

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)

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Minutes of a Meeting held 8th March via Zoom at 7pm

Present:	Apologies	Also present:
James Anderson - Chair (WJ) Jo Croll (JC) - Vice Chair Richard Frimston (RF) - Secretary William Braid (WB) Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer Ellie Kinghorn (EK) Gareth Johnston (GJ) John Bannerman (JB) Lisa McMahon (LMM)	Cllr Peter Argyle (CPA)	Cllr Paul Gibb (CPG) Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB) Tom Flynn (TF) John Burrows (BRD-JB)

1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

2 Emergency Services Report No relevant report received.

3 Matters arising from previous meeting and Action Tracker update.

Correction to February minutes - **CPG** pointed out that Philip McKay is head of Roads Services. February minutes passed.

JC to speak with **CPA** to locate dog waste bins on Hawthorn Place as there were already bins located at tennis courts. Bins had been removed from the golf course path as they were inaccessible for bin lorries during the caravan park shut down period.

RF to remind **FD** regarding the plaque for the Halls.

RF will e-mail **CGB** and **CPG** to follow-up on the problem of abandoned cars in village car park and streets. **RF** will also contact other community councils to find out if this is a problem elsewhere on Deeside.

CPG will get an update at the end of March regarding the possibility of a crossing at Bridge Street to Station Square.

JC reported that Grant Moir from CNPA had been in touch with Aberdeenshire Council regarding permanent variable signage at Glen Muick to control access to the car park. However, it does not appear that the sign can be monitored regularly to ensure that the message remains up to date and relevant. Grant

Moir had also suggested that the current location of the sign at the entrance to Glen Muick created a bottleneck and the information should be available at the Bridge over the Dee. It was also pointed out that the temporary signs were not effective last year and needed to be better monitored. Balmoral, Glen Tanar and Muir of Dinnet all intend to extend car-park spaces to reduce verge parking on roads. **WJ** said that increasing the number of car-park spaces only increased the volume of traffic on unsuitable roads. **JB** raised the possibility of applying significant financial penalties to vehicles in unauthorised parking areas. He said it was essential to ensure that the number of visitors (while welcome & essential for the local economy) remained within the limits of the local infrastructure. **CGB** suggested inviting Grant Moir from CNPA to the BCCC April meeting to outline the visitor management plan of the CNPA for the coming summer.

4 Reports

BRD

BRD-JB reported that BRD are awaiting further information from Aberdeenshire council about the possibility of BRD taking on the lease of the village green. However, this would not include grass-cutting and the road round the Church would require repair before that might be considered.

The Sensory Garden planned for the other side of the Green would be located near the bushes.

CNPA

The Local Development Plan is still to be adopted.

FIG

FIG members had created a report on the recent flooding on 20th February, set out at the end of the minutes, and **RF** suggested that this should be put on Facebook for further local discussion and comment.

A meeting is planned with emergency services to review the local response to flooding. Jonathan Duncan from the Aberdeenshire Council Flood Team would visit the village later this month to inspect the Bund. **JB** urged the community to make sure the Bund was considered as a village flood defence and not just a defence for the Golf Club.

The course of the river has changed in several locations and this needs to be reviewed. The Container at the school would be re-filled with sandbags and possibly remove the Hesco barriers to increase sandbag space. **JC** suggested that flood gates & flood barriers should be considered by householders as a means of protecting property. **PD** pointed out that some properties were flooded from below ground, so it was important for householders to protect their own properties in a way suited to each house.

CAP

BRD-JB reported that Ron Drever has taken responsibility for the Care aspect of the CAP. He is looking at what is currently available so that all information may be collated, possibly to be stored in the Hub in due course.

Halls

WB reported that quotations had been requested from 3 builders to complete the modifications on the basement and the construction of a bin storage platform.

Enhancement Group and Improvement Group

PD will speak to Anne Reid to switch off the lights on the village green.

5 Planning Matters

The plan for the Bridge of Gairn houses has been called in to the CNPA meeting on 26th March.

6 Correspondence

Nothing to report.

7 Finance No change since last meeting.

8 AOCB

WJ will deliver drone footage of the river on a memory stick to **RF**.

