

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

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

Minutes of BCCC meeting held at Michael Sheridan Room, Ballater on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May  
2025

<b>Present:</b> James Anderson - Chairman (WJ) Richard Frimston - Secretary (RF) William Braid (BB) Jennifer Davidson (JD) Scott Peacock (SP) Calum Halhead (CH) Jo Croll (JC) John Bannerman (JB) Lewis Macdonald (LMD) Linda Drever (LD)	<b>Apologies</b> Cllr Geva Blackett Cllr Sarah Brown Kate Allum Simon Mearns Ellie Kinghorn (EK) - Treasurer Atholl Bowman Martin Ellison	<b>Also present:</b> Mike Hadley Whit Romilly Weston Main (WM) Ray Riddoch - BCT (RR) Bruce Lawson - BCE (BL) Fiona Willis Andrew Robb - AECOM Richie Fraser - AECOM Angus & Lesley Davidson Sabine Muir
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### 1 Welcome and apologies by WJ

### 2 Emergency Services Report Nothing to report

### 3 Report from Andrew Robb of AECOM re Bus Stop proposals

Andrew Robb introduced the background history, looking at various options to solve the parking problems in Ballater, including the potential bus stop relocation on Golf Road as well as considering alternative parking options for visiting coaches. Plans proposed by AECOM can be found on BCCC website. Andrew was keen to emphasise that input from local businesses and residents would be welcome to find solutions to the problems faced in Ballater. The favoured location for a bus stop would be Church Square, with the possibility of a transport information hub & shelter to be in the public car park. **WJ** was concerned that the loss of parking beside the Church and on Golf Road might lead to further pressure being placed on side roads parallel to Golf Road and Victoria Road. If an alternative could be found to the coach parking area in the public car park, then that would result in up to 40 extra car parking spaces.

AECOM were looking at a site on A93 beside the sewage works, but this still left the problem of a location for the drop-off and collection of passengers as Stagecoach also required use of the bus stop and were unwilling to consider usage by other operators.

**JD** said that coach operators were on a tight schedule so would not wish to lose time leaving the village to park up. **JC** questioned the amount of detail being put into one

small section of the public car park and asked if this might not be spread across the Green. **RR** said it was unlikely that any one plan would please everyone, but he thought that the project should be approached in a logical way by firstly solving the issue of visiting coaches and then looking at the relocation of the bus stop. It is important for the economy of the village that coach parties should be welcome, and that access should be made straightforward. **WM** asked if any approach had been made to the Golf Club for coach parking as a revenue stream. Angus Davidson was concerned about increased coach traffic on an already busy road. **JC** suggested the field adjacent to the Aberdeenshire Council depot on south Deeside Road, which would make the village still accessible on foot. There was concern about pedestrians on the Royal Bridge. **JC** was concerned that more than one coach would require space in the village at any one time for up to 10 minutes to allow passengers to disembark and embark. **WM** suggested parts of Golf Road from the Chapel to Braichlie Road, where school buses currently collect and drop off passengers, might be an option. Fiona Willis asked if any consideration had been given to parking beside the Church during events on the Green, when stall holders would be setting up. **JB** asked Andrew Robb who defined the priorities of the project, as it seemed that the local community priority was to sort out the visiting coach parking and from that the bus stop relocation and parking solutions should follow. **WB** asked if there was any funding in place to implement the plans being discussed. While Transport Scotland has an interest in Mobility Hubs, there is currently no firm financial commitment. Representatives from AECOM had visited the village on several occasions, at busy times, and appreciated the varying requirements of locals, visitors and deliveries to businesses - the Green is a multi-purpose asset to the village and as such any change can impact on other aspects of its use. **WJ** suggested that any further questions and comments should be addressed to BCCC secretary.

#### **4 Approval of April minutes.**

#### **5 Conflicts of interest would be declared as and when they arose during meeting.**

#### **6 Action Tracker**

**RF** was continuing in discussions with Andrew Bowie MSP regarding the banking hub as the introduction of two plastic screens at the Post Office did not in any way ensure privacy to discuss banking matters. **WJ** declared a conflict of interest in no 134 as he was preparing a quotation to repair the riverbank on the River Gairn to present to Invercauld Estate. While the gullies had been repaired on Queens Road (no135), the road surface remained full of potholes. **JD** had reported the issue again, however still deemed low priority.

#### **7 Sub-committee reports**

##### Housing and Planning

##### A Planning

Nothing to report.

## B H1

Nothing to report directly from Scotia.

### Flooding Issues Group (FIG)

**JB** provided an update. The local procedure following a SEPA flood alert to Ballater has been updated so that the local fire & rescue team will receive the SEPA 'partner flood guidance statement' daily, which will allow them to evaluate the local flood risk and inform local stakeholders accordingly. The Scottish Flood Forum will visit on 28<sup>th</sup> June and will carry information for flood resilience measures for homes and businesses as well as further information for local tradesmen on how to obtain certification to install property flood protection. Work is ongoing on the CBEC mathematical model for river flooding. To date £87k has been spent on the hesco bund and CBEC work. BCT/BCE have contributed one third while the remaining two thirds has been raised externally. Minor repairs are required on the hesco bund and caravan park walkway, while Phil Benzie, Martin Ellison and Tom Flynn must be thanked for watering the newly planted willow which seem to have taken. FIG were invited by CNPA to comment on a job description being used to recruit a Project Officer for the Dee Resilience Plan. The following paragraph was requested - 'Ultimately the project objective is to deliver works on the ground which progressively improve the resilience of the Dee Catchment, adapting it to the dual climate change challenges of increasing flooding and drought, smoothing the flow, reducing the peaks and filling the troughs.' A further meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May with CNPA on a Scottish Government consultation on the Natural Environment Bill allowing FIG to consolidate this message with MSPs.

