

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)

www.ballaterandcrathiecommunitycouncil.com

Minutes of a Meeting and AGM held 12th July 2021 via Zoom at 7pm

Present:	Apologies	Also present:
James Anderson - Chair (WJ) Jo Croll (JC) - Vice Chair Richard Frimston (RF) - Secretary William Braid (WB) Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer John Bannerman (JB) Lewis Macdonald (LMD) Tom Flynn (TF) Tony Cox (TC) Nadine Stuart (NS) Ellie Kinghorn (EK) Gareth Johnston (GJ)	Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB)	Cllr Paul Gibb (CPG) John Burrows (BRD-JB) Ken Gibson - Paths (KG) Scott Peacock - CAN (SP) Linda Drever (LD)

1 Welcome

2 RF proposed Scott Peacock (CAN) and John Burrows (BRD) as Associate Members of BCCC. NS seconded. They will report to BCCC on matters of special interest.

3 **Emergency Services** No report.

4 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of June meeting were amended to show that Ellie Kinghorn had been in attendance. Majority accepted June minutes.

5 Matters arising from previous meeting.

JB-BRD reported that footpath from picnic area had been completed.

6 Action Tracker Update

WJ had approached Jim Bowe regarding bus-stop relocation from Co-op to Bridge Street.

Jim Bowe replied that this was still a matter to be dealt with as soon as possible. WJ would request plans of relocation sites plus images of proposed shelters to be presented at next meeting. WJ would then consult with the Improvement Group and wider community regarding the preferred option. PD asked about possibility of relocating to rear of Church but CPG replied that the exit/entry points for car park made that site too congested.

WB to contact Frances Duguid regarding the plaque for the Hall.

WJ reported that a new electronic sign had appeared at foot of Glen Muick.

Following contact made by **CGB** to Gavin Steel, work on mains drains on Abergeldie Road would start in the autumn.

RF will contact **CPA** with regard to trees on south Deeside road between Ballater Bridge and Invermuick.

RF will contact **CPA** about completing work on clearing all drains.

SP had written to Aberdeenshire Council about imposing a speed limit on the Pass of Ballater to protect pedestrians and wildlife and received a reply that it would be passed to the Roads Dept for evaluation. In the interim, he had placed a small sign on a tree to warn about red squirrels crossing. Roadworks had resulted in a decrease in traffic speed and in numbers of roadkill.

EK and **JC** will continue to work on housing policy.

Awaiting traffic lights from Aberdeenshire council to complete repair and repainting of wooden fence over railway bridge. BCCC would pay for cost of paint, currently estimated at £500. **PD** will also investigate alternative sources of funding for this work.

WB will undertake an audit of bins in the village. **JC** had requested that the old and damaged bins on Station Square should be replaced.

7 Reports

BRD

JB-BRD reported that Aberdeenshire Council had accepted plans for the village green. Funds of £10,826 had been allocated for wrought iron fencing round the fountain. The footpath from the picnic place to the gate at the golf course had been repaired and potholes filled on access road to picnic place. Health & safety work on the power supply on the green had been completed. BRD were also in discussion with OSCAR regarding the role of BRD in providing bank accounts for small projects in the village. BRD, in conjunction with BBA, had been in contact with Aboyne Academy to investigate future approaches to Hospitality training within the school. The Oil Club had generated £5,000 of income to BRD for village projects.

BCE

The caravan site continues to be busy. The toilet block is now open, allowing tents to use the site.

Aberdeenshire Council Nothing to report.

CNPA Nothing to report.

FIG

WJ proposed that **RF** should conduct any FIG-related business.

RF suggested a core membership of 5 for FIG, but would welcome more support.

Thanks to the efforts of **CPA**, there had been a meeting in June between Ballater Golf Club, Aberdeenshire Flood Team, Ballater Resilience Group, RPS and BCCC which had been wide-ranging and had included a visit to the river. It was refreshing that co-operation had brought about positive results.

TF introduced the Draft Report 2: Social and Economic Damage and requested the support of the BCCC to present this draft to businesses and the village, thus allowing public contributions to be made before a final draft could be presented to the BCCC. **JB** introduced the proposal outlining the four areas of interest to be pursued by FIG in the future. Firstly, long-term actions, involving hard-engineering solutions to flood events such as Storm Frank, possibly on a timescale of 8-12 years. Secondly, short to medium term projects in response to high water events which might affect the village or river flow, such as February 2021. Thirdly, to highlight the question of personal responsibility and property protection, working in conjunction with the Resilience Group. And finally, the effects of upstream projects, such as tree-planting, on flooding downstream.

