

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)

www.ballaterandcrathiecommunitycouncil.com

Minutes of a Meeting held 14th February 2022 in Michael Sheridan Room at 7pm

Present:	Apologies	Also present:
James Anderson - Chair (WJ)	Nadine Stuart	Cllr Peter Argyle (CPA)
Jo Croll (JC) - Vice Chair	Scott Peacock	John Burrows (BRD-JB)
Richard Frimston (RF) - Secretary	Lewis Macdonald	Janet Feeney (JF)
William Braid (WB)	Tom Flynn	Lyndon (Crathie Resident)
Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer	Iain Henderson	
John Bannerman (JB)	Helen Miskelly	
Ellie Kinghorn (EK)	Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB)	
Gareth Johnstone (GJ)	Cllr Paul Gibb (CPG)	
	Linda Drever	
	Mike Forbes (MF)	

1 Welcome

2 **Emergency Services** No report received

3 Approval of Minutes

Minutes January meeting were approved.

4 Matters arising from previous meeting.

Nil

5 Action Tracker Update

Plaque for Halls should be closed (52). Yellow lines had not been placed in front of Co-op or Byron Bakery. **CPA** to follow up. The issue of waterlogged paths had been raised and should be removed (100). **CPG** had passed information to Helen Miskelly regarding enforcement of dog-fouling issue, and this can be closed (102).

6 Sub-Committee Reports

FIG

RF disclosed that a public meeting is planned for 7th April in the Victoria Hall to be chaired by Alexander Burnett. This is to ascertain public opinion regarding option 3A should funding be forthcoming, so that BCCC can ensure it is representing the will of the village. It is hoped that **CPA** will put forward position of Aberdeenshire Council, and that representatives should also attend from CNPA, Ballater Golf Club and Ballater Caravan Park.

The survey on the Dooker will be undertaken for RPS by a company called Aspect and will start week beginning 28th February. RPS will begin a survey of minor works programme on 7th March. Thanks to **CPA**, FIG is being involved in this process. **WJ** queried the timing of the survey, as the river levels are particularly low for the time

of year. The results of these surveys will not be available until summer, while it is proposed to hold a further public meeting to discuss the findings.

With help from **JB** in collating interested parties, the Scottish Flood Forum will undertake a survey of 30 properties to advise on property level protection. This will take place 14th to 18th March. Further information will be sent to Ballater Community Facebook page. **JB** also indicated that a watch-list of those requiring assistance to fit flood defences should be shared with Ballater Resilience Group. There will be a visit from FloodRe to the village in June.

TF has put together a report for the March meeting of BCCC regarding upstream works and water management, also part of BRD strategy.

Resilience Group

Discussions are underway to encourage the Resilience Group to be a formal sub-committee of BCCC. This allows the Resilience Group to come under the umbrella of BCCC public liability insurance as well as further opportunities for funding applications. Currently, the Resilience Group is Ballater-centred, and it may well be that there should be more than one such group under the BCCC, covering Glen Muick, Glen Gairn and Crathie, for example. The breakdown of mobile network in the last two storms has shown that local resilience is particularly important.

The Resilience Group is also currently setting up a memorandum of understanding with the Halls Committee regarding equipment repair, maintenance, and renewal. BRD also hold funds for the group.

RF expressed thanks to Linda Drever, Mike Forbes and the Ballater Resilience Group and proposed inviting Linda Drever and Mike Forbes to be Associate Members of BCCC and to make clear that BCCC did not intend to be prescriptive in how BRG goes forward.

MF reported that the Hub had worked well during Storm Corrie. Although no SSEN generator had been available, BRG had been able to use their own generator. Hot food provided by Aberdeenshire Council had been distributed by BRG on Monday. **MF** has divided the village into smaller units, each with their own watch-list, and this is handed out to volunteers as they arrive at the Hub. **JC** said it was important that the community ensured the watch-list was as complete as it could be, but this was dependent on information from the public.

JB had met with Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue to discuss what the immediate community response should be in the event of any future SEPA warning (higher than an alert), given that there may be a delay in emergency services reaching Ballater. **JB** had suggested that the local Fire & Rescue Watch Commander should be able to self-mobilise but was told that this would not be possible. The Watch Commander would have to contact line management to gain permission to mobilise. Both Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue emphasised that they were thinly spread across the region in terms of manpower; this had been the issue which **JB** had been attempting to address. **JB** will draft a short procedure following a SEPA Flood

Warning which will be sent to Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue and Aberdeenshire Council making clear the solution suggested by BCCC.

Lee Watson from Aberdeenshire Council had suggested that sand/grit bags should be stored in the lower part of the village for future flood events. Linda Drever had identified potential locations and spoken to neighbouring residents to ascertain if there were any objections. **JB** suggested that these should only be used by local Fire & Rescue and that residents should use sandbags stored in the container at Ballater Primary School. **JB** feels that sandbags are a last-minute solution, and that property level protection should be the preferred long-term solution. Janet Feeney asked if Crathie had been assessed for the storage of sandbags.