TF suggested that it was essential for there to be a multi-agency meeting to discuss the recent flood and what lessons had been learnt. It had been a wake-up call. It was essential to collate all programmes to ensure that work was not being duplicated or missed out. **BRD-JB** pointed out that BRD now had public liability insurance to cover work being done on leaking dams, for example, if this work required to be reinstated by various estates along with volunteers.

RF agreed that a unified approach would be helpful.

JC reported that a Food Pantry had been set up in the wake of the Hardship Fund. They had use of the Beaton-Craigie Room from the Halls and the emphasis would be on reducing food waste and working in conjunction with the Foodshare Scheme from the Co-op (previously managed by Ballater School).

GJ will attend the Scottish Conference for Community Housing.

JB will contact Scott Fraser of the Ballater Chiels to create a sandbag deployment plan for both the village and properties. He also wishes to discuss clearing some of the blockages created by the flood on 20th February in the river.

CGB will e-mail Inspector Matt Smith and cc **JB** to implement the police mannequin/speed traffic controller to discuss the best location. **JB** will also speak to PC Donald McLeod for his input. **PD** will reimburse **JB** for costs of purchasing uniform for the mannequin. **CGB** also suggested contacting Louise Duckworth of Ballater Primary School to involve the local children in naming the new recruit.

PD asked if there were volunteers in place for the local elections in May. The Community Council elections would only take place if there were more than 3 candidates to fill the current vacancies. The AGM would take place after the election. PD to have cash balances to end of March to RF.

WB had replaced the batteries in the defibrillator at Crathie Tourist Information Office. Ellie Kinghorn had created a check-list spreadsheet for all future inspections of the defibrillators.

The meeting concluded at 20.02 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for 12th April, 19.00 to 21.00 hours, possibly by Zoom.

FIG Report on Flooding 20 February 2021

BCCC FIG members have been working hard. On 13 Feb various members cleared access to the emergency container and checked its stocks.

On the night of the 20th February, we are grateful to all of the work in particular from Richard Cooper and the emergency services, AbCo, the Resilience Group and the Chiels.

4 pallets of sandbags were deployed from the containers by forklift and van and distributed to drop points in Ballater. 4 further lorries with sandbags were sent in to Ballater by Aberdeenshire Council and were dropped at Deebank Road Depot & Glenmuick Church between 10.00 and 11.00pm.

The Chiels assisted residents to deploy sandbags to properties in the vicinity of Deebank Road and Dee Street & volunteers assisted filling of sandbags at the depot over the bridge and assisted residents with sandbags from the pallets at Glenmuick Church.

Flooding in the Village

Water started coming out of the road drain at about 21h30 and then from the river from past no 40 and up Dee Street to no 35, it probably was about 3-4ft high at no 40 & Ford house but the flood doors fitted at no.40 stopped any water getting into that property. The position, the level tapered off at no35 and never got past the step at the gate.

The flood water also started coming down Anderson Road from the caravan site. It entered across from the school house and ran down Anderson Road, part of Braichlie Road across the front of the fire station and into the grass area called the wood yard. The properties Ravenscraig and Kireen were sandbagged

as the level was up on the pavement. It is believed that no water entered those properties, no water entered the fire station or any other properties.

In Ballater, the only other area the flooded was the underground car park at Monaltrie flats which was starting to rise up past an acceptable level for the electricity sub-station. Cutaway Cottage at Cambus o' May was flooded. There was however considerable damage to fencing and many trees brought down.

The River & Bund

The course of the river particularly at Invermuick has changed dramatically. The Minister's Pool, which was previously part of the river course, now has no flow at all.

The Ballater Village Bund was not overtopped to the north of the fisherman's hut. The Village Bund was overtopped by the fisherman's hut and in many areas to the south of this. The rock armour reinforcing work carried out by Aberdeenshire Council in 2016 held up well although it now shows some signs of erosion at the eastern end.

The path immediately to the east of the rock armour & the bund on which it stood was washed away by the river - a length of around 100m. There was serious Bund erosion at this point with several metres of the Village Bund being washed away. The river drove through parallel to the 4th fairway, breaching the Village Bund and establishing a new floodplain at the north east of the Dooker.

Review & Action after the Flood

Various meetings with emergency services and Aberdeenshire Council are being arranged to review the events of 20 February, actions necessary to plan better for the next event and what works can be carried out to reduce flood risks.

All property owners are asked to review their own property level protection and take further measures where possible.