

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

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

Minutes of a Meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 via Zoom at 7pm

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Also present:</b>
James Anderson - Chair (WJ)	Nadine Stuart	Cllr Paul Gibb (CPG)
Jo Croll (JC) - Vice Chair	Scott Peacock	Cllr Peter Argyle (CPA)
Richard Frimston (RF) - Secretary	Gareth Johnstone	Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB)
William Braid (WB)		John Burrows (BRD-JB)
Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer		Iain Henderson (IH)
John Bannerman (JB)		Janet Feeney
Tom Flynn (TF)		Kirstin Bradley
Ellie Kinghorn (EK)		Nicola Jones
Lewis Macdonald (LMD)		Richard Bush

### 1 Welcome

2 **Emergency Services** No report received

### 3 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of December meeting were approved, with correction to Ellie Kinghorn's name (Flynn).

### 4 Matters arising from previous meeting.

RF had been asked if it would be possible to publish draft minutes of the BCCC meetings. It was agreed to continue to publish minutes after they had been approved in line with most community councils. Should a member of the public request a link to join the following BCCC meeting, then they should be forwarded a copy of the draft minutes.

### 5 Action Tracker Update

Yellow lines had been painted in front of Co-op and this issue could be closed.

### 6 Reports

#### BRD

BRD-JB sent in a report to BCCC.

#### BCE

The caravan park is now closed for winter.

#### Aberdeenshire Council

CGB reported that over 200 people had received food at Christmas thanks to the efforts of local estates, Moorland Groups and with assistance of Jo Croll.

There is local concern about the location of snow gates on B976 at Crathie. Residents have not yet received keys and concern about the ability of residents to be able to

open the gates if on their own. Locals feel gates should be above Bush Farm. A meeting is being sought with Police Scotland.

Marr Area have sent out a questionnaire regarding responses to Storm Arwen prior to a meeting to discuss issues raised. Crathie school children have designed a map outlining how they would like to see the problem of parking resolved at the School and Highlanders Bake House. Roads Department will meet the school. **IH** said this had been an issue for many years.

**CPA** highlighted the problems that council staff are facing because of absence due to covid-19 illness or self-isolation. This had resulted in reduced and cancelled services.

#### CNPA

**CGB** reported that the National Park Partnership Plan was now under discussion.

#### FIG

**JB** has been invited to a start-up meeting regarding the Ballater Additional Flood Study with Aberdeenshire Council and their contractor, RPS. Thanks to **CPA** for arranging this. Scottish Flood Forum is in discussion with Aberdeenshire Council about undertaking surveys to advise on property level protection. FloodRe and the Mobile Flood Unit will return to Ballater, possibly in June.

Covid permitting, **RF** will meet with Grant Moir of CNPA and Alexander Burnett, local MP, to discuss upstream works on the Dee.

**WJ** suggested contacting the River Dee Trust to discuss other possible projects.

#### CAP

**RD** and **BD-JB** are working on a presentation of low-level approach to care in the village.

#### Halls

**WB** reported that some groups had to cancel meetings due to covid-19. New lift to be installed in February. Halls Trust AGM to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> January. It will be possible to attend either in person or via Zoom.

#### Resilience and Emergency Response

**LD** had met with co-ordinators following Storm Arwen to discuss the community response and how they might better respond. People who were approached had appreciated the assistance offered. **LD** would like to have permission to hold a list of residents who might require assistance in the event of an emergency and had approached the Information Commissioners Office for advice on how GDPR would affect this. During Storm Arwen, local people were coming into the Halls and suggesting names to be visited as potentially vulnerable, but this was a very random approach. A list would allow this to be undertaken systematically. Dr Macleod had gone through the register of properties and advised who might be vulnerable, and these individuals had been visited by Police Scotland. It seems that individuals must sign and date a request for their information to be held on a list.

There had been 9 new volunteers, which was good news.

**LD** is meeting with Sergeant Gregg on Friday to discuss the resilience response as there seemed to be some confusion as to what the police role should be in such an event. **JB** asked if he might also attend this meeting.

Gordon Riddler had mentioned that the Halls Trust is currently discussing a memorandum of understanding with Aberdeenshire Council regarding the use of the Halls as an emergency centre. **CPG** is monitoring this as representative of the council on the Halls Trust committee.

**RF** expressed concern about a coordinated approach to resilience in Crathie. **IH** said that he is meeting with Mike Forbes and other locals from Crathie to discuss a way forward. **LD** said that attempts had been made following Storm Frank, but this had come to nothing due to the added complication of Balmoral Estate.

#### CAN

All projects ongoing.

Improvement Group **BRD-JB** and **PD** are waiting for a meeting to look at the next phase regarding availability of flowers etc.

#### Paths

Ken Gibson had drafted a letter for BCCC and BRD to send to Forestry Scotland regarding the problem of path and signage damage incurred on Craig Coillich. **RF** suggested that BCCC should also ask Forestry Scotland to comment on their future plans for the site. **RF** will produce letter to be signed by **WJ** and **BRD-JB** to be sent to Forestry Scotland.

#### **7 Planning Matters**

**WB** and **EK** had read the report on proposed changes to how planning applications are dealt with by the council. **CPA** explained the report suggested that fewer applications will have to go to committee, which is generally considered not a good idea. Once area committees have looked at the report, it will return to the full council for a decision. Kirstin Bradley asked about how the BCCC scrutinises planning applications. **EK** had written an article for the Eagle to outline the process. **EK** and **WB** look at planning applications on a weekly basis and circulate anything of interest to the rest of the BCCC. The CC is normally only involved if there is a significant local response to an application. **EK** suggested that planning applications could be put on local noticeboard. All planning applications appear in the Piper every week. Any neighbours to a planning application should also be informed. It was suggested that planning applications could be put on the BCCC Facebook page, with a note requesting any comments to be e-mailed to **RF**, but that comments on the Facebook page should be blocked.

**CGB** pointed out that all planning applications with (one, two, three or four) objections/comments come to Aberdeenshire Ward Councillors to be judged against policy and then if two councillors are of the same mind, referred to the Marr Area Committee for determination or delegated to local planning officers if there is agreement with officers recommendations. There is no collaboration or discussion between councillors in reaching such decisions. Applications with 5 or more

objections/comments or from community councils are automatically sent to Marr Area Committee.

**8 Correspondence** Nothing.

**9 Finance** No change.

#### **10 AOCB**

**WJ** was pleased to welcome Crathie residents to the BCCC meeting and hoped that they might consider joining the BCCC as there were 2 vacancies on the council for Crathie residents.

**RF** would contact Helen Miskelly to thank her for her proposed article on dog fouling to be submitted to the Eagle, with the suggestion to emphasise the science and her professional status.

**WJ** proposed that the next meeting should **not** be held on Valentine's Day, but sadly he was a lone voice - there are no romantics on the BCCC.

**The meeting concluded at 20.30. The next meeting is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> February, 19.00 to 21.00 hours, probably via ZOOM.**