

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

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

Minutes of a Meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> June

2020 via Zoom at 7pm

<b>Present:</b> James Anderson (WJ) - Chair Jo Croll (JC) - Vice Chair Fiona Presslie (FP) - Secretary William Braid (WB) Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer Ian Latta (IL) Lisa McMahan(LMM) Lewis Macdonald (LMD)	<b>Apologies</b> Emma Stewart (ES) Jane Angus (JA) Francis Duguid (FD)	<b>Also present:</b> Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB) Cllr Paul Gibb (CPG) Cllr Peter Argyle (CPA) Tom Flynn - FIG (TF)
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### 1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

### 2 Emergency services

Nothing to report

### 3 Minutes of March's meeting previously approved via e-mail.

Action Tracker updated.

Donald MacPherson to contact **WJ** regarding Bridge of Gairn.

### 4 Reports

#### Fig

**RF** and **TF** had been able to continue meetings online to progress community response to flooding. They would welcome input from all members of the community to collate what has been done and what people feel should still be done. They hope to have a draft report ready by the end of August. **WJ** will pass on old photographs showing the path of the river at Invermuick. **RF** said it was important that BCCC maintained the momentum on the community response to flooding as it had perhaps dropped off many people's agenda due to the covid 19 restrictions.

Aberdeenshire Council had agreed to meet half the costs of removing trees from the Dooker pool but Invercauld Estate have pointed out that they do not own that stretch and **RF** has been in contact with Ballater Golf Club to ascertain ownership. **TF** logged out of the meeting.

## **BRD**

A number of funding avenues are being explored currently for the benefit of the community.

Johnston Oil income for the community to date is £3,600.

There is £31,110 available in the Ballater Hardship Fund.

The meeting for the Duck Festival is scheduled for July, but likely that this will be cancelled this year.

Due to low river levels, the turnstile for the Cambus o'May Bridge was spotted in the water and has been retrieved. It is hoped that work might start in July. Awaiting government guidelines for future use of the community bus when social distancing rules are in place.

## **BCE**

The caravan park has been closed completely since 24<sup>th</sup> March.

A grant of £25,000 has been obtained from the council through the Coronavirus Business Support Fund. The wards have been furloughed apart from a short period in order to undertake essential maintenance. VisitScotland have waived their Quality Assurance Fee as has the booking system provider. It might be possible to open the seasonal pitches first of all, but waiting for further guidance.

## **Aberdeenshire Council**

**CGB** reported that the Council has a range of information available to businesses and the community on

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/environmental-health-covid-19/>.

Grass-cutting started on 1<sup>st</sup> June, initially in cemeteries. Pavement weeding will not happen. Should anyone wish to offer assistance, they should contact the council at [greenspace@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:greenspace@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) so that a "Living with Covid" service level agreement can be co-created.

The new bridge at Gairnshiel gets to the CNPA planning meeting at the end of June.

Schools open for staff from 15<sup>th</sup> June, with new term on 11<sup>th</sup> August. Still a great deal of planning ahead.

**CPA** praised council staff for their response to the Covid-19 restrictions. The budget for the council looks grim for the coming months. Although some savings had been made, income had also been lost, for example, from quarries. The booking system for waste disposal seems to have worked well.

## **CNPA**

**CGB** reported that a number of meetings were ongoing across the Park area to give confidence to communities, employees and visitors for when restrictions

are lifted and to all the area to cope with additional numbers coming to the Park area on day trips. The plans include how to deal with parking issues, signage, what public toilets can be opened etc. Communications will be based on 4 points:

- everyone understands the guidelines
- plan ahead- both businesses and visitors to the area
- adapt and be flexible
- be kind.

### CAP

**FW** reported that Meetings/Village AGM on hold. BRD turn to chair CAP, John Burrows will take over from Michael Coletta. BBA has published website. Calendar tool currently on hold pending lockdown.

**JC** reported that the initial design proposal is for 4 x 2-bedroom townhouses, although a potential lack of amenity space might mean a reduction in number of properties. She had attended a webinar hosted by Rural Housing Scotland on funding for community housing projects and gathered a great deal of advice and contacts should the approved planning application be successful.

### Halls

**WB** reported that work continues on the outside of the building, but internal work is currently suspended. He will speak with the contractor regarding the scaffolding in the alley to allow access once again.

### Enhancement Group

**PD** thanked Tommy Jackson and Paul Patrick for their supply of plants which allowed volunteers to fill the plots on the village green. The work will be maintained by volunteers.

Paths nothing to report.

## **5 Planning Matters**

**RF** said that there had been only minor matters.

## **6 Correspondence**

**FP** had received information about the Phoenix Fund - a grant of £10,000 is available to aid economic recovery. The application will be made by BBA, BRD and B&CCC working together. Potential areas for funding include: the Smart Village Process; External seating area on the village green to assist smaller cafes to re-open as pavement tables will no longer be acceptable. **JC** suggested that contact should be made with the smaller cafes to check if they wished to be

involved in the supervision and maintenance of this area. **WJ** and **FP** will meet in the next few days to discuss the issue with John Burrows and Michael Colletta. And thirdly, suggested by **CPA**, funding for a Buy Local Campaign.

**FP** asked for any further suggestions.

**FP** had received an invitation to attend a meeting, Preparing to Open with Confidence in order to create a Draft Visitor Management Plan.

**WJ** will attend a Zoom meeting to discuss Smart Village Process on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

7 **Finance** No change

8 **AOCB**

**WJ** asked **LMD** to pass on community thanks to the local Co-op team for all their efforts over the last few months. **LMD** reported that Co-op will resume normal opening hours from 14<sup>th</sup> June and that there will be a dedicated hour for elderly shoppers/key workers.

**IL** asked about the **CC** elections - they have been deferred until October 2020

The meeting finished at 8.15pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 19.00 hours, location and method to be confirmed.