

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

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

Minutes of a Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 7-9pm at Church Hall, Crathie

<b>Present:</b> James Anderson - Chair (WJ) Richard Frimston (RF) - Secretary William Braid (WB) Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer John Bannerman (JB) Lewis Macdonald (LMD)	<b>Apologies</b> Tom Flynn Ellie Kinghorn Jo Croll Gareth Johnston Cllr Peter Argyle	<b>Also present:</b> John Burrows (BRD-JB) Janet Feeney (JF) Iain Henderson (IH) Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB) Cllr Paul Gibb (CPG) Scott Peacock (SP) - CAN Linda Drever (LD) - BRG Pat Fraser (PF) Gordon Riddler (GR) - Halls Lyndain O'Brien Claudia Leith
--	---	--

### 1 Welcome

**2 Emergency Services** No report received. **RF** will request report for next meeting. **WJ** commented that there had been opportunistic burglary in Glen Muick.

### 3 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of March meeting were approved.

### 4 Matters arising from previous meeting.

Nil

### 5 Election of Janet Feeney

**WJ** welcomed Janet on to the BCCC, representing Crathie.

### 6 Action Tracker Update

**CPG** will chase up drawings & proposals for bus shelter on Bridge Street (6). Signs have been erected on Glen Muick road directing pedestrians to off-road footpath, but trees still require to be cutback, so raise new action for this. **WJ** pointed out that no tree cutting could take place due to nesting birds. **CPG** had been told that it would not be possible to reduce speed limit at Cambus O'May, but there were still concerns regarding access to car park which should be addressed (96). **CPG** urged a fresh approach to Peter Stanworth regarding new bins, now that new budget was in place. **CGB** would be attending a meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April regarding car park at Crathie School and possibility of adjustment to speed limit might be discussed.

### 7 Sub-committee reports

#### FIG

**RF** thanked BCCC members who had attended the Public Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April regarding Option 3A. SEPA had not attended but had issued a statement. **CPA** had also been unable to attend due to illness, but his report had been read out at the meeting. The meeting had confirmed the distrust felt by the community towards Aberdeenshire

Council as a result of lack of consultation in 2019 and scepticism about future consultation. Option 3A is considered damaging to the village and there were grave concerns about the cost of Option 3A and its economic damage to the community. BCCC agreed to FIG's plan to publish the minutes of the Meeting along with SEPA's statement and that of CPA on the community Facebook page and website and to distribute to attendees of the meeting by e-mail. FIG would also urgently seek a meeting with senior management at Aberdeenshire Council to discuss the community views and find out how Aberdeenshire Council would react to the fact that BCCC are being driven by the community feeling towards rejection of option 3A.

CPG warned that Option 3A could not be significantly changed and it had been put forward by elected members of the Infrastructure Services Committee as the chosen option for funding. If the community wished a different option, then this had to be made clear to elected representatives of the community. Option 3A was accepted because there was no other option put forward and nobody wanted to have the responsibility of future loss of life through rejecting the only option on the table. CPG pointed out that there were 168 applications to Scottish Government for a total fund of £470 million. He felt that the chances of Option 3A going ahead were minimal. Even if Option 3A were successful, the timescale would be at least 10 years, while WJ pointed out that the budget of £32 million was already obsolete due to increases in cost of fuel and raw materials.

CPG suggested that the way forward was to approach elected representatives at Scottish Government level to discuss alternatives such as flood & drought risks, upper Dee dams etc.

RF pointed out that different types of dams were required for different purposes eg hydro-electric schemes, drought relief, improved river flow in summer etc. CPG pointed out that RPS survey had been conducted to deal with a one in 200 year flood event; it might have been helpful to consider lesser models.

#### Ballater Resilience Group

LD reported that the group are finalising a list of essential equipment for both Ballater & Crathie in order to apply, through BCCC, to the SEN Resilient Communities Fund. It is planned to hold a meeting on 17 May for new & existing BRG co-ordinators to attend a desktop exercise to explain the available equipment and documentation. A second meeting aimed at 9 new volunteers to attend an induction course is scheduled for 29 May. Both are subject to ensuring enough people attend as fees must now be paid to Halls for the use of facilities. BRG has been talking to other communities and Marr Area is recommending Ballater as a suitable model for other Resilience Groups. BRG coordinators continue to work on forms & street maps and to update the Resilience Plan Rev 4.

#### Crathie Resilience Group

**IH** reported no update other than to put together a list of equipment required to be included in the BRG application to SSEN Fund.

## **8 Other Reports**

### BRD

**BRD-JB** sent in a report to BCCC. BBA and BRD are working together on housing plan. The Jubilee Fund project is going well with contributions from Glen Muick, Invercauld, Johnston Oils and Brook Taverner. Attempts are being made to set up an Oil Club in Braemar like the project in Ballater. Ron Drever and **BRD-JB** hope to replicate the Braemar Community Care Product in Ballater and Crathie. The Duck Festival is up and running. **BRD-JB** had confirmed with CNPA that a wind turbine farm would not be acceptable in the park, but **CGB** had suggested alternative energy sources should be looked at. To achieve this would require BBA, BRD, V&A Halls and other groups to work together.

