

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CCC)

www.ballaterandcrathiecommunitycouncil.com

Minutes of AGM and Meeting held at Michael Sheridan Room, Ballater on Monday 10th June 2024 at 7.00pm

| Present: | Apologies | Also present: |
|--|--|---|
| Jim Anderson - Chairman (WJ) Richard Frimston (RF) - Secretary Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer Jo Croll (JC) - Vice Chair Bill Braid (BB) Ellie Kinghorn (EK) Tom Flynn (TF) | John Bannerman (JB) Gareth Johnston (GJ) Simon Mearns Lewis Macdonald Ray Riddoch Cllr Anouk Kloppert Cllr Geva Blackett | Cllr Sarah Brown (CSB) Linda Drever - BRG (LD) Paul Gibb (PG) - CNPA Dougal Morgan (DM) Bruce Lawson (BL) Athol Bowman Scott Peacock (SP) Calum Halhead Cat Houston Whit Romilly Martin Ellison Ron Drever |

1 Welcome

WJ welcomed all to BCCC meeting.

2 B&CCC Office Bearers Roles

It was agreed to wait until after September community council elections before electing new office bearers. PD resigned as treasurer. WJ nominated Ellie Kinghorn as Treasurer, seconded by JC. WJ thanked PD for her many years of service in the role of treasurer, since 2008.

3 Emergency Services Report

No report received.

4 June 2023 AGM minutes were approved, as were minutes of May 2024.

5 Conflicts of interest. WJ continues to work at river bank flood improvements. BB also indicated a potential conflict of interest as trustee of the Halls in relation to any discussion of the Abco Rest Centre Document. WJ also indicated that he had quoted for work to be undertaken on Cinder path and also on the Old Line above Postie's Leap.

6 Action Tracker Update.

Public consultation on the relocation of bus stop in front of Co-op will take place in Michael Sheridan Room on 17th July between 15h00 and 19h30. **JC** will post further information on Facebook as well as noticeboards. **CSB** will seek further information on paintwork for the Old Royal Station. Car-parking issue at Crathie School to be removed (no 108a) as elected councillors and Abco had met to agree to review the situation in the future, but nothing currently possible. It was agreed to remove no 124 (issues associated with increased visitor numbers at Balmoral) as these were being resolved. The road outside Balmoral had been repaired so no 125 could be removed. Although the ATM was working more consistently, it had run out of money recently for a half day. This conflicts with the information from NCR that the machine is underused. Agreed to maintain the issue on the AT. **RF** will contact Balmoral again regarding issue of fencing at Seven Bridges Walk above Red Brae. **SM** to discuss location and number of dog waste bins with Abco officer (no 132). **BL** had no response from Stagecoach regarding the noise at the bus station. He will request a meeting. **JC** raised the issue of the shift changeover taking place at the junction with A93 and Craigview Road, rather than at the bus stop. **RF** will contact Angus McNicol regarding the river bank erosion on the river Gairn, although CNPA also have this issue on their agenda.

7 Sub-committee Reports

Housing & Planning

- a) **BB** reported no contentious applications to date.
- b) **EK** reported that no response had been received from Scotia and no planning application had been made to date.

Flooding Issues Group (FIG)

RF reported that BRD had applied for a grant to cover the Hesco box bund with soil and grass. **WJ** had submitted a quote for this work. BRD had also signed a contract with CBAC to undertake a survey of the river to come up with short term flood prevention options. **TF** reported that CBEC had walked the site at the end of May and would now engage in a more detailed survey of the river, using drone boats, for example. Permission would be sought from landowners adjacent to Minister's Pool to survey the rocks etc there. Modelling of various options would be undertaken with a report produced, including illustrations, by August. This could then be presented to the community with costs included. No work would be undertaken until next year at earliest. **RF** thanked **PG** for invitation to B&CCC as well as Mid Deeside CC and Upper Deeside CC to attend a CNPA meeting regarding Dee Catchment issues. **PG** said it had been helpful to CNPA to visit Ballater and see the work of FIG, based on surveys undertaken and to see the impact of such work on flood defences. **JB** had attended the meeting and had made clear to those attending the advantages of feasibility

studies to result on more immediate resolutions to flood issues. **TF** highlighted that Scottish Government had opened another Flood Resilience Consultation.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/flood-resilience-strategy-consultation/>

BRG - Ballater Resilience Group

LD reported that they had received a document from Abco regarding the setting up of Emergency Rest Centres in Ballater. There were a number of comments to be made in response to this document and BRG would report at next B&CCC meeting. BRG also concerned about long-term storage of gas bottles (10 in number). A location close to the Halls would be desirable. **WJ** suggested the space under the railway bridge, while **PD** suggested contacting Dan Whitehead or Ted Emslie.

CRG - Crathie Resilience Group

Nothing to report.

Economy

RF attended a meeting of Tourism Partnership with CNPA in Braemar. A subcommittee for economy would be set up following elections in September.

Roads and Paths

RF reported that an article would appear in the next Eagle regarding the cinder path. Concerns had been raised about who would maintain it following any upgrade work. Neither Abco nor BRD currently wished to maintain it.

8 Crathie issues

Parking remained an issue. **CGB** had received complaints about the lack of disability access to the restored White Bridge due to gravel base. Abco would investigate this.

9 Other Reports

Aberdeenshire Council

CSB had sent a report on landscaping plans for the area.

CGB reported that soakaway issues on Anderson Road and Queens Road had been noted, but unlikely that both would be dealt with this year. **RF** to add this issue to Action Tracker. The soakaway failure on Anderson Road leads to further flooding in that area, while the road surface on Queens Road is breaking up.

CNPA - Cairngorm National Park Authority

PG had nothing further to report.

CAP - Community Action Plan

SP reminded the meeting of the drop in session at Victoria Hall on 26th June, 10-4, showing home energy savings and improvements available. Philippa Mearns and Cat Houston to bring together a report on open space in the village.

BRD - Ballater (Royal Deeside) Limited

Nothing to report.

BCE - Ballater Community Enterprise

Caravan Park continues to be busy - fully booked most nights. **BL** said they were looking at ways in increasing space on the site.

Halls

BB reported that applications were being made for alternative heating sources for the Halls.

CAN - Climate Action Now

SP said that there would be an open meeting at Park House on 13th June at 7.30pm to encourage more people to be involved in the group in Ballater. The Squirrel Bridge installation would take place in July, once they had located a tree surgeon to undertake the work.

10 Correspondence

RF reported a letter from a group interested in holding an orienteering event next year.

11 Finance

PD provided a statement of account for 2023-2024. **RF** proposed acceptance. **JC** seconded.

13 AOCB

WJ asked **CSB** to look into surface condition of A939, in particular from Delnabo to site of new bridge at Gairnshiel. Bearing in mind that this is a promoted tourist route, the road surface is in a shocking condition.

The meeting ended at 19.50

The next meeting will be held on 8th July in Mike Sheridan Room at 19.00hours.