

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (BCCC)

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Minutes of Meeting held at Albert Hall, Ballater on Monday 8th May 2023 at 7.00pm

Present:	Apologies	Also present:
Jim Anderson - Chairman (WJ)	Lewis Macdonald	Dougal Morgan (DM)
Richard Frimston (RF) - Secretary	William Braid	Linda Drever (LD)
Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer	Ellie Kinghorn	John Burrows (JB-BRD)
Jo Croll - Vice Chair (JC)	Simon Mearns	Ian Henderson (IH)
Gareth Johnston (GJ)	Cllr Geva Blackett	Cllr Sarah Brown (CSB)
John Bannerman (JB)	Cllr Anouk Kloppert	
Janet Feeney (JF)		
Tom Flynn (TF)		

1 Welcome

WJ welcomed BCCC.

2 Conflicts of Interest

3 Emergency Services Report Sergeant Allan Masson attended meeting. A major event had been the discovery of sizeable cannabis cultivation in Aboyne. There had been several callouts to Mountain Rescue. Regarding parking at the Barracks during Royal Court, this would be policed more stringently in future as there should be no vehicles parked in the vicinity. Police had been contacted about youngsters on the school roof. As the waiting time on the 101 number could be lengthy, it was advised to dial 999 as this would be considered a safety issue for both the youngsters on the roof and the school building. Anecdotally, Sergeant Masson is aware of increased drug activity in the area, but Police Scotland require the assistance of the local community to build up reasonable intelligence for further action. Reports can be made by phoning 101 or on the Police Scotland website.

Sergeant Masson would consult Events Planning to ensure all was in place for the Duck Festival as requested by **JB-BRD**. The A93 had been closed on Sunday afternoon due to a road accident at Cambus o' May.

4 Approval of minutes April minutes approved.

5 Matters arising See Action Tracker Update. **LD** reminded **RF** to request a copy of map from Angus McNicol, showing all local footpaths and land-owners through which they passed.

6 Action Tracker update

Bus stop relocation (no 6) and road safety on Bridge Street (no69) remain ongoing due to staff shortages at Abco. **JC** asked **CSB** to monitor this situation as it seemed to be the main reason for delays. There had been a minimal touch up of paintwork on

the Old Royal Station (no90), but **JC** suggested that the whole building required an update on routine maintenance. **JC** had approached the Council as a representative of a tenant of the building, so **CGB** requested to speak with Janelle Clark on behalf of BCCC. **RF** had met with Crathie Primary School, The Highland Bakehouse and Mrs Liddell (resident) to discuss the plans by Aberdeenshire Council (no 108) to alleviate the problem of parking at the school. All stakeholders felt that the work would not necessarily improve the situation as it was the only free parking available in Crathie. Any amendments to school parking would not be policed. It might be a better solution to widen the access road in front of the school.

CSB to chase up the assessment of work required on sloped path at rear of Old Station (no117). No 120 to be removed from Action Tracker and **IH** would report that repair work on road at Balmoral Gates had not been done properly and would gain another report reference number. **RF** and **JB** would create a proposal for funding for snowcam at Gairnshiel to be sent to BRD (no 121). Sergeant Masson has organised signage at Ballater Police Station, so no 123 may be removed.

RF & WJ will make renewed contact with Balmoral Estate to discuss plans for the estate as a tourist attraction (No 124). The car-park space available is currently insufficient and this is impacting on residents and other local businesses. There is a litter problem, as no bins provided at the carpark. The access road over the Brunel Bridge to the Estate is a road safety hazard as visitors continue to believe that it is a private road and are unaware that it is a public road, exacerbated by electric cars approaching silently.

7 Sub-committee Reports

Housing and Planning

- a) Retrospective planning permission sought at Monaltrie House - **WJ** expressed a conflict of interest.
- b) Scotia & Invercauld Estate would host a drop-in meeting in the Mike Sheridan Room on 25th May, 4-8pm. Residents may also give feedback on Scotia's website. All feedback due by 16th June. BCCC will attend the meeting to listen to questions raised and answers given. All feedback should be documented by Scotia and therefore made public in their planning report. Roger Laird, Scotia, will attend the June meeting of the BCCC.

TF had contacted Kate McDonald, Sheltered Housing Manager, regarding the difficulties faced by residents in registering for such housing and making applications. **TF** would pass on a link to **JC** to advertise on BCCC Facebook and website. **JC** suggested that this could come under the remit of the proposed Care Group in the Community Action Plan.

FIG

JB reported that Scottish Flood Forum had assessed a further 4 properties in the village. A major problem for householders installing property protection was finding

suitable tradespeople to do the work, regardless of the cost. One householder was going to report back on the FloodRe insurance scheme of Build Back Better. FIG would be meeting with local councillors to discuss Option 3A. **TF** and **JB** had visited Abergeldie Estate and been shown some of work to the Girnock being undertaken by the estate on upstream waters, benefitting both salmon fishing and some flood reduction.

BRG

LD reported that work had started on updating the register of households requiring assistance in the event of disaster. Volunteers would be welcome to assist in knocking on doors to ensure list was complete as possible.

CRG

All equipment received.

8 Crathie issues

See No 108 and no 124 of Action Tracker.

9 Other Reports

Improvement Group and Paths

KG requested a grant from BCCC for the Paths Group to attend Tarland Show and Aboyne Highland Games. **RF** would contact him to confirm funding. **KG** was also seeking support from BCCC for funding for the cinder path beyond Monaltrie House, but **WJ** and **DM** suggested that it might be better to check on plans which Scotia might have for the H1 site which might include footpaths. **JB** reported there would be an article in the Press & Journal regarding the riverside footpath.

BRD

JB-BRD reported that oil prices were dropping for the Oil Club. BRD will not renew the community bus, but are looking at alternative means of providing transport to local groups. BRD would now require an external audit, which was another welcome level of transparency on the activities of BRD.

BCE

BCE is thriving and Ray Riddoch is now director on BCE and BRD.

Aberdeenshire Council

CSB submitted a report. The new recycling kerbside collections will start.

Information on collection days can be found on MyAberdeenshire app

(<https://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/my/mobile-app/>). **JC** asked if it might be possible in future to postpone the Garden Waste collections to start at a later date so that they might continue until the end of November.

The Forestry Commission Car Park at Cambus o'May will have charges implemented from 1st June this year.

CNPA Nothing to report.

CAP

Draft CAP should be available for further consultation by end of June.

Halls

Report had been circulated.

CAN A report had been circulated. Litter pick on 8th May had been successful. **SP** highlighted a webinar on Reducing Carbon Emissions in Rural Areas. He suggested that BCCC might support an app, liftshare.com, which was a means of promoting car-sharing. The app addresses concerns regarding personal safety and car-owner insurance.

10 Correspondence

11 Finance No change. **PD** has completed balance sheet for June meeting.

12 AOCB **RF** raised issue of damaged pavement at Strachans on Golf Road with **CSB**.

The meeting ended at 20.35

The next meeting and AGM is planned for Monday 12th June 2023 at 7pm at Mike Sheridan Room, Station Square, Ballater

Approved