**RF** thanked Ken Gibson for all his hard work regarding paths. A letter had been sent to Forestry Scotland following work on Pannanich Hill which had destroyed paths and signage with no consultation. A Zoom meeting had been held, during which it was made clear that future work was planned in the area, but that hopefully consultation would take place.

### BCE

**WB** will send minutes to BCCC in due course.

### Aberdeenshire Council

This would be the last BCCC meeting attended by **CPG** who is not standing for re-election. Keep Care in our Communities (KCC) had met in March and contacted the Community Engagement Lead within Healthcare Improvement Scotland, who have responsibility for monitoring the activity of health boards, especially of any changes, and supporting health boards in their engagement with communities. Niamh MacIver had replied and will meet with KCC. KCC also learned that Carina Ebdy had been appointed as Project Lead for Strategic Needs Assessment, although public consultation will not begin until after local council elections on 5<sup>th</sup> May. **CPG** also highlighted a survey being undertaken by SSEN to find out what local communities view as areas where SSEN might better perform: [ssen-transmission.co.uk](http://ssen-transmission.co.uk) Stakeholder Annual Engagement Plan.

**CGB** had travelled on B976 to look at work on the bridge, but it will be closed for a further 2 weeks. She had also been concerned about the location of the snow gates on this road, suggesting that they would be better located above the Bush Farm, as the road was normally cleared up to there by local farmers. Also concerned about the ability of residents to open the gates. **WJ** asked **CGB** to get clarification on the intermittent closures planned for the A939 to Gairnshiel Bridge over the next 2 years and how traffic will be managed.

**CGB** noted that no date had been fixed for the Inver underpass repairs, although she had been told that it would be managed by traffic lights. **PF** asked if she could

confirm that there would be no road diversions through adjacent land. **PD** asked **CPG** to ensure that no-entry signs at the caravan site end of Deebank Road be restored. Long vehicles were taking this road against traffic flow, with no opportunity to divert from the road and were meeting oncoming vehicles, or emergency vehicles exiting at the police station/ambulance station.

**WB** also questioned when the Keep Left sign at the roundabout would be restored. Should **CPG** be successful in resolving this issue, it was suggested that a plaque should be erected in his honour.

#### CNPA

**CGB** had contacted the CNPA board to urge them to include Food Security Impact Assessments in the forthcoming Partnership Plan. This follows an interview from the NFU president, Minette Batters, who had urged government to consider food security as important in assessing whether productive land should come under re-forestation for carbon off-setting.

#### CAP

**JB-BRD** said that various organisations were coming together to discuss what CAP had achieved and what could realistically be achieved, going forward.

#### Halls

**GR** reported that the lift had arrived, but with missing parts which had to be fabricated. Work was about to begin on refurbishing the entrance to Albert Hall. The Hub is going well, though staff restrictions due to covid had resulted in some delay in progress. **JB** commented on how helpful Ade Scripps was to any event being held in the halls.

#### CAN

**SP** will write an article for Summer edition of the Eagle outlining the current status of the CAN campaign as well as the planned changes to Aberdeenshire Council domestic waste collection service. 38.5kg of waste had been gathered in April's monthly litter pick-up, primarily plastic bottles and at lay-byes. Tree planting planned for the autumn. A map would be created with proposed sites for wild-flower planting and to discuss grass-cutting with Aberdeenshire Council.

**JB-BRD** asked about the possibility of a community garden with raised beds. A site at the Fire Station and behind Deeside Candies had been suggested. **CBG** said that the Braemar community garden was a great asset to the village.

### **9 Planning Matters**

Concerns had been raised about usage of the bus garage with potential disregard for planning regulations. **EK** had contacted AbCo and CNPA planners.

### **10 Correspondence**

Nothing to report.

### **11 Finance**

No change.

## **12 AOCB**

**RF** had been approached regarding the poor state of signs indicating that the Cock's Neck road was closed. As this is likely to be a permanent closure, it would be time to look at better signage. **CGB** would find out who was responsible for the road.

**PD** had been asked about the marquee erected by the Balmoral on the Green. **CPG** pointed out that planning permission had been granted until September 2022, but it was up to the business to seek a liquor licence for the area.

**JF** reported that the planning application for the noticeboard at Crathie had been submitted.

**WJ**, on behalf of BCCC, thanked **CPG** for all his efforts and hard work. **CPG** said he would remain involved in Keep Care in the Community and other projects.

**The meeting ended at 20.20**

**The next meeting is planned for Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in the Mike Sheridan Room.**