

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)

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Minutes of a Meeting held on 16th November 2015

7pm in the Mike Sheridan Room, Victoria & Albert Hall, Ballater

<p>Present: Frances Duguid (FD) - Vice Chair James Anderson (WJ) Jane Angus (JA) Pat Downie (PD) Phil Swan (PS)</p> <p>Apologies Billy Duguid (BD) Ian Cameron (IC) Cllr Katrina Farquhar (CKF) Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB)</p>	<p>Also present: Jack Coull (JC) - Ballater Royal Deeside Limited Tony Cox (TC) - Community Action Plan Ruth Sim (RS) - Access Panel Ian Latta (IL) Faye Swan Moirra McDougall (minutes)</p>
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1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

2. Emergency services - Police

The Police Service current report is available on the Community Council website.

3. Minutes from the October meeting were agreed.

CKF asked that the minutes be amended to show the telephone box at Abergeldie, not Khantore. The post box is also at Abergeldie.

4. Matters arising from the October meeting.

FD had applied for planning permission for the defibrillators at the Victoria & Albert Hall but Stonehaven had requested detailed drawings. Jack Coull agreed to photograph the defibrillator boxes in location at the Hall and at the Toilet Block in Church Square in order to show clearly how they would look in situ.

PS asked if IC had made a presentation in October to the Community Council proposing a methodology for assessing planning matters. This had not taken place and remains outstanding for the December meeting.

Linda Bonar and Graham Laird from Post Office Counters had attended a meeting at the Co-operative Store with RS, JA and BD to discuss the community's concerns with regard to Post Office services. FD asked RS to list all points raised with the Post Office and send this to him. FD will contact Linda Bonar and Graham Laird for their report on the meeting to ensure that all points were taken on board. RS reported that there was a lack of cohesion between the Co-operative and Post Office Counters as to who held responsibility for the design of the counters and for the overall service provided. PS and WJ pointed out that longer hours of service made it easier for businesses and working people to collect parcels and use post

office services. The provision of a post box within the store is the responsibility of Royal Mail and **JA** will make a written request for the installation of a post box.

RS asked if the Area Manager of the Co-operative had ever attended a Community Council Meeting.

5. Reports

BRD

JC reported that the Caravan Park was now closed for the season. The wardens will return next year. The Toilet Block will be refurbished in time for next April. **RS** asked if the Disabled Access to the Toilet Block would also be refurbished and suggested this would be an ideal opportunity to get it right.

Discussions continue with regard to how a heritage centre and museum will be included in the Old Station rebuilding. **BRD** will be represented along with Marr Area, VisitScotland, the CNPA and Scottish Heritage as well as the Ballater Local History Group. **JC** reported considerable enthusiasm from Aberdeenshire Council Museum Services to return various items of local interest such as the Provost's Chain of Office. **JC** emphasised the need for the community groups to be united as much as possible in their assessment of how the heritage centre would be developed. At this stage, it seemed that there would be no retail units in the building, the restaurant would be larger and would be towards the Deeside Candies' factory.

The Community Bus has required some maintenance work recently and may need to be replaced sooner than anticipated. More volunteer drivers are required and existing drivers need to renew their MIDAS.

It seems unlikely that the refurbishment of the toilets at Monaltrie Park will go ahead due to lack of funds. **JA** will contact **CKF** to suggest a LEADER funding application.

BRD will hold its AGM on Thursday 19th November at 7pm in the Beaton Craigie Room - all welcome.

Aberdeenshire Council

CKF had asked **PD** to make the following remarks on her behalf:

There will definitely be no white lines on the South Deeside/Glenmuick road but there will be a fence erected on the river side.

The pavement in front of the Co-operative will be lifted and levelled.

There will be permanent repairs to the damage caused by cars parking on the edges of the Church Green. There may be bollards or fencing installed to prevent a recurrence of this problem.

In response to complaints about traffic emerging from Viewfield Road, it is proposed to improve signage at the foot of Queens Road to ensure traffic turns right only. It is also proposed to narrow Viewfield Road at this point to discourage traffic turning left from Queens Road.

