless gullies were on the main A93 route, they were not considered urgent. However, even those intersections on the A93 still had not been cleared such as the crossroads for Bridge Street/Golf Road/Netherley Place which was one of the main access routes to the supermarket for many villagers. Community Action Plan would incorporate transport. **WJ** asked Anna to send all information to BCCC and it would be posted on the community page for further consultation.

**7 Minutes for December 2022 were approved**

**8 Matters arising**

**9 Action Tracker Update**

Detailed drawings would be available for public consultation regarding the proposed move of the bus stop to Bridge Street (no 6). The Royal Station should be painted before the coronation in May (no 90). The road closed signs at the Cocks Neck are a matter of urgency as more of the road has washed away (no 106). **JF** will contact **CGB** for further information regarding proposed funding for car park at Crathie School (no 108A). As regards the verge at Crathie School (no 108B), discussion has taken place with Abco (Landscaping) who will take this forward when plans for the car park have been confirmed. **WJ** will contact local roads department for further information regarding the Inver underpass (no109), as well as plans for work on South Deeside road. **IH** will look at access to the footpath to Carn na Cuimhne from the lay-bye (no 113) and report back. **CSB** reported that Abco believed the ramp at Royal Station predated the Deeside Way, but BCCC informed her that it had been installed following the Old Station fire in 2016 so needed to be looked at as no access for electric buggies via the ramp (no 117). No 119 regarding the poor response to snow clearing on

12 December will remain as a sub-committee under Simon Mearns will explore options. **JB-BRD** had suggested salt bins through the village. A better decision-making system seems to be required.

## **10 Sub-committee Reports**

### Housing and Planning

- a) There are no contentious planning applications currently. Plans to create a café and flat above in the shop adjacent to Rowan Antiques may be viewed online.
- b) The Housing Group would be meeting with a group who had commissioned a report in 2013 regarding the flood risk on the H1 site. The next consultation date with Scotia would be in the Spring.

### FIG

**RF** introduced the new workstreams document for approval by BCCC, the main difference being that following discussions with the community, it was felt that there was no community support for the hard defences outlined in option 3A. **TF** pointed out that Abco had made it clear that there would be no flexibility in option 3A to meet community concerns. **RF** proposed new document, **WJ** seconded and all approved. **FS** the chair of Mid Deeside Community Council expressed their thanks to FIG and BCCC for reaching out to them in order to find a valley-wide solution to future flooding events.

### BRG

Linda Drever was pleased to report a quiet month since last December. However, the question of insurance had been raised when the Halls are being used by fire service, police service and BRG. BRG were also seeking clarification on the provision of welfare services to Fire & Police Service personnel as well as looking after residents/visitors. The issue only arises because the Halls are not council owned. While the Primary School would be the second-choice emergency centre, it is not ideal eg toilets flush electronically and furniture is suited for smaller people.

### CRG

**IH** reported that they were in process of printing an emergency pamphlet and had received most of their equipment.

**RF** reported that a recent meeting with SSEN to discuss the electrical supply to Ballater & Glen Muick had been extremely useful and that he would produce a report for the next edition of The Eagle.

## **11 Crathie issues**

The Community Notice board has arrived and is to be fitted. **WJ** declared an interest and assured **JF** that it would be fitted by the end of January, during a suitable weather window.

**JF** asked about the possibility of a traffic crossing in Crathie between the post office and the church. **CSB** asked for further information - to be added to action tracker.

## 12 Other Reports

### BRD

John Burrows had submitted a report to the BCCC. He urged locals in Crathie to consider membership of BRD - £3,975 had been awarded for the noticeboard. Richard Frimston has been appointed short-term secretary of BRD. The Hardship Fund has been considerable support to the community.

### BCE

The season started badly with restrictions on the use of toilet block and play area, so fully opening was only possible from 13<sup>th</sup> August, but occupancy has been high. The continued flood risk means that self-insurance reserves do need to be built up and maintained and of course the uncertainty over the Ballater Flood Defences means that no major further development of the site can be undertaken. Customer reviews of the site had been excellent.

### Aberdeenshire Council

**CSB** had reported the lack of disabled parking space markings in Station Square. She had also queried the lack of through road, meaning that drivers were reversing back on to A93, but she had been told that there was a turning area at the bike shop.

The Water Tap initiative was to be applauded but the site suggested on the corner of Golf Road/Bridge Street would not be the preferred option. **WJ** asked if representatives could be invited back to the village to look at alternative sites, namely beside the water fountain or beside the Old People's Hut/cycle racks or beside the Post-box on Victoria Road or in the car park.

**CAK** had nothing to report but urged members of the community to contact her with any issues of concern.

### CNPA

Nothing to report.

### CAP

**RF** reported that the questionnaires would be out in February and the objective was to encourage online completion of forms, but hard copies would also be available. BRD had funded the purchase of Survey-Monkey for one year and **JB-BRD** reminded all local community organisations that they could also use Survey-Monkey, should they wish.

### Halls

Report had been circulated.

CAN nothing to report.

## 13 Correspondence

Nothing to report

14 Finance Nothing to report.

15 AOCB Nil

The meeting ended at 20.30

The next meeting is planned for Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7pm in the Mike Sheridan Room.

Approved