

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CCC)

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Minutes of Meeting held at Michael Sheridan Room, Monday 13th March 2023 at
7.00pm

Present:	Apologies	Also present:
James Anderson - Chair (WJ)	Cllr Geva Blackett	Dougal Morgan (DM)
Richard Frimston (RF) - Secretary	Cllr Anouk Kloppert	Susan Stewart (SS)
Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer	Cllr Sarah Brown	Sergeant Allan Masson
Ellie Kinghorn (EK)	Simon Mearns	PC Simon Anderson
Gareth Johnston (GJ)	Bill Braid	Linda Drever (LD)
John Bannerman (JB)	John Burrows	Ian Henderson (IH)
Janet Feeney (JF)	Jo Croll	
Tom Flynn (TF)	Scott Peacock	

1 Welcome

WJ welcomed BCCC.

2 **Conflicts of Interest** WJ had worked on benches on village green.

3 **Emergency Services Report** Sergeant Allan Masson attended with PC Simon Anderson. Minimal number of incidents. Particularly concerned about ongoing frauds and Sergeant Masson would appreciate contact details for any community groups for the elderly or vulnerable so that officers might be able to get in touch to discuss ways to remain safe. The November flooding event had been simpler to manage as more people were able to remain safely in their homes. Seasonal parking restrictions would remain in place at the barracks for security reasons. Sergeant Masson would meet with the army on their arrival to ask them to make contact with police should there be any parking infringements. WJ asked about the possibility of resident/contractor parking passes and Sergeant Masson would investigate this. PD raised issue of parking across from the ambulance station which restricted access/exit of emergency vehicles. Sergeant Masson said that the ambulance services should notify police of any issues. LD asked if Ballater Station was manned. Although two officers are based in Ballater, they are often out on calls, so the station is not manned. A notice would be put on door giving contact details for Banchory should the station not be manned.

4 **Approval of minutes** February minutes approved with amendments.

5 **Matters arising** Susan Stewart was concerned that February minutes seemed to suggest that vehicles might be prohibited from using the Church Green. She pointed out that there are rules in place for the use of the Green and risk assessments are undertaken prior to events. While BRD maintains the Greens, the licensing still remains with Abco.

6 Action Tracker update

WJ reported that a car had crashed into a bus at the stop on Golf Road, highlighting the dangers (No 6). Sergeant Masson would check if further reports. About No 112 **JF** pointed out that the graveyard road had in the past been maintained by the council. Also, it was frequently used by walkers/visitors so from the point of view of visitor experience should be maintained. **RF** would contact Abco on this point and also on the safety of hearses departing the grave-yard. **RF** would also check the progress of snowcam at Gairnshiel (no 121).

7 Sub-committee Reports

Housing and Planning

- a) **EK** reported that she had not received any answers to her queries regarding the 4G mast being planned for Loch Builg. **EK** would put in a holding objection until answers were received regarding the purpose of the mast, how it is to be maintained and to whose benefit was it intended.
- b) **SS** reported that the housing group were looking at affordable housing as a priority over and above the H1 Scotia plan. So far, 10 projects had been identified for further discussion. There had been no further information from Scotia about a public meeting in March regarding H1.

FIG

JB reported that the RPS survey in response to the results of the February 2021 flood would be available in due course. As already mentioned, the risk of flooding as a result of high frequency, low level events had increased. To mitigate this, a bund of 400 to 500 metres long and 1.5 metres high had been proposed on the same trajectory as the current riverside footpath. The question of who would meet the cost would also have to be answered. **WJ** suggested that wooden posts should be erected at the height of the bund and on its path to give the public further information about the bund's potential impact. Douglas Johnston, hydrologist, had agreed to give technical advice to FIG on request. **SS** asked how secure the bund would be in a future flood. This bund would be further back from the river bank so would not be subject to the same continuous erosion as the previous bund.

BRG

LD reported that BRG had held an induction seminar for new and current volunteers, in particular as the set up of the halls had changed in recent months. An invitation had been issued to Abco staff through Marr Area, but there had been no take-up. This was disappointing as it meant that Abco staff had to be given induction on the day of the emergency and could not always make immediate contributions. **LD** felt that Abco were seeking to manage the emergency response rather than allow BRG to manage it for them. **RF** was continuing to make progress to resolve the question of insurance for emergency events.

CRG

IH reported that gas cylinders had been obtained for the halls. They were still looking for an alternative to digital/mobile phones as means of communication. An article had been written for Facebook and The Eagle seeking volunteers. **RF** requested a list of CRG equipment to be added to BCCC insurance.

8 Crathie issues

JF reported that there was no sign for Crathie on the A93 western approach. This should be added to Action Tracker. There had been complaints on Facebook about no bins at the Car park at Balmoral. **JF** would e-mail Balmoral Estate to ask about provision and maintenance of litter bins at Balmoral.

9 Other Reports

BRD

John Burrows had submitted a report to BCCC. **RF** commented on the amazing work undertaken by Ken Gibson on the local path network. The signage in Station Square had been sorted. Ken Gibson was now looking at improving the Seven Bridges Walk, providing off-road path along the Dalliefour straight. BCCC supported this. At **TF's** suggestion the work on the new riverside path was commended by BCCC, with much appreciation for the extensive time and effort of the many volunteers and particularly the leadership of Bill Stephens. The restoration and making more secure of the riverside path provides valuable amenity to both residents and visitors.

BCE

SS reported a very successful start to the new season, being fully booked at the weekends.

Aberdeenshire Council

CSB had submitted a report.

CNPA Nothing to report.

CAP

RF reported that they had received 250 completed surveys. Work had now started on creating a draft CAP which would be made available to the community for further consultation.

Halls

Report had been circulated.

CAN A report had been circulated.

10 Correspondence

RF had received an e-mail regarding disturbance to a grave which he had forwarded to Abco. **WJ** believed it might have been a minor repair to possible subsidence.

11 Finance Money for Crathie noticeboard had been received.

12 AOCB Nothing to report

The meeting ended at 20.15

**The next meeting is planned for Monday 10th April 2023 at 7pm at Moxon,
Quarry Studios, Crathie**