BCCC approved the proposal to share this with the village for further community input. **CPG** was concerned that a new RPS report might only be an update on hard defences following the flooding of February 2021. He will write to the Council, **CPA** and **CGB** to secure and invitation to FIG as consultee.

JB was concerned that public consultation might only be at a higher level. He understood, through Claire Wheeler of SEPA, that consultation would be on the SEPA website. Further discussion with Aberdeenshire Flood Team suggested that it was important that the question of flooding is seen to be a core issue for a good number of people in the village, and not a marginal concern. **JB** emphasised that BCCC had an important role to play in ensuring community involvement. **JC** suggested a stall at a community event, such as Farmer's Market, to conduct a community survey.

LD suggested that an article in The Eagle, inviting community comment would also be helpful. **RF** would find out more about the community consultation process to report on the next copy of The Eagle (note, final copy date 1st August 2021).

CAP

Nothing to report - **JB-BRD** is waiting for Scottish Government clarification on public meetings before holding an open-door meeting in the Victoria Hall.

Halls

WB reported that a craft fayre had been held in the Victoria Hall. New inner doors, part-glazed, have been fitted in the Victoria Hall, allowing the outer doors to remain open and aiding visibility into the hall. The toilets and office in the basement are near completion. The kitchen in the Victoria Hall has been installed. There are now security cameras outside the Victoria Hall. A new lift has been ordered for the Albert Hall. The opening of the Hub is provisionally planned for 12th August. Display cabinets to be filled by Ballater History Group and Highland Games Society.

Improvement Group

Planters have been filled. Plants also ready for beds on Green.

Paths

KG was pleased to report that signage is nearly at an end. He had designed and costed signs to alleviate the problem of pedestrians on the South Deeside road between

Ballater Bridge and Invermuick. Janelle Clark had passed these on to relevant departments. If these are rejected then need to go back to Aberdeenshire Council to highlight this is a road safety issue. He is also looking at signage for the cinder paths to encourage cyclists to warn pedestrians of their approach.

The walking information Hub to be installed in Station Square still requires funding, estimated at £9,000. **JB-BRD** had already started to look at this. **JC** reminded the BCCC that **CPA** had suggested funding from Mar Area, where there were small grants of £2,000 and £5,000 available. **RF**, backed by **TF**, complimented **KG** on all the signage to date which had gained a favourable impression for the village.

Other

SP had attended a meeting chaired by Murray Ferguson, CNPA, to find out what communities were doing to counteract littering problems.

There were a variety of programmes undertaken by communities and seen as a good way to get volunteers involved in community projects. Jean Peacock had spoken with Louise Duckworth of Ballater Primary School and she was enthusiastic.

SP had spoken with **JB-BRD** regarding the possibility of funding litter-picking equipment and its storage and management. It would be a good project to put forward in The Eagle. All members of BCCC in favour of expanding this project.

9 Planning Matters

WB, EK and **RF** had met to discuss how to create a structure to deal with planning matters in such a way as to update the village on applications which might be of interest. **RF** suggested that **EK** might write a short article for The Eagle, outlining the planning process and how the community might access planning applications.

10 Correspondence

RF had received a request from Tina Riddell to highlight the faded double yellow lines in front of the Co-op. **CPG** will inform Martin Hall.

11 Finance

BCCC had agreed to fund the replacement of defibrillator pads at Crathie - £81.99.

12 AOCB

JCB-BRD had heard several complaints regarding the lack of access to the Old Station and Royal Carriage. He had contacted Dumfries House Estate with no response to date. **JC** understood this to be a joint decision between Visit Scotland and Dumfries House Estate in line with restricting and controlling numbers in the building due to Covid 19 regulations. **NS** suggested that this should be looked at again, once restrictions had been re-set. **TF** proposed that **CAN** should be added to the list of reports to the BCCC.

PD reported that she had attended the funeral of George Smith, who had died at the age of 91, and had been a stalwart of the Burgh Council for over 30 years.

The meeting concluded at 20.40 house. The next meeting is scheduled for 13th September, 19.00 to 21.00 hours, possibly by Zoom.

