

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CCC)

www.ballaterandcrathiecommunitycouncil.com

Minutes of Meeting held at Michael Sheridan Room, Monday 13th February 2023 at
7.00pm

Present:	Apologies	Also present:
James Anderson - Chair (WJ)	John Bannerman	Mike Forbes (MF) - BRG
Jo Croll (JC) - Vice Chair	Janet Feeney	Dougal Morgan (DM)
Richard Frimston (RF) - Secretary	Tom Flynn	John Burrows - BRD
Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer	Linda Drever	Cllr Geva Blackett (CBG)
William Braid (BB)		Cllr Sarah Brown (CSB)
Ellie Kinghorn (EK)		Cllr Anouk Kloppert (CAK)
Gareth Johnston (GJ)		Scott Peacock (SP)
Lewis Macdonald (LMM)		Ron Drever
Simon Mearns (SM)		Gordon Riddler
		Tony Cox
		Helen Miskelly

1 Welcome

WJ welcomed BCCC.

2 **Conflicts of Interest** WJ had been contracted to install Crathie noticeboard and had also been involved in work on footpath beside river at Golf Course.

3 **Emergency Services Report** awaiting confirmation from Sergeant Masson as to when he will be able to attend a meeting.

4 **Approval of minutes** January minutes approved with one slight amendment.

5 **Matters arising** nothing to report.

6 Action Tracker update

CSB indicated that a detailed report on bus stop site (no 6) should be available for consultation by end of March. No timescale available as yet on road safety on Bridge Street (no 69) but report will be sent to RF. The closure signs on Cock's Neck had been allocated to another member of Abco staff due to staff departure. A safety audit had been completed on car park at Crathie School and will be made available to stakeholders in due course (no108a). No 108b will be removed from action tracker as the work on verge on front of school should come under the new Community Action Plan. The road sign at Aberarder has been installed so no 110 may be removed. Angus McNicol has indicated that the road to Crathie Graveyard is not used by Invercauld Estate, but is used by the Church so road repairs may fall under their jurisdiction. No 113 regarding debris on road verge at Crathie may be removed. It has been confirmed that there is no access from the lay-by to riverside footpath. Seasonal Parking at the Barracks (no 114) is still under review. CSB will facilitate a meeting between Abco and WJ & SM to discuss disability access to the rear of the Station (no 117).

7 Sub-committee Reports

Housing and Planning

- a) **EK** reported that a pre-planning application had been made for a 4G mast in Glengairn close to Loch Builig. **BCCC** to look at application and return to March meeting with comments. **CGB** expressed concerns about the appearance of the mast, in particular blending into a rural location. **EK** had been posting planning applications on to facebook page and website. **EK** queried a **BCCC** application for a flagpole on the Green. **WJ** had meant to raise this at previous meeting. As the application required immediate submission, he had agreed to it and had intended to raise at current meeting.
- b) **JC** had temporarily stepped back as Chair of Housing Group due to work commitments and her position had been taken by Susan Stewart for the time being. Housing Group had met with residents to discuss concerns about development and all local concerns had been voiced to Scotia, who anticipated a Public Consultation taking place in March.

FIG

RF sought approval for the co-option of Richard Bush and Neil Duncan to FIG to assist with volume of work generated by various workstreams. FIG had met with Scotia, Envirocentre and Ramsay Chalmers to address the flood risk assessment being undertaken for H1 development. Favoured access to development remains Craigview Place and the site may well have to be raised by 1 metre to respond to flood risk. Scottish Flood Forum will return to Ballater on 27th & 28th April to give further information on property level protection.

Alan Wood of Aberdeenshire Council had made clear that the adoption of Option 3A was a political decision and that any change to Aberdeenshire Council's policy regarding this would have to be through councillors. **RF** suggested that FIG should meet with local councillors to consider the position and come back to **BCCC** with proposals. Volunteers continue to work on the footpath beside the river. The ditch in golf course has been cleared of rubble. RPS survey is still to be published and **RF** suggested **BCCC** should decide if a public meeting might be in order to analyse it.

BRG

MF updated **BCCC** on meetings between BRG, Abco and the Halls regarding the use of the Halls during emergencies. The question of which insurance policy was valid in such circumstances to cover use of gas canisters for heating & cooking, overnight sleeping arrangements etc remained ongoing. In due course, it is hoped that a Memorandum of Understanding might be created to be signed by all stakeholders. The November 2022 flooding event had raised the issue of accommodation for emergency services in the Halls, still to be resolved. BRG had met with SSEN regarding updating of electricity network to the area. The local Co-op store has now been designated as a

lifeline store, which means that in the event of an emergency, it can be opened up to provide foodstuffs etc. BRG has also had meetings with other groups along the river.