### Ballater Resilience Group

**LD** reported that a solution for storage of gas bottles was still being sought, as it was essential to be able to offer hot water during any incident.

### Crathie Resilience Group

**CH** reported that he was seeking assistance with the responsibility of CRG. **LD** said that she had included a request in the next copy of The Eagle.

### Economy

**RF** reported that Information Centre closes in October, but at least CNPA and Abco were talking about the issue. **RR** commented on the recent Press and Journal article which described the Royal Station as the iconic centre of the village, but that there had been no mention of its imminent closure.

**RF** reported attendance at the Park Authority Communities Day held in the Victoria Hall along with **SP**, **BL** and **JB**. It was important to note that the next Local Development Plan would be for 10 years, rather than 5 years, so important to really think about what needed to be on it.

### Roads & Paths

**SP** reported that funding applications for the cinder path had been completed.

He also raised the recent request from Abco regarding changes to speed limits in the village. All comments to be submitted by 19<sup>th</sup> May. The centre of the village and most side roads within the village would be reduced to 20mph. **SP** also felt that the Pass of Ballater should have a speed restriction of 40mph on the eastern end due to walkers & cyclists and reduced visibility on the road. He also suggested a reduction to 50mph or 40mph from Cutaway Cottage to the junction with the B9119 on the A93. Restrictions were also suggested for Crathie to cover a longer section due to pedestrians crossing from Balmoral car park to Crathie Church.

**RF** queried the number of 20mph road signs which would be installed as the speed limit changed within the village.

**WB** asked who was going to police these restrictions. **SP** suggested it was the responsibility of each driver to self-police. **WJ** asked **SP** and **SM** to compile a report on behalf of BCCC to send to Richard Frimston.

**SP** also asked about possible repair of the Craighendarroch Cairn which is falling into disrepair. It was suggested that an approach should be made to the Royal Guard who had repaired it in the past.

**RF** reported that CNPA is setting up a group to look at an extension of the Deeside Way from Ballater to Crathie. It is hoped that Balmoral will assist in linking up to the footpath at Keiloch to Braemar. **RF** is keen that both the North & South sides of the river should be looked at as possible routes.

## **8 Crathie Issues**

**CH** reported that there had been speed checks at Crathie by Police Scotland. It is intended to install new signs on Distillery Brae to clarify no parking as drivers do not seem to understand the clearway signage. He also reported that litter does seem to be reduced this year.

## **9 Other reports**

### Aberdeenshire Council

**CSB** and **CGB** put in reports which were circulated to BCCC members.

### Cairngorm National Park Authority

No report

### Community Action Plan

All groups will report at BCCC AGM in June.

### Ballater (Royal Deeside) Ltd - Ballater Community Trust

**RR** reported that Duck Festival planning is going well. John Burrows hopes to step down, so a new leader is being sought. Walking Week has been sold out. The monies from these events are all ploughed back into the community including, Childcare groups, the Greens, Flood groups, Cinder path and the Hardship Fund. Funds have also been set aside for any work required on Station Square following the information centre closure. **RR** had been impressed that the Winter Festival was totally not for profit and suggested that local businesses should be prepared to contribute to what is an excellent boost to business at the end of November.

RF thanked Kate Allum for all her work currently on the Memorandum of Understanding with Abco regarding the running of the Green.

Ballater Community Enterprise

BL reported a strong start to the year, fully booked most of the time.

Halls

BB issued a report on hall activity.

Ballater Golf Club

WM reported increased number of participants in the 50<sup>th</sup> Golf Week. The Golf Club had raised £4,400 this year to date on Bingo Evenings for local groups. Next event is for the Hub on 27<sup>th</sup> June. Most recent event raised £900 for youth football groups.

Ballater School

BB reported that Jim Clark and Sabine Muir would be judging the flag competition for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Albert Hall.

Climate Action Now

SP reported that a new company, Mygroup, would be used to collect blister pack recycling. This would require a kerbside box, one cubic metre in size, which he hopes to put in Provost Craig car park, depending on permission from Abco. Smaller boxes would be in the Clinic and in the Hub and he would undertake to fill the box at the car park. There will be two articles in the Eagle, asking about potential interest in allotments and in the app, Library of Things, which would allow residents to borrow rather than buy new items. While the oak trees grown from seed had not been successful, Jean & Scott have been locating seedlings on Craigendarroch Hill and ensuring that they have a better chance of survival by removing bracken and protecting from deer.

Other

Nothing to report

**10 Correspondence** nothing to report.

**11 Finance**

EK reported no change.

**12 AOCB**

The meeting concluded at 20.20

The Next meeting, Village AGM, will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 19.00 to 21.00 hours  
in the Albert Hall, Ballater