

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CCC)

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Minutes of a Meeting held on 14th March 2016
7pm in Michael Sheridan Room, Victoria & Albert Hall, Ballater

<p>Present: Francis Duguid (FD) - Chair James Anderson (WJ) - Vice Chair Jane Angus (JA) - Secretary Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer Iain Latta (IL) Phil Swan (PS) Sheila Sedgwick (SS) Cllr Katrina Farquhar (CKF)</p> <p>Apologies Ian Cameron Cllr Geva Blackett Cllr Peter Argyle</p>	<p>Also present: David Horne (DH) - Ballater Royal Deeside Limited Ruth Sim (RS) - Access Panel Tony Cox (TC) - Ballater Community Plan Gordon Riddler (GR) Moira McDougall (minutes)</p>
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1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

2. Emergency services

No report available [Received and circulated later: property removed from cars, sheds, garages]

3. Minutes of February's meeting were passed

4. Matters arising from February's meeting

FD has to finalise the application for the defibrillator to the Halls building by completing a listed building form. He will also complete the application for the site at the toilet block in the Church Square.

IL thanked FD for clearing fallen trees on the Old Line footpath to Eastfield.

5. Reports

BRD

DH reported that the caravan park is slowly being cleared with a view to opening for tents and touring caravans. The booking website is now back in operation and there have been a number of enquiries checking availability. The possibility of static caravans returning to the site remains open.

PS asked if there would be any regulatory restrictions to the area operating as a caravan park in the light of recent events. DH replied that BRD have an updated emergency plan in place should there be any future problems and that

Aberdeenshire Council remain the statutory operational licence-holder, while **CKF** pointed out that Aberdeenshire Council had undertaken an up to date risk register for the site.

Aberdeenshire Council

CKF had spoken with Ralph Singleton of Aberdeenshire Council Roads with regard to reducing the speed limit on Bridge Street to 20mph. However, he reported that the traffic management review last undertaken for Ballater had raised no proposals for a reduction in the speed limit. In particular, Bridge Street, as part of the A93 trunk road, would not usually be subject to a 20mph speed restriction. There is currently a moratorium on elective restrictive traffic modifications, but Ralph Singleton would contact **CKF** again once the moratorium was lifted. **CKF** would also speak with Police Scotland to ensure effective speed enforcement checks in the village, particularly on the Aberdeen road at the junction with Craigview Road and on Braemar Road.

IL asked if there was an update on the progress being made at the Old Royal Station. **CKF** would be attending a meeting on 13th March and would send an update to the Community Council. [This received on 16.3.16, circulated, and had news of the Public information available on 29.3.16 and that at the Halls Open Day on 3rd. of April, 2016 when the plans will be available for public comments.]

CKF had also spoken to the Rates Officer with regard to a review of rateable values for Ballater businesses. Although businesses directly affected by flooding had received a grant and reduction in rates, a number of businesses which had not been directly flooded, had remained open, but were obviously suffering a reduction in trading.

CKF reported that the Scheme of Delegation for community councils has been withdrawn and further consultation papers would be sent out in due course.

CNPA

The Cairngorm Natural Festival will take place on 14th and 15th May with numerous events planned across the Park. **IL** reminded the Community Council that a ceilidh planned for that weekend in the Victoria Hall would fit in well with this festival.

JA intimated the news of a Buglife Conference on June 17-19th in the V&A Halls and probably Dinnet, including wood-ant surveys. The address for those interested, is available from her.

The Aberdeenshire Partnership and Local Development Plans will go out for consultation in June concerning the small part of Aberdeenshire only within the B&CCC area' and will include the Landscape new designations. [The Cairngorms

National Park Partnership and the Local Development Plan discussions will also take place during this time and cover most of the B&CCC area.]

GR remarked that the CNPA had joined with other agencies to lobby the Scottish Government for funding for path reinstatement, an integral part of the tourist business of the Park.

FD commended the volunteers from the CNPA who had assisted in clearing the Tullich Burn. There had also been a tremendous effort from the Estates in clearing the river banks.

PS felt that the Bus Depot was unsightly and questioned how it had met the planning requirements of the CNPA. However, **TC**, **GR** and **CKF** pointed out that the area still had to be landscaped and that recent meetings with Steve Walker of Stagecoach had encouraged the local community to understand that their concerns regarding the running of the depot would be heard.

Ballater Resilience Plan

John Boulton and Tony Cox continue to work on this.

Ballater Community Flood Event

FD announced that there will be a further public meeting on Wednesday 23rd March at 7.00 p.m. in the Victoria Hall. SEPA and Aberdeenshire Council have been invited to give an update on events since the last meeting in February. The Hall has been limited to 200 people, on a first come, first served basis. There will be no drop-in centre after the meeting. **TC** expressed dissatisfaction with SEPA who had not responded to any of his calls or e-mails with regard to future planning. **FD** will contact SEPA to produce an interim report prior to the meeting so that members of the public may be able to study it and prepare any questions they may have. The Flood Bulletins from Aberdeenshire Council were praised by **TC** as an example of what SEPA should have also been doing. **PD** understood that a number of elderly residents and those in single-storey properties which had been flooded were understandably nervous about returning to their homes and needed absolute assurances about the work being proposed to safeguard their homes. **JA** had found a website about a barge-like machine for removal of flood debris and will try to discover more about capacity and costs and its' potential.

6. Community Council Elections for 2016

The proposed date for the Ballater and Crathie Community Council Elections is Thursday 16th June 2016. The vacancies for Crathie are 2 in number and 10 for Ballater. **CKF** will check that polling booths and boxes would be available for that date. Should there be only those 12 nominations for the positions, there will be no need to hold elections, but it is very much hoped that there will be a good number

of nominations, in particular from younger people in the village. **JA** urged everyone to check that they are still on the voters' roll (the electoral roll may be checked at Ballater Library). If not, as she recently discovered, it is usually quick and easy to make an on-line application, which should be accepted with plenty of time for all the coming elections and the referendum. For those temporarily displaced, it is only essential to ensure that you are listed according to your usual home address and you do not need to notify the electoral roll of a temporary address.

7. Planning Matters

It has been encouraging to note that Aberdeenshire Council are trying to ensure that any planning applications may be tied in to any work being done to restore properties following flooding.

8. Correspondence

TC had been in touch with Ron Drever following his letter last month to the Community Council, in order to introduce him to the Community Hub concept **TC** had been working on with Nick Mardall.

FD had received a letter addressed to Ballater Town Council requesting information about property available in Ballater. He forwarded the letter to the **ASPC**.

JA was still waiting for a reply to her letters to Post Office.

9. Finance

A grant had been received from **CNPA** to cover the cost of the community meetings held following the flood.

10. AOCB : **IL** asked if there was anything the Community Council could do to support those residents affected by the failure of the insurance company, Integra Ltd, to validate claims. However, local **MSP**, Dennis Robertson, as well as Paul Hendy of the Scottish Flood Forum, the Prince's Trust and the Scottish Government have all been involved in dealing with this matter.

PS asked his concern for a younger membership of **B&CCC** and on resilience be noted.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

The next meeting and **AGM** will be 11th April 2016, Crathie Kirk Hall, 7-9pm

[The Balmoral Bridge will be under repair that week. There will be pedestrian access, but if there should be need of a ferry service, please contact **JA** about transport from the bridge to the Church Hall]