

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)

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Minutes of a Meeting held on 11th February, 2019, at 7pm in Michael Sheridan Room, Victoria & Albert Hall, Ballater

<p>Present: James Anderson (WJ) - Chair Jane Angus (JA) Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer Iain Latta (IL) William Braid (WB) Frances Duguid (FD) Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB) Cllr Paul Gibb (CPB)</p> <p>Apologies Fiona Presslie (FP) - Dep Chair Joanne Croll (JC) Emma Stewart (ES)</p>	<p>Also present: Members of the public Gordon Riddler (GR)</p>
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1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

2. Emergency services

Although not present, Sergeant Keith Greig had e-mailed a report to the CC. Anti-social behaviour, overall across the Upper Deeside area, remains at relatively low level. That said, officers conducted a number of stop/searches for drugs and plain-clothes officers spent two weekends in January resulting in positive engagement with local youths and leading to the recovery of alcohol/cigarettes. Housebreaking and thefts continue to remain at a low level, but the police urge the public to keep their properties safe & secure and thus discourage the opportunistic thief. Two shoplifting incidents reported in Aboyne, both resulting in individuals being traced and charged accordingly. Recent bad weather has resulted in an increase in road closures on higher roads. This is a time-consuming task, given the area to be covered, but officers try to reduce the degree of disruption to road-users while acknowledging that roads can be closed at very short notice and conditions can change rapidly. Reports of speeding motorists continue to be received and in conjunction with Aberdeenshire Council Roads Department, speed survey results are being monitored to ensure that enforcement work is properly targeted.

Telephone and e-mail fraud continues nationally and the police would remind the public never to give out personal or financial details. If in doubt as to the legitimacy of the caller, then hang up.

The Local Community Policing Team, based on intelligence received, executed a Drugs Search Warrant in Aboyne, and recovered approximately £2,000 of drugs. A report has been made to the Procurator Fiscal.

3. Minutes of January's meeting were passed

4. Reports

BRD

Kate Allum has been co-opted on to the Board.

There are 26 new sites at the caravan park with water drainage and power to each site. A further 5 sites are available which will be left dormant for future development if required. A plan has been drawn up for a new toilet block as a cost of £167,000 or less and the next BCE meeting will discuss when this should possibly take place.

The adult play park - HAGS - is due to be started in March, depending on weather.

Aberdeenshire Council

CGB reported that she had received quotes of £2,600 for each of two cameras to be installed on the road between Crathie and Gairnshiel. **WB** to assist **CGB** in the completion of application forms for funding etc.

With regard to the installation of snow-gates on this road, **WJ** declared an interest in this matter as he intended to quote for the groundwork required.

CGB indicated that snow gates were essential as motorists were disregarding the road closure signs, cones and warnings from local residents and attempting to use the roads, thereby placing themselves in danger. Moreover, without snow gates, the rescue of stranded motorists fell to the local residents turning out voluntarily. In her opinion, this was not a responsibility which could be reasonably expected of residents.

Regarding snow gates, **WJ** suggested locations should be based on availability of turning area for vehicles and to minimise disruption to residents requiring keys to the gates.

FD pointed out that the erection of snow fences by the council in the autumn in the past had minimised the amount of drifting snow on many of these rural roads.

CGB also urged the *CC* to support the planning application of Grampian Housing Association which had been called in by CNPA to be decided on 26th April. **JC** had composed a letter of support for Grampian Housing Association on behalf of the *CC*, to be sent to the CNPA meeting.

CGB reported that there would be a drop-in meeting at the library on 19th February to allow members of the public to view and discuss the proposed local development plan.

CGB is concerned at the plan to stop the 201 bus service on a Sunday.

CPG explained in his report that Aberdeenshire Council funds Stagecoach to run the 201/292 service, currently paying them £177,317 in 2018/19 to support the route. Due to budget cuts, Aberdeenshire Council had asked Stagecoach to make adjustments on routes throughout the area. **CPG** has indicated to Neil Stewart (Principal Officer, Local Services) that it seems disproportionately unfair for Crathie and Braemar to lose all bus services on Sundays, bearing in mind that passenger usage surveys have been based on historic usage and do not take into account the opening of new attractions in Braemar requiring access transport for both workers and visitors. **CPG** will meet with Stagecoach and Neil Stewart in March to discuss the operational failures of this route in terms of punctuality, reliability and quality of vehicles, but will also introduce the question of accountability in providing an adequate service. It would seem that perhaps a radical new way of looking at this route is required.

CPG had accepted the signage to Deebank Road to stop use by HGVs & caravans.

CPG had written to the owner to remove stones limiting access at Crathie Kirk and asked him to correspond with the Roads Dept should he wish to object to this request.

IL raised the question of proposal to build 250 houses at Monaltrie Park as access appeared to be through the Games Park. The developers had not made an attempt to discuss access with the Games Committee. **GR** reported that the Games Committee had set up a sub-committee to deal with any issues arising from the proposed development. The Games Committee were not against any future development but needed to ensure that the Games continued to enjoy a location suitable to their needs and which would allow the Games to remain sustainable with sufficient space for car-parking and those attending the Games while also ensuring access to the village.

Care

IL to write report outlining his conclusion that there was no requirement in the village for another outreach group.

Halls

WB reported that the lift is now working.

The heating has been installed and can be controlled from the hall-keeper's smart phone.

The committee is in discussion with Aberdeenshire Council regarding the dilapidated state of the façade of the former library.

5. Planning Matters

As per discussion above, a letter to be sent by **JC** on behalf of the Community Council in support of the Old School House application by Grampian Housing Association.

PD had received a query regarding planning at Nicol Court adjacent to the business park. **PD** to investigate further.

6. Correspondence

PD had received an e-mail from Aberdeenshire Council with regard to Public Liability Insurance for the Community Council. This follows on from a recent court case where a member of the public had attempted to sue individual community councillors as well as a Community Council, following injuries from a fall. **PD** will get further clarification.

7. Finance There is no change.

8. AOCB

WJ reminded *CC* members that, following GDPR, they can decide what information they would prefer to have on public display and requested all members to sign the appropriate permissions.

Andrew Daws has been co-opted on to the Community Council.

WJ received a written request from Lisa McMahon to join the Community Council.

A meeting will be arranged for *BCCC* to discuss its response to the LDP.

CPG will discuss road repairs as per members' complaints.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

The next meeting will be 11th March, 2019, Michael Sheridan Room, V & A Hall, 7-9pm