In response, **WJ** suggested that the new Seven Bridges footpath on the South Deeside Road should reduce the dangers to pedestrians. He also pointed out that the overhanging foliage on the road made drivers more likely to hold the centre line of the road. **PS** also asked about parking facilities in the village. Ralph Singleton, Aberdeenshire Council, had seen no

problems in Ballater. Proposals for a double-storey car-park at the Church would only be possible with private funding. The buses parked at the Church will move when the new Garage is completed.

CNPA

There was no report although **JA** had attended a Cairngorm Business Partnership meeting where the main concern was a lack of affordable housing for employees of any potential business development.

Ballater Action Plan 2009 Review

TC reported that progress is slowly being made. **TC** will send the draft letter (which it is proposed to send out to all community groups) to **FD** who will forward this to all members of the **CC** as this will be sent out on behalf of the **CC**. **WJ** asked **TC** to contact him should he require any assistance.

6. Planning Matters

There was nothing to report.

7. Correspondence

JA asked if the **CC** had been consulted prior to the amalgamation of Police Scotland. **FD** will confirm if consultation took place.

BD and **FD** had photographed the bridge at Postie's Leap on the Old Line and received a letter from Adam Streeter-Smith in which he had arranged for Geoff Freedman to survey the bridge on 23 November at 10am. Geoff Freedman will use a rope to gain access to the lower part of the bridge and asked if it would be possible to have assistance to lift one of the boards of the bridge. **WJ** agreed to offer assistance. **FD** will ask Adam to confirm who actually owns the bridge and is therefore responsible for its repair and upkeep.

A letter had been received with regard to the exit from Viewfield Road and **CKF** will be asked to contact the resident to outline the proposals being made by Aberdeenshire Council to deal with this problem.

Clarification is still required from **CKF** with regard to the policy for snow clearing this winter.

The draft Scheme of Establishment will be sent out to all committee members by **FD**. All members should reply with any amendments or queries by the end of November.

8 Finance

There is no change.

FD approved the Balance Sheet which had been presented to the Community Council at the May 2015 meeting. **WJ** seconded.

9 AOCB

PS asked about the possibility of double yellow lines at the foot of the stairs of the properties on Albert Road as there had been a problem with cars parking in front of residents' parking bays. **WJ** pointed out that if this was done the residents would not be able to reverse out as there would not be sufficient space. It was left at this point.

JA will write to **CKF** and **CGB** with regard to replacing signs at the Old Line Car Park and Picnic Place to ensure that there is no overnight parking or camping.

FD asked that all community council members should ensure that any correspondence intended for all members should be circulated to all members before a meeting.

PD had been asked if it was possible to reclaim VAT on chairs purchased for the benefit of the community. **JC** will speak with the group.

WJ had been asked about the possibility of speed bumps on Sir Patrick Geddes Way to reduce the speed of vehicles. This area may well qualify for the 20mph limit suggested by **CGB** for certain parts of the village.

Following a query from **WJ**, Faye Swan was able to confirm that the funds raised to assist those businesses affected by the fire at the Old Station were held by the BBA. None of the businesses wished to take any funds and they are currently ring-fenced until a decision is made.

WJ asked if there was a completion date for the work at Tullich Graveyard.

JC asked if the signage at Golf Road/Bridge Street could be corrected to show the correct direction for the Post Office. **FD** agreed to deal with this.

FD proposed the co-option of Ian Latta and Tony Cox on to the Community Council. As he understood it, although he would seek confirmation from Janelle Clark, a notice of 14 days had to be given before a vote could be taken on the co-option of an individual. A vote on the co-option would then take place at the December meeting. **PS** proposed that the Community Council should meet in 14 days to vote rather than wait until the next meeting. **FD** suggested that he would confirm the procedure with Janelle Clark and inform all interested parties.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

The next meeting will be 14th December, 2015, Mike Sheridan Room, V & A Hall, 7-9pm