

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CCC)

www.ballaterandcrathiecommunitycouncil.com

Minutes of Meeting held at Moxon, Quarry Studios, Crathie, Monday 10th April 2023
at 7.00pm

Present:	Apologies	Also present:
Richard Frimston (RF)- Secretary Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer Ellie Kinghorn (EK) Gareth Johnston (GJ) John Bannerman (JB) Janet Feeney (JF) Tom Flynn (TF) Bill Braid (BB) Lewis Macdonald (LMD) Simon Mearns (SM)	Jim Anderson Paul Gibb Cllr Sarah Brown Jo Croll (JC) Scott Peacock	Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB) Dougal Morgan (DM) Linda Drever (LD) John Burrows (JB-BRD) Simon Mearns (SM) Angus McNicol (AMN) Callum Halhead (Abergeldie) Neil Duncan (FIG-ND) Richard Bush (FIG -RB) Ann Miles (Crathie resident)

1 Welcome

RF welcomed BCCC.

2 Conflicts of Interest

3 Emergency Services Report Sergeant Allan Masson sent in a report, including recent crime figures and Mountain Rescue call outs. **JB** raised the issue of vandalism of young trees planted on golf course at Ballater.

4 Approval of minutes March minutes amended.

5 Matters arising **JC** sent in a report outlining that the Top Up Tap to be installed by Scottish Water would not be near the historical fountain due to planning permission unlikely at that site. Favoured site would be next to BRD notice boards on west green.

6 Action Tracker update

Bus stop relocation (no 11) remains ongoing due to staff shortages at Abco. The paintwork on the Royal Station (no 90) will be undertaken before the Coronation. No 106 regarding the bridge at Cock's Neck to be closed as **CBG** confirmed demolition of bridge in her report. **RF** will push for further information on road repairs at Crathie Manse (no 112). **CGB** will contact Abco regarding the work done to repair the road at Balmoral Gates as being unsatisfactory (no 120). Once all quotes have been received for the snow camera at Gairnshiel (no121), **RF** and **JB-BRD** to proceed with funding applications to BRD and Marr Area. **CGB** will approach Abco to request the re-installation of a Crathie village sign on western approach to the village (no 122). **RF** to make additions to Action Tracker of a request to Sergeant Masson for a sign on police

station door informing public of alternative station at Banchory. **RF** also to contact Balmoral Estate regarding parking issues at Castle as well as lack of bins.

7 Sub-committee Reports

Housing and Planning

- a) Invercauld has also lodged an objection to the An Creagan mast.
- b) No further information on H1 project regarding public meeting.

TF raised the issue of vacancies in sheltered housing in Ballater. It can be difficult for older members of the community to make online applications for this housing. **TF** will ask **JC** to include information on BCCC Facebook page. **CGB** would include information on this in her next Eagle article. She pointed out that there was no age restriction, and the housing was open to all vulnerable applicants. **JB** said that often it could be difficult to get a care package in place so that people could use the facilities of the sheltered housing. This issue is likely to be featured in the future CAP.

FIG

JB reported that Scottish Flood Forum will visit Ballater on 27th and 28th April to undertake further house surveys, taking the total now to 40 properties surveyed. There will be a meeting on Thursday 27th April from 7 - 8.30pm in Albert Hall in which SFF will give a presentation on Property Flood Resilience (PFR - including keeping water out and limiting damage) Overview and Ballater PFR Reports Summary, Discussion and Feedback and Flood Re will talk about Affordable Insurance Policies and Build Back Better Policies.

TF & **ND** are working on the BCCC opposition to Option 3A, analysing the economic impact to the village should the Golf Course, for example, or the Caravan Park, be closed either temporarily, restored in a limited way or closed permanently. They argue that this should be included in any analysis of flood prevention plans. **RB** and **ND** are working through various alternatives to option 3A, analysing pros and cons of these. **JB** expects the final report from RPS on the effects of flooding last February to be available by 13th April. Thereafter, decisions must be made as to how to and who should communicate the contents of the report to the community, gauge community support and if supported who should pay for any proposed solutions, if Abco may not be able to do so.

BRG

LD reported that a flood door had been purchased and 3 gas urns had been ordered. She is also preparing to update the register of potentially vulnerable members of the community in the event of an emergency event. **RF** still working on insurance and memorandum of understanding regarding how the various groups work together in the Halls in any future event.

CRG

Gas cylinders and security cage had been received.

8 Crathie issues

A local resident and a local farming business raised a query regarding road safety at the Balmoral Castle car park. Pedestrians did not seem to realise that they were on a public road from the car park along the South Deeside road as far as the Distillery. Although there were more car parking spaces, the car park had been full in recent days, making it difficult for locals to access the Post Office. The £5 charge for the car park had also resulted in more cars parking at the Highlanders Bakehouse, adjacent to the school, exacerbating parking issues in that location. **JF** would seek to arrange a meeting between all stakeholders at the School location to come up with a solution to the proposed parking plan at the School by Abco. There was also a number of cars parked on the Distillery Brae, some dangerously so, and there was an increased litter problem. **AMN** said that Invercauld Estate had offered the use of a field below the Balmoral Car Park in previous years and perhaps this might be a solution.

9 Other Reports

Improvement Group and Paths

SM had been in discussion with Ken Gibson and Kate Allum regarding the History with Boots On walks. This report would be available at the next BCCC meeting. A query was raised regarding riverbank erosion at Red Brae on the Seven Bridges Walk. It was pointed out that the main walk should be along the estate road to Polhollick. **AMN** said that he had a document which he was willing to share showing all local walks with information on which estates and on whose land each section of path passed through and this might make it easier regarding maintenance of paths. A great deal of work was being done under the umbrella of BRD.

BRD

JB-BRD said that Ballater & Crathie Primary School pupils would all be given a Coronation Water Bottle.

BCE

BCE and BRD would meet twice yearly to discuss projects and budgets.

Aberdeenshire Council

CGB had submitted a report. She had been disappointed that Stagecoach had cancelled all 201 services to Braemar on Sundays, especially as this seemed contrary to all policies of both CNPA and Abco. However, the Stagecoach service was unreliable and that may have had a great deal to do with lack of local community support for the service.

CNPA Nothing to report.

CAP

Draft CAP should be available for further consultation by end of June.

Halls

Report had been circulated.

CAN A report had been circulated. Wild flowers had been planted at new path round golf course.

10 Correspondence

11 Finance RF will thank Balmoral for their annual donation.

12 AOCB JC had circulated a report outlining plans for the Coronation Weekend. The meeting thanked **EK** and Moxon for the kind use of their premises.

The meeting ended at 20.20

**The next meeting is planned for Monday 8th May 2023 at 7pm at Albert Hall,
Station Square, Ballater**

Approved