

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CCC)

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Minutes of a Meeting held on 9th June 2014, Mike Sheridan Room, Ballater

<p>Present: Billy Duguid (BD) Chair Francis Duguid (FD) Vice-Chair Phil Swan (PS) Secretary Pat Downie (PD) Treasurer James Anderson (WJ) Jane Angus (JA) Mike Forman (MF) Cllr. Geva Blackett (CGB) Cllr. Katrina Farquhar (CKF) (also CNPA elected rep)</p>	<p>PC Fiona Brown, for Police Scotland (FB) Barry Florence, for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (BF) David Horne for Ballater Royal Deeside Ltd (DH) Cat Houston (CH) Minutes</p> <p>Apologies received: Sheila Sedgwick (SS) Ian Cameron (IC) Anne Reid (AR) (Resigned)</p>	
<p>1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence. See above.</p>		<p>ACTION</p>
<p>2a. Police Business. FB reported that there had been a recent break-in at a business premises and a quantity of tools stolen. She asked the public to report any suspicious behaviour to 101.</p> <p>The summer drink-drive campaign has just been launched.</p> <p>PS asked how B&CCC might make better use of the information provided by the police and for any suggestions as to how B&CCC might best disseminate information from all three emergency services for maximum public benefit. BD & PS to liaise on this.</p> <p>There was some discussion on the recent incidence of tyre gouging on grass verges at the western entrance to the village. The damage had been rectified by AbCo but the perpetrators not identified.</p> <p>PS had circulated a one page flyer to all in B&CCC, giving details of a drugs & alcohol helpline. PS called on all in B&CCC to devise some innovative means for communicating this information to the public at large, for maximum effect.</p> <p>CGB reported that Insp Innes Coull is soon to be succeeded by Insp Martin Burgess.</p>		<p>BD/PS</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>2b. Fire Service Report</p> <p>Crew Manager Barry Florence reported four callouts in May, all automatic fire alarms. Six home fire safety visits had been carried out. The station had one new recruit.</p>		
<p>3. Items of Public Concern (including any feedback from "Listening Post").</p> <p>Concerns had been raised over dog waste. CKF reported that AbCo had launched a new initiative tackling the problem which provided bags and scoopers in problem areas to encourage people to use them, and had proved successful in pilots elsewhere. She stated that persons reported leaving dog waste could face a spot fine of £80.</p> <p>PS stated that assistance had been had been offered by one resident in establishing a community-wide clean-up operation. PS also clarified that ALL public areas were off-limits for dog waste; immediate collection with proper disposal by dog owners was required.</p> <p>Traffic speeds in the village were discussed. It was agreed that the B&CCC would push for 20mph throughout the village through the ward councillors. CKF stated that reduced speed in villages was something all community councils in the area wanted. It</p>		<p>BD, PS, CKF, CGB</p>

<p>Caravan Park lease from AbCo.</p> <p>7c. Old School: A flyer was being prepared for a public meeting on July 1, with a view to establishing community support to help go ahead with plans for the Old School. BD and PS had made two visits to the site. A local tradesman had been approached to provide quotes for demolishing some interiors and out-buildings. No more specific details were available at present.</p> <p>7d. BBA: No report</p> <p>7e. V&A Halls: It was suggested that the Halls be approached to send a report to the B&CCC each month for inclusion in minutes and meetings.</p> <p>7f. Hilton Vacations Craigendarroch: BD reported that he had met with a representative of Hilton Craigendarroch following the publication of a matter relating to the hotel in the B&CCC minutes of March 10. He said the matter had been addressed, the apologies of B&CCC accepted and both parties parted on good terms. He added that Hilton Craigendarroch wanted to work with the B&CCC and do more in the community.</p>	
<p>8. Planning Matters. BD indicated that he checked the applications regularly and had circulated anything of interest.</p>	
<p>9. Finance. PD reported that B&CCC is not eligible for a grant to help fund The Listening Post.</p>	
<p>10. Public Accountability. There was some further discussion over the issue of community engagement versus confidentiality, particularly with regards to the recent sale and non-sale of the land at Craigview Road. CGB suggested that the B&CCC invite the relevant AbCo planning officers to a meeting, to address their particular concerns. PS to action.</p>	PS
<p>11. AOCB. BD reported that a recent AbCo training course for community councillors, attended by five members of B&CCC on June 7, had been very worthwhile. They had seen several presentations, including one from Stonehaven Caravan Park, concerning a community asset transfer of the kind Ballater was considering. It was suggested that every community councillor should attend the course, and perhaps not even just the new ones.</p> <p>Concern was expressed about the development of yet another vacancy on the B&CCC. There was some discussion of the benefits of co-opting members for six months so that candidates can perhaps experience a little of the input and requirements involved before committing themselves for election. CGB pointed out that the more time the B&CCC spends engaging with the local community, through initiatives such as the Listening Post, the easier it will be to co-opt and elect different members.</p> <p>The poor state of Ballater's public benches was raised. CGB sent an email to Les Allen to query the matter.</p> <p>The progress of the proposed Skate Park was queried; it was reported that further input from the group concerned was awaited.</p>	CGB
<p>12. Date of Next Meeting. Monday 14th July at 7pm in the Mike Sheridan Room, V&A Halls, Ballater. The meeting closed at 9.30pm.</p>	