CRG

Geoff Feeney had submitted a report in JF's absence.

8 Crathie issues

JF reported that a Planning Application was received for essential repairs and refurbishment to Crathie Suspension Bridge, Easter Balmoral. **CSB** reported that a variety of issues had to be explored regarding a crossing at Crathie.

9 Other Reports

BRD

John Burrows had submitted a report to BCCC outlining the role of BRD. Important for BCCC, BRD and Ken Gibson's Footpath Group to work together regarding funding and planning of footpaths in the area. The perspex panels on footpath map at Station had been installed incorrectly and would be fixed. The domestic alternative fuel grant of £200 would be paid to customers via their electricity accounts. SSE would be installing the meter in to the power tower on Victoria Road.

BCE

No Report

Aberdeenshire Council

CGB reported that she had been in touch with Gordon McKnight regarding a snow gate webcam for the Gairnshiel snow-gate. She had e-mailed head of roads at Abco with regard to installing a pole and had asked Mark Smith of Techmax for a quote for electricity. She would forward this information to BCCC for an application for funding to be made to Marr Area Committee and to BRD in April. Add to Action Tracker.

CSB has a location meeting planned for the water tap to be installed in Ballater. She had also received further information regarding the lack of information on the electronic display for the 201 service on Golf Road. While Abco is responsible for maintenance of the display system, it is dependent on GPS tracker systems on board the 201 buses. The system can be confused because the 201 service is broken down into 3 separate legs with 3 separate trackers. Also the GPS is occasionally registering the buses twice. **CGB** gave the e-mail address of the person responsible for transport in Aberdeenshire and who needed to be informed whenever the 201 service broke down or failed to arrive: richard.mckenzie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. **JC** would post this information on facebook and the noticeboard.

CSB also highlighted the Aberdeenshire Loves Local project which aims to improve the footfall in to local businesses on the high street. A webinar is available at 6pm on 21st February and further information available at

aberdeenshireloveslocal@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. **CSB** would forward this information to Susan Stewart at BBA.

CAK would forward information to BCCC regarding a French journalist looking to interview local businesses.

CNPA

Due to number of applicants, an election would be held.

CAP

RF encouraged as many people as possible to complete the CAP survey.

Halls

Report had been circulated.

CAN SP reported that litter-picking would take place on 25th March, 2-4pm and would be advertised on Facebook. Now had 116 members and had given a talk to Probus in December and asked if there were any other groups interested in having a talk. 350 trees had been planted at Golf Club. Seeking volunteers for the wildflower planting or even someone with a rotavator. Updates on Waste Management would be in the next issue of The Eagle and he was hoping to garner interest in a trip to Altens recycling plant. Helen Miskelly raised a question about bins on the golf club being used for dog waste, so unable to use for recycling. **SP** would speak to Golf Club.

Other

JC reported that the Platinum Jubilee committee had been resurrected for the Coronation. They had received £500 from BRD from the Johnston Oil fund and had applied to Marr Area Committee. Currently, plans include a possible Ball the weekend before, a musical concert on Friday 5th, Piper on the Green on Saturday 6th, a Picnic & Music on Sunday 7th, with possibility of Afternoon Tea in the Halls on Monday 8th. Other ideas have included a Willow Arch decorated with flowers, stained glass window project with Ballater Primary School and a Flag Design project with Aboyne Academy. Also discussed possibility of marquee due to weather.

10 Correspondence

A letter had been received about the dilapidated state of the Queen's Well and this had been forwarded to the correct area. Also an e-mail had been received complaining about parked cars with engine left running. BCCC have no powers regarding this matter, other than to suggest contact police.

11 Finance Application had been made to Marr Area for Crathie noticeboard which has now been installed.

12 AOCB

MF asked if it would be possible to prohibit vehicles on the Green following all the work that had been done to improve the grass. **JB-BRD** has written to Abco to ask if they can discuss rules as to access as permission to use the Green is given by Abco.

The meeting ended at 20.30

The next meeting is planned for Monday 13th March 2023 at 7pm in the Mike Sheridan Room.