RF hoped that the RPS report might suggest a potential use for the Hesco barriers in the storage container at the school.

7 Other Reports

BRD

BRD-JB sent in a report to BCCC. Contracts have been placed for the work on the Green. New signs have been secured for the corner of Golf Road and there will be a replacement for the Hawthorn Place signboard. Work on the water feature and sensory garden is still awaiting planning consent. A contract has been placed for repainting and roof work on Old People's Hut. Footpaths Hub signage has been agreed. The Hardship Fund will continue beyond May. The Ballater Pantry is well attended & is run with the aid of a great team of volunteers.

The War Memorial was dedicated on 24th July 1922, and it is planned to hold a service to mark the 100th anniversary, supported by the Legion, Pipe Band and Scouts and possibly relatives of those commemorated on the Memorial.

BCE

With the assistance of BCCC, a memorandum of understanding has been created between BRD and BCE. There will be a joint meeting of BCE & BRD boards in March. Fences are being repainted in June - **WB** is seeking volunteers.

Aberdeenshire Council

The recent storms in February had been more manageable as there had not been the same breakdown in the communications network as during Storm Arwen. However, the extremely unsettled weather forecast for the rest of the month means that the Council is ensuring that systems are robust and geared up to go.

The council is aware of the problems of Air BnB in Upper Deeside and the damaging aspects of short-term lets would be looked at without impacting on local enterprise. SSEN is due to connect power to the Old School housing development by the end of the month, but in the meantime, the road signage indicating diversions was in a mess. **PD** asked **CPA** to investigate the removal of the No Entry sign at the end of Deebank Road next to the council sheds, as this had resulted in two-way traffic on a very narrow street.

RF asked when the additional new bins would be in Aberdeenshire and **CPA** suggested that this would be rolled out over the summer months.

CGB had sent in a report. She had reminded the CNPA convener to arrange a meeting with FIG. Grampian Moorland Group donated pheasants which had been made into casserole to be distributed in Ballater by Jo Croll. The tender for Gairnshiel bridge has been approved and work will start soon, with April 2023 envisaged as completion date. **CGB** will let BCCC know when people can start applying for properties at the Old School.

CNPA

Responses to the Partnership Plan are now being reviewed.

CAP

JC reported that this was due for review in 2023.

Halls

WB reported that lift should be installed later this month. A new public address system is being investigated. A new noticeboard will be installed outside the Halls.

CAN

BRD-JB will sent contact details of the Aberdeenshire Council wildflower planting expert to Scott Peacock.

8 Planning Matters

WJ declared an interest in the work being undertaken at Balnault. **WB** reported that water capacity would not be a problem. Roads Department saw no problems regarding the entry/exit points. **JF** suggested that speeding might be an issue, as there had already been an accident at the spot. **CPA** pointed out that speeding was a question of enforcement, and Police Scotland cannot enforce every area where there are speed restrictions.

9 Correspondence

JC had received an e-mail regarding the wall at Netherley Place, but **WJ** was able to report that the wall is currently being repaired.

WJ raised concerns about the volume of heavy traffic on the Glengairn road as spoil was being removed for the new bridge. **CPA** would check that passing places had been extended for heavy goods vehicles using this road.

10 Finance

PD suggested a donation of £200 to the Jubilee Fund. **JC** outlined the provisional plans for a four-day celebration on the first weekend in June. This would include a beacon being lit at 9.45pm on 2nd June, with Pipe Band and choir in attendance.

On Friday, there would be an ecumenical Church Service, with a Royal Film in the afternoon. As HM The Queen is attending the Epsom Derby on Saturday, it is planned to have a hobby-horse derby on the Green, with Tote etc in place. There will be a 1952 afternoon tea in the halls, along with a proposed live screening of the concert taking place in London. There will be a Jubilee Picnic on Sunday, with a proposed road closure between the Greens. Funding is required for PA systems, live music, the hire

of portaloos and extra bins. **WJ** offered the use of 32 foot low trailer as a temporary stage.

11 AOCB

BRD-JB had been to Braemar to look at the community care plan. It had been led by the GP practice. Carers had been trained in the community to maximise time available to care and minimise travelling time. The administration receives care plans, distributes them to self-employed carers. There are also several volunteers fulfilling roles such as fetching newspapers, shopping, and providing transport to doctor/hospital appointments.

RF would ask Scott Peacock to respond to Scottish Government survey on fly-tipping
RF asked if BCCC agreed that FIG should approach Braemar Community Council and Mid-Deeside Community Council to discuss a combined approach to the River Dee catchment area.

GJ asked about roadworks on Albert Road. This is due to the problems experienced by SSEN in linking electricity to the Old School housing development and should be resolved by the end of the month.

PD expressed concern about the state of trees on the road to the Hilton.

PD proposed the Crathie meeting should be in April.

RF would check if there were any restrictions as to when the BCCC held its AGM.

RF would contact BCCC insurers to correct the contact address for the Community Council.

The meeting ended at 20.45

The next meeting is planned for Monday 14th March at 7pm in the Mike Sheridan Room.