

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

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

Minutes of BCCC meeting held at Michael Sheridan Room, Ballater, Monday 11<sup>th</sup>  
November at 7pm

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Also present:</b>
James Anderson - Chairman (WJ)	Cllr Geva Blackett	Pat Downie (PD)
Richard Frimston - Secretary (RF)	Scott Peacock	Bruce Lawson (BL)
William Braid (BB)	John Bannerman	Weston Main (WM)
Kate Allum (KA)	Tom Flynn	Cat Houston
Simon Mearns (SM)	Lewis Macdonald	Martin Ellison
Linda Drever (LD)	Ellie Kinghorn	Ron Drever
Calum Halhead (CH)	Whit Romilly	Paul Gibb - CNPA (PG)
Jo Croll (JC)	Atholl Bowman	Dougal Morgan (DM)
	Valerie Stoddart	Cllr Sarah Brown (CSB)
	Angus McNicol	Helen Miskelly
	Sergeant Masson	
	Ray Riddoch	

### 1 Welcome

2 **Emergency Services Report** had been submitted by Sergeant Masson.

3 **Approval of October 2024 minutes** following amendment from Angus McNicol.

4 **Conflicts of interest would be declared as and when**

### 5 Action Tracker

**CSB** will chase up a date for public consultation of drawings for new bus stop. **JC** had been informed that it might be delayed until next financial year (no 6). **BB** had collated costs for the Gairnshiel snowcam. **RF** had applied to CNPA for a grant of £1,000 to assist with maintenance costs and to Marr Area Committee for further grant of £2,000 as well as to Ballater Community Trust (no 121). **RF** to follow up on new application for Banking Hub, supported by letter from Andrew Bowie MP (no 127). **RF** awaiting an update from Adam Streeter-Smith of CNPA regarding the footpath erosion and safety issues on 7 Bridges Walk (no 128). **SM** had spoken with Helen Miskelly regarding the problem of dog-fouling in the village and where to locate further bins, although this also raised concerns about who would empty and maintain the bins. **SM** had noted that other communities had dog-bag dispensers, but **KA** questioned the quality of such bags and who would re-fill and maintain the dispensers. It was agreed that it was a question of education as there could be bins everywhere, but dog fouling would continue. **WJ** suggested involving the local primary school in a 'clean up after your dog' campaign. **SM** would discuss with school (no 132). There had been further complaints about noise at the bus garage (no 133). **BL** has spoken with Stagecoach and **CSB**. **BL** has been assured that fuel tank is double lined and will be alarmed to warn of possible leaks as well as being subject to regular maintenance and inspection programme. Its final location has still to be determined, and it is currently

not in use. The road gullies at Queens Road and Anderson Road remain on AT although they are low priority for repair by Abco. **CSB** will be in touch with **SM** regarding a survey of Ballater pavements and footpaths for accessibility for wheelchairs and prams (no 136).

## **6 Sub-committee reports**

### Housing and Planning

#### A Planning

**BB** reported that a planning application for a property on Victoria Road had been amended for a change of use from commercial to domestic use. He was disappointed to note that Aberdeenshire Flood Team were recommending that this should be refused due to the property being in the flood risk area. The building had been derelict since Storm Frank, so it had been good to see someone trying to restore it.

**JC** raised concerns that this might mean that any application for any development in the lower half of the village would meet with the same recommendation from the Aberdeenshire Council Flood Team. **RF** suggested that **JB** and **FIG** should investigate.

#### B H1

Scotia still considering the plan.

**JC** confirmed that Housing & Planning Subcommittee would be meeting to discuss the appointment of associates to assist in their work.

#### Flooding Issues Group (FIG)

**RF** reported that there will be a meeting on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November in the Victoria Hall to give the community an update on the work of FIG.

Lucile Verrot will report on the work of SEPA and on Flood Warnings. **JB** will give an update on the Hesco box project next to the Dee at the golf club. Hamish Moir from CBEC will report on their work for the community. Andy Ford from CNPA will report on their resilience work and attempts to bring together various groups to tackle flood & drought problems. **JB** will create posters & advertise the event on Facebook. All welcome.

Regarding the Hesco project, Balmoral Estate will donate 10 to 15 trees to stabilise the bank and much of the work had been undertaken thanks to **WJ**.

**JF**, **TF** and **RF** had attended meetings with CNPA.

It was agreed to invite Edwin Third to explain the work of River Dee Trust and their Save the Spring project at a future BCCC meeting.

