

# BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)

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

Minutes of Meeting held on 14 January 2019, at 7pm in Mike Sheridan Room

<p><b>Present:</b> James Anderson (WJ) - Chair Jane Angus (JA) Iain Latta (IL) Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer Joanne Croll (JC) William Braid (WB) Lewis Macdonald (LM) Emma Stewart (ES) Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB) Cllr Paul Gibb (CPG)</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> Fiona Presslie (FP) - Dep Chair Francis Duguid (FD)</p>	<p><b>Also present:</b> Sgt Keith Greig Members of the public</p>
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1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

2. **Emergency services:**

Sgt Keith Greig attended to introduce himself as replacement of Sgt Stephen Robertson who has moved on to Aberdeen

Report received from police -

**Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder**

Received number of calls, mainly Aboyne area in relation to youth annoyance and minor anti-social behaviour. However, overall, across the Upper Deeside area, general level of such behaviour remains low. Where incidents reported, Officers attended and dealt with appropriately and in timely manner. Two cars vandalised in Ballater - enquiries ongoing. Should anyone have information in relation to these incidents and know who is responsible, please let the Police know.

Please encourage members of the community to contact Police in relation to any concerns that you may have regarding inappropriate behaviour.

**Acquisitive Crime**

Crimes e.g. housebreaking and thefts continue to remain at very low levels in the Upper Deeside area. Patrols continue in an effort to deter and disrupt criminal activity.

During December 2018, theft of heating fuel (oil) was reported in Aboyne. Whilst an unusual and isolated incident, members asked to remind the community about their home security, including shed, garages, outbuildings and any other areas that could be a target for criminals.

### Road Safety and Road Crime

During December, Officers attended various road incidents, including collisions. Unfortunately, one serious collision on the A93 near Kincardine O'Neil, Aboyne, resulted in serious injuries to the drivers.

Reports of anti-social driving, particularly in relation to younger drivers in the Deeside area - some have been charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Reports of speeding motorists continue. Work continues with our partners at Aberdeenshire Council Roads Department by utilising speed survey equipment. Results being monitored.

Officers continue to pro-actively Police our community roads in an effort to reduce such driving behaviour and focus continues to ensure that our roads are as safe as possible.

The detection of drink/drug drivers continues as priority and reports will be acted upon in effort to trace drivers. Police frequently asked what the safe limit is? It's very simple, there is no safe limit! Whilst there is a limit outlined under Road Traffic Law, no persons can safely say that they will not be over the limit if they have consumed alcohol. Our message remains very clear, if consuming any alcohol, do not drive.

### Wildlife Crime

Wildlife crime remains very low with no reported incidents during December 2018.

### Other Policing Activity and Information

Telephone and email fraud continues nationally, and members are reminded never to give out personal or financial details. If in doubt as to the legitimacy of the caller, hang up! You can always call them back to verify who they are before divulging any information.

ES requested Police look into speeding in Crathie particularly when 20 is flashing. SGT KG confirmed Police will investigate & report back. Poss speed survey.

### **3. Matters Arising from Last Meeting:**

Minutes approved

Reviewed and updated Action Tracker

### **4. Reports:**

**AbCO - CPG - report provided**

#### Deebank Road

Ian Peacock [Roads Engineer] proposes new sign - to be installed within the next few weeks.

#### Access at Crathie Kirk

Angela Funk [Principal Roads Engineer] has provided a letter.

#### Composting at Crathie

I have information from the Tarland Development Group and will share it with the BCCC.

#### Sale of Old School House - Chronology

Craig Stirrat wrote to confirm amended planning application for Ballater School has been submitted as previously promised. Progressing with this option, as previously advised, requires a decision of the GHA Board, which meets on the 22 January 2019. Notwithstanding that they had to get a planning application in before the end of 2018, the Board will still have to consider the viability of this option. Meantime, to keep to timescales they are progressing with the

procurement of the preparatory works to site under terms of current approvals - demolition works to ancillary obsolete buildings and strip out of the school buildings. No new build works will commence until we know which option the Board will approve.

### Ballater Flood Study Update

An update from Lee Watson: Some progress with modelling, now looking to provide a Flood Protection Option[s] for Ballater that is feasible. Required to get broad support from relevant stakeholders prior to us presenting proposals on a preferred option to the public.

Hope to present to stakeholders by the end of February, followed by public presentation on the preferred option in April/May. The outcomes from all the Flood Studies currently being prepared by the 32 no. Local Authorities are required be presented to the Scottish Government by autumn 2019, to allow prioritisation of funding and decisions to be made on schemes to be taken forward in the next 6-year cycle of the Flood Risk Management Act (2022 - 2028).

IL raised with CPG that gritting is still an issue

PD raised that slabs in Station Square are slippery, even when only wet as well as icy. Had heard that discussions regarding treating surface taking place.

