

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

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

Minutes of a Meeting held on 11th March, 2019, at 7pm in Michael Sheridan Room,  
Victoria & Albert Hall, Ballater

<p><b>Present:</b> James Anderson (WJ) - Chair Jane Angus (JA) Jo Croll (JC) - Secretary Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer Iain Latta (IL) William Braid (WB) Cllr Paul Gibb (CPB)</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> Fiona Presslie (FP) - Dep Chair Francis Duguid (FD) Lewis Macdonald (LM) Andy Daws (AD) Emma Stewart (ES)</p>	<p><b>Also present:</b> Richard Frimston Lisa McMahon</p>
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### 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

### 2. Emergency services

Although not present, Sergeant Keith Greig had e-mailed a report to the CC. Antisocial behaviour, violence, house-breaking & thefts, road crime and wildlife crime all continue to be at a very low level in this area. There continue to be reports of telephone and e-mail fraud and the police would urge the public to hang up in doubt about the legitimacy of a caller.

### 3. Minutes of February's meeting were passed

Action Tracker updated.

**JC** reported that the slabs in Station Square should NOT be salted and to do so would cause damage. Nevertheless, if not salted, then public safety is compromised and the slabs remain very slippery. **CPG** to investigate further.

**CPG** will also meet with Roads to discuss the possibility of a speed reduction at Crathie.

Lisa McMahon co-opted to the Community Council by a majority. Co-opted members to stand for election in June. **JC** to confirm with Alford that there are 3 vacancies to be filled at June elections and to arrange for hire of Halls kitchen for election.

**JA** had left a copy of new constitution of **CC** at the Library.

#### **4. Reports**

##### **Ballater Royal Deeside Limited**

The Heritage Group will have 5 or 6 display panels in the library on a short-term basis and there will be a community session in mid April to determine ideas for inclusion and approval of the committee's suggestions. The minibus service **A2B** continues to be well used. Aberdeenshire Council have confirmed they will repair the *Cambus o'May* bridge but no time line given.

The Ballater Business Association held a successful Cruise Ship presentation with positive input.

There was no report from Ballater Community Enterprise (**BCE**).

##### **Aberdeenshire Council**

Lee Watson had sent an invitation to **CC** to attend a Stakeholder Consultation meeting to pass comment on the Ballater Flood Study Feasibility Report to be held at Stonehaven on 27<sup>th</sup> March. The Stakeholder Consultation takes place prior to the study being put forward to the Area Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> April for approval to be followed by a public consultation to be held in Ballater, possibly in May. **WJ** and **WB** will attend on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**CPG** has not been able to find a means of avoiding the loss of the Sunday 201 service to Braemar. While the Fife Arms and Games Centre may well result in increased demand on the 201 service, the decision to cut the service is based on historical data. **CPG** has asked if it might be possible to reduce a midweek service and still offer a reduced Sunday service.

**PD** raised a query regarding the rental costs for the proposed housing at the Old School. She had been asked if these might be lower than rents on Sir Patrick Geddes Way.

##### **Cairngorms National Park Authority**

**PD**, **JC** and **WJ** had all attended the recent Local Development plan presentation in the village. The main concern of those attending appeared to be the possibility of an access road through Monaltrie Park to the proposed new houses. This would impact the Games park, the football park and dangerous access on to Provost Craig Road. **CC** to meet to discuss its collective response to the LDP. It is essential to ensure that any objections or suggestions should be made to **CNPA**. **JC** explained that the proposed 250 houses would be over a 25 year period with a maximum of 50 houses being built in each 5 year block (if at all any), depending on demand. The LDP allows provision for future needs to be documented.

##### **Community Action Plan**

**WJ** suggested that it might be reasonable to impose time limits on projects to ensure that discussions do not become repetitive.

Signage for walks in the village passed on to Angus McNicol.

The old toy shop was discussed.

With two community council members and a new coffee shop opening, it is felt that the isolation of Crathie is being addressed by the CC.

It was not considered feasible to use the Hut on the Green as a community coffee room - no water or toilets available and restrictions on its usage.

Aberdeenshire Council now provides all-purpose bins rather than specific dog bins.

**FP** suggested requesting numbers of housing applications made to Aberdeenshire Council in order to monitor housing requirements for reporting to BCCC. The Housing Group is currently considering two tenders to do a survey in the village on what kind of housing is required in the village (affordable, first-time buyer, part ownership, size etc), and have this information to pass on to Grampian Housing Association in order to develop a local letting initiative.

**IL** will look into the different requirements for care.

There is an ongoing search to improve local communications and to find a central point for sharing information and to collate local calendars. Ron Drever and John Burrows from BRD have been involved. Alison from No 45 has been appointed communications officer for BBA. A Village AGM is also under consideration.

### Halls

**WB** reported that it is hoped to put the heating system in the Michael Sheridan Room on to an app to be controlled by the hall caretaker and tenders are currently being considered. LED light bulbs have been installed in the Albert Hall. The committee continues in discussion with Aberdeenshire Council regarding the dilapidated state of the façade of the former library. **CPG** had suggested to Richard Johnston of Aberdeenshire Council to get in touch with Ian Hay of the Halls Committee.

### **5. Planning Matters**

**WJ** declared an interest in the removal of trees at No 45, Braemar Road.

CC has requested an opportunity to speak when CNPA discuss the planning application for the Old School House. **JC** nominated to be spokesperson.

### **6. Correspondence**

**JC** had received an e-mail from Nick Mardell with regard to a query from Joan Anderson who sought clarification on the future of the Wishing Tree Stump at Dalmochie which features in her story-telling. **WJ** will speak to Glen Muick Estate. CC will ask for a history of the Wishing Tree from Joan Anderson before considering any commemoration of the site.

Paddy Wright had written to express concerns about the proposed development of 250 houses in Ballater & BCCC response to CNPA LDP.

**7. Finance** There is no change.

## **8. AOCB**

**JC** will draft an information list of *CC* members as *GDPR* now requires all members to confirm in writing what personal contact information they wish to share. **WJ** suggested that a generic Post Box should also be considered in line with the current generic e-mail address, [bcccsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:bcccsecretary@outlook.com).

**IL** raised the question of creating a pool of drivers available to take people to hospital/clinic appointments. **WB** suggested contacting *BRD*, while **JC** suggested that there might be a taxi service advertised in the surgery for patient transport.

**JC** had a mock-up of the orientation panel which will be situated on a granite plinth (partly funded by *BBA*) opposite the Visit Scotland office.

**PD** asked where residents might find out about registering with *Grampian Housing Association*. **FP** has information leaflets and there should be some in the library. Home seekers should register on *HomeHunt* and *Aberdeenshire Council*. (**FP** to advise where info/flyers can be found)

**PD** reported that the *Church Green* will be timed and top dressing put on by the *Golf Club*. This should be done by the end of April, after the alterations to the *Christmas Lights* electrics. Suggested that the *Green* should be taped off and not used.

**WJ** reported that he had set up the *This is Ballater and Crathie Community Group* Facebook page which was proving popular and had grown steadily over the past few weeks with residents sharing historical photos and memories.

**PD** reported that the toilets at *Monaltrie Park* are due to re-open at the end of March. **PD** will check with *Andrew Meacham* regarding the insurance for the building and contents. **WJ** will contact *Steven Clark* with regard to any repairs required. **PD** will check the date of opening and the availability of a cleaner.

**WJ** asked about the possibility of a one-way system at *Abergeldie Road*. He will speak with *Ryan Cromar* about this.

**CPG** to check up on the status of the location of bus stops centre of village.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

The next meeting will be 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, *Crathie Church Hall*, 7-9pm