

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)

www.ballaterandcrathiecommunitycouncil.com

Minutes of a Meeting held 10th February 2020 in Michael Sheridan Room at 7pm

Present: James Anderson (WJ) - Chair Jo Croll (JC) - Vice Chair Fiona Presslie (FP) - Secretary William Braid (WB) Jane Angus (JA) Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer Richard Frimston (RF) Ian Latta (IL) Lisa McMahon(LMM) Lewis Macdonald (LMD) Francis Duguid (FD)	Apologies Emma Stewart (ES) Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB) Cllr Paul Gibb (CPG) Tony Cox (TC)	Also present: Allan Harrison (AH) - BCE
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1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

2 Emergency services

Nothing to report

3 Minutes of January's meeting were passed.

Action Tracker updated.

Aberdeenshire Council has approved the draft amendment submitted by **FP** to increase frequency of meetings held at Crathie and this will be voted on at the AGM.

CGB will pursue the possibility of 30mph speed limit at Crathie, but Police response suggests that speed limits at Balnault and Tullich are unlikely to be implemented.

4 Reports

BRD WB reported that the community bus was back in operation following repairs. A TV had been installed in the meeting room now available at Park House.

BCE AH reported that the site will re-open on 28th February with over 20 bookings already made and 12 seasonal sites already booked. The site is fully booked for Ballater Victoria Week. The site is in good repair following work by SSE.

Aberdeenshire Council

FP read from the report submitted by **CGB**. Due to the General Election, the full council budget will be decided at a later meeting although council tax and housing revenue budget will be dealt with this week. **CGB** suggests that BCCC and local residents should respond to the consultation in progress with Stagecoach regarding their new timetable. **IL** will try to attend the consultation meeting with Stagecoach in Aberdeen on 14th February. **FP** will write to Stagecoach to suggest that, in order to reduce the journey time from Ballater to Aberdeen, a direct service should be implemented from Banchory to Aberdeen, in order to minimize the time taken by the service to go through Banchory. **LMM** will ask Jeanie Rowland to comment on the new timetable. Consultation ends on 16th February. The possibility of a bus park at the waste water treatment works continues.

WJ read from the report submitted by **CPG**. He has spoken with Marr Roads to look at the paving at Provost Craig Road. The site at Craigview Place would be unsuitable for future development due to the complications of its ownership. The closed roads signage at Dinnet was agreed with Police.

CNPA

CPG requested any comments regarding the report from the Grouse Moor Management Review Group to be sent ASAP to her as the CNPA will be considering the matter at their meeting on 6th March. The link to the report is <https://www.gov.scot/publications/grouse-moor-management-group-report-scottish-government/>.

The first Good Practice Protocol 'Community Engagement in Decisions Relating to Land' setting out practical advice on how land-owners and communities can work together to make better & fairer decisions about land use - see further information on the link

http://landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/5dde684465594_GOOD%20PRACTICE%20PROTOCOL_web%2019.11.19.pdf.

Work is about to start on the next CNPA Partnership Plan.

Ballater Flood Defence Group

TC will meet with Aberdeenshire Council on 6th March to discuss further his alternative plan to the council's favoured plan.

RF asked for suggestions to rename the Flood Sub-committee to differentiate its work from that of **TC**. **RF** had spoken with John Burrows of BRD regarding Resilience planning. **RF** will contact Linda Drever with regard to collating

information about houses and people affected by the 2016 flooding and determine how up-to-date these records are. **RF** suggested that the **BCCC** should seek professional river management advice and seek to make contact with land-owners regarding systematic river clearing management, bank maintenance and other such matters.

The Scottish Flood Forum has requested a Property Resilience Report by 28th February.

RF asked about a sub-committee constitution for the flood group and also hoped to maintain an Action Tracker for this. **FP/JC** will deal with this.

CAP

WJ and **FP** had attended meeting on 21st January. This had been a positive meeting. The Shop Enhancement Group will be renamed the Ballater Improvement Group. The problems of communication within the village and groups were discussed. The VisitBallater website gets most hits and it was felt that it might be best to tag local resident community events on to this. Intend to set up a Village Calendar to be maintained constantly to try and include as many events as possible. **PD** asked about ways of keeping people informed who did not use Facebook or the internet. Noticeboards are under discussion, with the possibility of a live screen, being constantly updated. The Village AGM is planned for May/June.

JC had met with Aberdeenshire Planning regarding the development of housing. David Cobban and Ian Rodgers had agreed to make drawings for a preliminary planning application to be made to include 4 2-bedroom houses, suitable for a wide range of potential inhabitants.

Halls

WB reported that they are awaiting granite for the façade and new windows & doors. A request has been made for a quote for installation of CCTV to counteract anti-social behaviour. There are still problems with the heating system. The local history group are waiting to see the space available before committing to what will be included in the display. **FD** will seek information regarding the cost of making the plaque of the coat of arms for the hall façade.

Enhancement Group

PD had received notification of 1500 plants to be delivered for the tubs and beds. There will be a meeting with Ken Regan to discuss the Green. **FP** will contact Amy Muir to discuss the possibility of the Farmers' Market rotating usage of the greens.

Ballater Improvement Group

There was a good and positive attendance at the meeting on 23rd January to discuss the possible use of funds donated by the Prince's Trust to improve shop fronts. Business owners have been asked to produce reports on what is required for individual businesses to ascertain what funding might still be required.

Paths A new leaflet has been published. **PD** reported that repairs had been carried out on the Golf Course/River Bank footpath. **WB** reported that progress was also being made on the repair of the Cambus o'May Bridge.

5 Planning Matters

A planning application for the demolition of the Glen Lui Hotel, to be replaced by a 3-storey private house will be submitted next week.

6 Monaltrie Park Toilets

Aberdeenshire Council has told **JC** that the toilet block at Monaltrie Park would be offered to BCCC on a licence basis, with the BCCC's nominated office-holders being responsible for liability insurance. In addition, while the licence would be for a nominal £1 per annum, electricity would be charged at £200 per month, based on the usage of the adjacent pavilion as the toilet block did not have its own meter. **WJ** pointed out that the LED lights, which were on a motion sensor, would not use that amount and suggested consulting a local electrician to discover the cost of installing a meter in the block. **JC** will check with Aberdeenshire Council if this is possible. As the BCCC does not hold liability insurance, it was decided to draft a proposal for BRD to take on the toilet block. A cleaner will be provided by Aberdeenshire Council who will open the block at 9am and close it at 5pm. **JC** to submit a draft to BRD outlining cost of licence, purchase of cleaning materials etc, electricity costs, repairs and future funding plans. **AH** suggested clarifying that Aberdeenshire Council would bear the cost of insuring the actual building for any damage. If BRD agreed to take over the licence, then names of BRD directors, registered charity number of BRD and address would all be required by Aberdeenshire Council.

7 Correspondence

FP had received notification of a Ladies' Cycle Race to be held in Ballater on 16th May, using Victoria Halls as an administration base, with approximately 60 cyclists and 30 volunteers. FP will ask the organisers to contact Aberdeenshire Council for permission to use Monaltrie Park for car-parking as space in front of the Halls is limited.

8 Finance No change.

9 AOCB

WJ raised concern he had received re. two cars abandoned in the Church car park. FP to contact Police Scotland.

JA sought assurance that there would continue to be free parking in Ballater which was confirmed.

FP to contact Alford regarding the organisation of community council elections in June when six places would be up for election. Should there be more than 6 nominees, then an election would have to be organised.

The meeting finished at 8.30pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 9th March at 7pm in the Michael Sheridan Room.