WJ stated BCCC have received report of slipping incident outside library/cafe

### **AbCO - CGB**

The A939 at Gairnsheil Bridge will be closed from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February for two weeks, for essential repairs following collision by an unidentified vehicle. Will close in Spring for major works. Have asked for a camera.

Car parking charges to be discussed at Council meeting. This won't affect Ballater as free parking, but will affect surrounding villages/towns such as Banchory.

Aberdeenshire Council releasing the main Issues Report. Even though we are in the Park it is important that we consult and respond as factors will still adversely affect our villages such as policies on rural housing. If enough people comment on this policy, it will be raised by economic development.

Webcam (for snow) at Crathie - now looking at funding. Corgarff, raised £3.5K and just have £82 left to raise. Suggested & all agreed consider camera for Gairnshiell too, CGB to get quote.

PD reported had observed parking problems in the square. CGB advised we need to get evidence to Belinda Miller for the bid in Swann Place.

PD also raised issue of refuse being carried across square by Carriage staff to waste bins behind bike shop.

### **BRD & BCE report by AR by email**

Timer required for electricity box on green. Christmas tree lights were left on indefinitely over festive season.

Johnson Oil Fund will be at £4K by end of Jan

AR emailed Janelle Clark re Cambus O'May bridge. Meeting 8 Feb - will find out if I budget. Used heat technology on Pollhollick bridge which was successful, so plan to use this on Cambus bidge.

26 new sites at the caravan park for next season.

## **BBA**

AGM 13 Feb

Need to be cruise ship ready for 2020.

**CAP** - No report

## **Halls - WB**

Trying to get lift fixed, waiting on spare parts - cheapest option was to fix it at £5K just to get it going. Had quote for stairlift, but at £5.5K this is a non-starter.

New heaters being delivered and installed next week or two. For Vitoria and Albert Halls - will see how they perform before progressing any more.

## **Tony Cox (TC) - Care**

Question regarding ownership of CAP with BCCC, to be clarified with CAT committee.

Health and Social Care partnership - joining together agencies. Looking at policies that direct what happens today eg care assessment. CGB suggest contact with Ian Ramsay (chief social worker for Aberdeenshire)- TC confirmed meeting with him next week and Rhoda Hume. Their aim is to talk to as many organisations in the area to establish needs. CGB suggested TC look into area has already been divided into localities. CGB to provide TC with relevant correspondence chain.

## **5. Planning Matters**

WJ - CNPA/ABCO had advised that all being well the planning application for the Old School site could be through in 3 - 4 months

JC declared interest in planning application APP/2019/0028

## **6. Correspondence**

-email from Andy Dawes requesting to be co-opted. Require to advise Alford (Janelle Clark). WJ to action

-Ian Hay regarding church green - deterioration of the grass. Agreed grass needs some attention.

-Letter from residents of Albert Road regarding dog fouling. WJ to refer them to the dog warden and the green dog walking scheme for some posters/signage.

-Tony Cox re gold course path. Previously managed by COATS - but arrangement has expired. But no-one wants to repair path until flood report is concluded. CGB to speak to OATS, TC to speak to Golf Club. Path signage is discriminatory as unsuitable for buggies, wheelchairs etc.

Email from Michael Coletta/Hilton re by-laws regarding employment of under 16's at weekends. CGB advised this is actually UK employment law, not just Aberdeenshire Council - CGB to reply.

## **7. Finance - Nothing new to report**

## **8. AOCB**

PD - cruise ships, we need to look at parking issues as not enough parking options for visitors now and increase numbers of buses will be a problem. CGB advised BCCC need to add this to our argument to Belinda re parking.

CGB suggested WJ contact Prince's Foundation with regards to coming up with a plan for community parking.

PD raised issue that BCCC has no secretary. No-one willing to take on role. JC agreed to take on role temporarily.

WJ asked CPG to forward Iain Latta's photos to Belinda for parking evidence.

WJ brought up issue of bus prices along Deeside Corridor being more expensive than taxi.

WJ Andy Dawes and Iain Latta to attend CPR training. There will be five CPR workshops across Marr in partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service during the week commencing Monday 28 January. These family-friendly sessions will be led by Colin Westwood as Fire Area Manager, supported by our library service, and are designed to help local people develop their First Aid skills.

Sessions will take place as follows:

- Aboyne Library - Monday 28th January from 6-7pm
- Alford Community Campus Library - Tuesday 29th January from 4-5pm
- Banchory Library - Wednesday 30th January from 2-3pm and 3.30-4.30pm
- Huntly Library - Thursday 31st January from 6-7pm

If you are interested in attending one of these sessions, please get in touch with your local library to book your place.

PD asked if BCCC could apply on behalf of Butchers for their Defib unit - agreed as it would be cheaper for them. PD to refer back to butchers.

Meeting Closed 20:50