

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)

www.ballaterandcrathiecommunitycouncil.com

Minutes of a Meeting held on 13th May 2019 at Beaton Craigie Room at 7pm

Present: James Anderson (WJ) - Chair Jane Angus (JA) William Braid (WB) Jo Croll (JC) - Secretary Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer Lewis Macdonald (LMD) Lisa McMahan (LMM) Cllr Paul Gibb (CPB) Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB) Michael Coletta (MC) - CAT Richard Frimston	Apologies Fiona Presslie (FP) - Dep Chair Francis Duguid (FD) Anne Reid - BRD
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1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

2. Emergency services

The police report included notification of break-in at Aboyne as well as traffic offences. **JC** e-mailed police to ask about fire-raising and graffiti damage in Ballater which did not appear in the report.

3. Minutes of April's meeting were passed

Action Tracker updated.

4. Reports

Ballater Royal Deeside Limited

A new committee has been formed for the Hut on the Green and it will continue to be used by senior citizens of Ballater.

Regeneration of the village green continues to present a challenge. The Green suffers a considerable amount of footfall in everyday life of the village regardless of special events held there. Spiking and re-seeding would require the Green to be closed off in order to be successful. The Golf Club are no longer able to complete this work and quotes are being requested from other sources.

BCE

All seasonal pitches have been booked.

Aberdeenshire Council

CGB reported that the 901 service continues to be a large bus rather than the smaller mini-bus. She would urge the public to use or lose this service and she will continue to ask for passenger numbers.

There have been issues in Ballater with recycling bins not being emptied as a result of either passers-by using them to put non-recycling rubbish in, or householders not understanding the recycling regulations. All issues been resolved to date.

CGB has requested that **WJ** be invited to a car parking meeting with Janelle Clark to look at the bigger picture with regard to parking in the village, in particular in light of any impact that might be made should the bus stop move from Golf Road to Bridge Street. **JC** suggested that Jim Bowe from transport should also attend in order to clarify options available and the impact to car-parking.

BRD will be responsible for fund-holding for the monies required to reinstate the Cambus O'May Bridge.

CPG reported that Lee Watson has requested a report of the Ballater Flood Study to be published in the Summer edition of the Eagle.

Cairngorms National Park Authority

CGB reported that 2 new members have been elected to the board - Deirdre Falconer and John Kirk. The board will now be stable for 3 years and **CGB** anticipates being able to introduce some major changes to the way the board operates, in particular the use of time as there have been a number of meetings which have only lasted a half-day when more might be achieved if the whole day were devoted to business.

CGB also hopes to set up Business Forums in order to gain information to feed in to the economic aims of the Park.

Cairngorms Nature Big Weekend just took place with a number of events in Braemar, Aboyne and Glentana, including building bumble-bee boxes, a new bird hide in Braemar and a debate on the use of uplands.

Highland and Moray Council have been closing public toilets. This has had an impact on users of the Snow Road. It has been suggested that **CC** should adopt public toilets and use the app for the Snow Road to register these as sites of public interest. Local businesses such as hotels, shops and cafes might also be encouraged to list their properties in order to reduce the number of instances of people being forced to urinate and defecate on public lands to the detriment of other users. **CGB** will speak to Balmoral Estate about the toilet block at Crathie, as **CPG** had been informed by Andrew Meechan (Cleaning Services, Aberdeenshire Council), that the council toilets underneath the Tourist Information Centre would only open March/April to end of October due to budgetary restrictions.

Community Action Plan

MC reported that out of 152 actions instigated when the Action Plan was set up, 28 have been completed and 24 are underway - a very respectable 35% in one year.

MC emphasised that it was essential to draw up a centralised communications, events and marketing strategy in order to maximise effort and minimise duplication.

Jack Coull is seeking assistance with the Heritage Action Team.

MC will report to the **CC** each month on developments.

JC reported that the Housing Survey will be launched on 15th May for the next 6 weeks and urged anyone who had an opinion on housing requirements in the village to make their voice heard.

Halls

Over £70,000 has been raised for the refurbishment of the Old Library.

It is hoped that the creation of new toilets will be completed by the Autumn.

£1004 has been raised by the Co-operative, liaising with Sue Cunningham, following a sponsored walk round Glen Muick and collection buckets at the tills.

The new heating system in both halls has taken a little time to get used to, in order to get the right settings.

The Michael Sheridan and Beaton Craigie Rooms now also have the same system to enable remote control by the hall-keeper.

New keypads have been fitted directly to the Yale locks on the outside doors in order to alleviate the problem of the keys going missing from the original key boxes and keys.

All light fittings are being replaced with LED lights in order to improve lighting and hopefully save money over time.

The lift is now back in operation, but being over 40 years old, it is anticipated that it may need to be replaced sooner rather than later.

Wallis Riddell has completed the new Health & Safety Policy and all hall users are urged to familiarise themselves with the contents.

Care No report

Enhancement Group

The trees on the Green can now all be lit at Christmas. The lighting for the Church is ongoing.

5. Planning Matters

PD had been asked if the **CC** would comment on a planning application in the village. **PD** would forward all material to other members to make a decision on the **CC** response, which would be ratified at the next meeting.

JC reported that CNPA had called in the planning application for an underground cable.

6. Correspondence

Alex Shoebridge had asked if it would be possible to put a speed restriction on the Glen Muick road.

Tony Cox and Douglas Johnstone had written with regard to the Flood Group.

With regard to the proposed cruise ship visits, BBA is seeking persons interested in establishing excursion packages for passengers to come to Ballater - please contact Dominique Drewe-Martin.

WB had written with regard to fly-tipping on the Old Line. **CGB** had e-mailed police for an incident report number and is awaiting further information.

7. Finance There is no change.

8. AOCB

LMM asked if it would be possible to clear the viewpoint at the top of Craigendarroch.

JC will write to Invercauld Estate to request assistance in clearing both this area and the view point at the entrance to the Hilton Craigendarroch.

WB raised the issue of the rusty and unsightly bins on the village green. **JC** will contact Andrew Sheridan/Neil West of Aberdeenshire Council to check if replacement bins are due.

JC reported extreme difficulty in getting the toilet block opened at Monaltrie Park.

Although BRD would pay for cleaning materials, we are responsible for ordering sundries. **JC** to action. Repairs - Scott Thomson has completed his work, SRC is still

waiting for a toilet seat before signing off on their part of the maintenance work.

While the CC is to manage the block, it remains an asset of Aberdeenshire Council, so they should be responsible for insurance. It is also difficult for the CC to obtain

donations for the provision of the toilets from users of the Park as all bookings for the park are handled by Aberdeenshire Council who are not in a position to share this

information. **CPG** to follow this up.

RF pointed out that the Aberdeenshire Council Access website still reported the Polhollick Bridge as being closed.

The meeting closed at 9.00

The next meeting will be the AGM - 10th June at Michael Sheridan Room, 7-9pm