#### Ballater Resilience Group

**LD** had little to report other than waiting for further information regarding gas cylinders and funding.

#### Crathie Resilience Group

**CH** reported that nobody had come forward to take over the Crathie Resilience Group. Part of problem is that Balmoral Estate, consisting of most of Crathie households, had its own Resilience plan. The Church Hall in Crathie did not make a good base as it had no gas cooker, for example.

## Economy

**RF** and **KA** had met with Ray Riddoch. **RF** will draw up terms of reference for the group. **RF** had attended a VisitAberdeenshire meeting in Banchory as well as attending a meeting with Braemar Community Ltd Directors. **RF** most concerned about proposed closure of Information Centre in the Royal Station Building in September 2025 and how to maintain the attractiveness of Station Square as a whole, thereafter. How to keep the economy vibrant is a major concern.

## Roads & Paths

**SM** had met with Scott Peacock to create a group to support this issue. Ken Gibson does a huge amount already to support paths in the area, and they look forward to working with him. Ken Gibson is still involved in improvement to the cinder path, which is currently delayed until next financial year, pending financial aid from CNPA.

## **7 Crathie Issues**

**CH** reported that clearway on Distillery Brae still not installed and there are issues most weekends. **CSB** would find out the timescale for installation. **CSB** had spoken with Janelle Clark, in particular how to report infringements of the clearway.

## **8 Other reports**

### Aberdeenshire Council

**CGB** had submitted a report. **CSB** reported that budget concerns currently dominate Abco business. Increasing demands on services put pressure on the budget. She encouraged public to share their thoughts on the budget and council tax via Abco website. Also possible to view the spending and allocation of budget for the current financial year.

**BL** asked about cutting back the vegetation at the crossing point at Eastfield. **JC** said that it was difficult to hear approaching traffic due to increase in electric vehicles. Abco had suggested that the landowner should be responsible to cut back the foliage, although **PD** said that Abco had installed the barriers at either side of the path several years ago. The signage indicating a crossing point can be easily missed.

**CSB** would be meeting with the local inspector to find out about instances of speeding and illegal parking following a recent Police Scotland campaign in the area.

### Cairngorm National Park Authority

**PG** had nothing to report.

### Community Action Plan

**KA** reported that VisitBallater website had been relaunched and updated with 36 businesses currently listed. Several businesses had expressed an interest in funding website pages. Also been interest from local services such as plumbers etc to be listed but this needs careful consideration. While it is straightforward to recommend regulated businesses such as vets, it can be more difficult to recommend other services. **KA** emphasised that this is not a re-run of Ballater Business Association - and **RF** suggested that those businesses which had previously not been involved in the

Ballater Business Association should be targeted. Ray Riddoch continues to work on Monaltrie Park, Philippa Mearns with Community Support and John Burrows with Assisted Living, although they are all difficult focus areas.

#### Ballater (RD) Ltd

**KA** explained that this would now be known as **Ballater Community Trust** to better express the aims and interests of the Group. The Trust makes applications for funding for community projects, runs the Hardship Fund and the Johnston Oil Group, all of which benefit the village. It also distributes funds to community projects from Ballater Community Enterprise Ltd which runs the caravan park.

#### Ballater Community Enterprise

The caravan park will close at end of November following an excellent year with high occupancy rates.

#### Halls

**BB** reported that November continues to be busy for the Halls.

#### Ballater School

Scott Peacock are discussing involving the pupils in projects.

#### Climate Action Now

A report has been circulated.

#### Other

Nothing to report

#### **9 Correspondence**

Nothing to report

#### **10 Finance**

No change.

#### **11 AOCB**

Weston Main reported removal of electric poles on golf course this month. The poles in the Dee will remain until march 2025 when work in the river is again permitted.

**BB** congratulated Kate Allum on Thrive winning the Scottish Bike Event of the Year 2024.

**JC** reported that the Pantry was seeking a more secure means of displaying food, possibly with a shed at the door of the Beaton Craigie Room and would be seeking aid from Ballater Community Trust.

**BB** wondered why Aboyne Farmers Market seemed able to attract a good number of stalls. **Sue Rutherford** runs the Ballater Farmers Market on her own and would welcome volunteers to assist in marketing and setting up the Market. **KA** explained that the Aboyne Farmers Market looked as though it might come to a halt, but the food vendors had come together to set up a committee to ensure that it continued, so a degree of self-interest. **WJ** also pointed out that reduced income for many people meant that farmers markets were not so affordable.

The meeting concluded at 20.05.

The Next meeting will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 19.00 to 21.00 hours in the Michael Sheridan Room, V&A Halls, Ballater

Approved