

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)

ballaterandcrathie.org.uk

Minutes of a Meeting held on 12th September 2016
7pm in the Mike Sheridan Room, Victoria & Albert Halls

<p>Present: James Anderson (WJ) - Chair Jane Angus (JA) Joanne Croll (JC) Bill Cruickshank (BC) Pat Downie (PD) Iain Latta (IL) Fiona Presslie (FP) Cllr Katrina Farquhar(KF)</p> <p>Apologies Cllr Geva Blackett Francis Duguid (FD) - Chair Anne Reid (AR) Wendy Miller (WM)</p>	<p>Also present: PC Jeff Hall - Police Scotland Tony Cox - Ballater Flood Group (TC) Jack Coull - BRD (JKC) John Bolton - Flood Resilience Plan (JB) Gillian Abel - Dog Warden</p>
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1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

2. Matters Arising from July Meeting:

KF introduced Gillian Abel (Dog warden) who introduced the green dog walking scheme. It is a positive no confrontational campaign, fits with school curriculum; owners sign pledge, receiving green bandana/membership card and have access to free poop scoops. The penal fine was confirmed at £80. The BCCC agreed to adopt the scheme and further discussion required to take forward, suggested that 1st October Open Day could be used to role scheme out.

Minutes: Change KF role in Royal Mail. Minutes approved following the meeting.

3. Correspondence

A matter regarding trees and protection orders was raised. Following conversation with Alistair Foley (AC) individual was informed trees with conservation orders cannot be touched. Clarity was requested regarding which trees have protection orders and whether status can be changed if they are a danger. **Action: KF offered to access new tree plan and will look into matter.**

4. Emergency services: Constable Jeff Hall

The investigation is ongoing into break into cars over weekend. PC Jeff Hall issued a general reminder to all to secure vehicles. Matter raised regarding car on trailer in Queen's Road, **Action: PC Jeff Hall agreed to look into.** Parking and bus stop outside coop was raised. KF

indicated that AC Roads Dept do not support moving bus stop and there is insufficient funds to alter direction of traffic. **Action: KF to approach AC Roads Dept.** Parking on Braemar road was raised, PC Jeff Hall indicated parking not restricted at the location, and it is responsibility of drivers to be aware of hazards.

5. Reports

BRD (JKC)

Confirmation that campsite disabled toilet is in working order, toilet will be decorated this winter. The Caravan Park has continued to be well used and is expected to breakeven this year allowing further refurbishment to go ahead. The access road will be used to reinstate remaining bund; work on bund to be completed by mid October. No change to defibrillators status. There has been success with installation of permanent power on the green. The 2017 Walking week is to go ahead. Volunteer drivers required for minibus; contact Gillian Sinclair. BRD will pay for drivers to go through training. The BRD AGM is on 24th November.

Aberdeenshire Council (KF)

Tourist Info Office change in opening times due to demand. Open Day and Spirit of Ballater awards moved to 1st Oct. During the day plans will be available for station interior. Open Day also offered to local groups. KF confirmed that the Burger van does not have a licence as yet; application still to go to planning committee. Reminder to the BCCC to comment on Big 9. A follow up meeting on 19th September has been arranged.

Ballater Flood Group (TC)

The Group has written to AC regarding concerns over the bund replacement and Heskey Barriers.

Regarding the repair to bund; Prof Fleming has been acting as consultant. Prof Fleming designed the Bund in the 1990s and the bund was designed to the river flow as it was then. The river today bears no resemblance to the river contributing to design in 1990s. Concern that the design of the bund is not fit for purpose and a like for like replacement is not valid. Heskey barriers have been discussed and could act to mitigate flood impacts. SEPA recognise the design and support installation. AC has turned down barriers due to cost reasons.

Ballater is 5th in order of priority in AC for flood study funds. There has been no response from any level of AC other than a legal response stating council has no obligation to protect homes.

Recognising the Met office early warning for flooding this winter the Flood Group is concerned that further flooding is a significant risk and such minimal progress by AC is unacceptable. Alexander Burnett is planning to raise the matter in Parliament and a letter is being drafted to the First Minister.

KF confirmed that the Ballater flood Study has been accelerated to 2016-2022 and will be reviewed in parallel with other studies.

BC proposed that BCCC support the approach to 1st minister – **Proposal supported.**

Ballater Resilience Plan (JB)

Ballater: Draft 5 in progress to incorporate feedback from Police Scotland and AC. Proposal for location for containers to store made up sandbags to be finalised. Community coordination centre now equipped with funding from Community Foundation Scotland. Eagle article to request volunteers.

Crathie - need to finalise community coordination centre, approach made to school.

With storm season approaching, the group is preparing information on how to prepare/evacuate etc., distribution via mail shots. A meeting was held with SEPA, preference not to use siren warning system. 246 residents signed up to flood alert. Access will be provided to SEPA early warning info.

JB raised concern on longer term health impacts of flooding and as such supports the Flood Group.

7. Planning Matters

Osprey cottage - new house design passed.

Monaltrie House - Tree removal has been declined. **Action: KF will look into.**

Support to Halls funding application - BCCC support the application - **Action: Letter to be drafted**

9. Finance

Proposal to purchase lap top for council business. **Proposal supported**

10. AOCB

Royal Mail. **Action - KF to contact Union rep & Royal mail and request follow up meeting.**

Post Office. **Action - KF to raise concerns regarding Post Office.**

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

The next meeting will be 10th October, 2016, Crathie Hall, 7-9pm.