



BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)

www.ballaterandcrathie.org.uk

Minutes of a Meeting held on 9th May 2016 at 7pm
Beaton Craigie Room, Victoria & Albert Halls, Ballater

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

FD will arrange a get well message to be sent to Phil Swan.

2. Emergency services

There was no report from police in time. FD had apprehended 4 men acting suspiciously at his property and urged members of the community to be alert. PD asked CKF to contact the lighting department of Aberdeenshire Council to ensure that street lighting in the lower part of the village was repaired as residents were returning to flooded properties and many properties had taken delivery of new equipment prior to reinstatement.

3. Minutes of March's meeting were approved. Minutes of April's meeting were approved.

DH asked that draft minutes of the Community Council be sent to Gillian Sinclair at BRD.

4. Matters arising from April's meeting

WJ had not contacted David Smith Contractors as Cllr Geva Blackett had e-mailed to confirm that the loose stone at Abergeldie would be used by the contractor. PD reported that the Post Office in the Co-op now had a dedicated employee, Mon to Fri, 9am to 2pm. A letter had been received from Linda Bonar and would be responded to after the situation appeared to be settled down after the present changes.

5. Reports

BRD: DH reported that the touring section of the caravan park would open in the middle of May, following a tremendous amount of hard work, thanking Gordon Bruce in particular for his

efforts. There have been bookings. **CKF** and **PD** had spoken to several former static caravan owners who were keen to return should the opportunity arise. **FD** suggested that static caravan owners should contact Paul Hendy at the Scottish Flood Forum in order to discuss future insurance issues. **IL** complimented the achievements at the caravan park and expressed the good wishes of the Community Council for the future season.

CKF will update BRD at their next meeting with regard to the potential funding of the Monaltrie Park toilet refurbishment.

FD has completed the listed building application for the defibrillator on the Victoria Hall.

Aberdeenshire Council

JA raised the issue of the landscaping at Crathie. **CKF** will ask Ian Welsh to update the Community Council with the plans, plant selection and safety concerns for the Crathie School children, who cannot use the White Bridge at the moment, as well as the final cost of the project. No replies have come and both officials went on holiday and there seems no trace of any previous discussions on file.

The White Bridge at Aspenholme will remain closed - repairs have been estimated at £200,000.

JA asked about the condition of the Church Green especially under the trees. **CKF** confirmed that Aberdeenshire Council will carry out remedial work on the Church Green, particularly the edges. Bollards had been suggested to protect the edges but it was important to retain access to the Green for various events.

IL commented on the debris and sand on the Loch Muick road and asked if it would be possible for **CKF** to ask Aberdeenshire Council to sweep this road?

CKF confirmed that Aberdeenshire Council did not intend to reinstate the Cock's Neck Road leading the bridge over the River Muick at Mill of Sterin.

PD asked **CKF** to query the delay on the installation of a barrier on the South Deeside road between the Ballater Bridge and Bridge of Muick on the riverside.

CKF reported that the open-top bus would not operate up Glen Muick, but that the bus service to Blairgowrie would operate during the summer, starting on 4th July.

CKF had been working with Reverend Barr to organise a street party on the Church Green to celebrate the Queen's official birthday on 11th June with the erection of a screen to provide coverage of the birthday celebrations.

CNPA

CKF will pass on the concerns of **JA** regarding the lack of conservation of the aspen trees at Aspenholme. **IL** reported that he had attended a luncheon hosted by CNPA where a concerted request had been made to the Authority to give more publicity and attention to the southern end of the park. It seemed that the CNPA concentrated its attention north of the Lecht.

Ballater Resilience Plan

John Bolton gave an interim report. With the assistance of Mike Forbes, who has 20 plus years of experience in oil crisis management, he had taken the generic model used by councils and had identified key tasks, personnel and strategy required for Ballater. The plan should be finalised by June, following a series of table-top exercises with Police, Fire Brigade and Aberdeenshire Council to fully test the plan. It is hoped that Aberdeenshire Council would

adopt the plan in order to ensure future monitoring and funding. John Bolton was concerned that the finance required for equipment such as hi-vis jackets, phone lines, stationery, had proved very difficult to source.

Ballater Flood Group

There will be a public presentation on Friday 13th May at 7p.m. in the Victoria Hall of the interim draft report, including the report produced by Douglas Johnstone, an Edinburgh-based hydrologist specialising in the alleviation of flooding in Scottish rivers. **TC** feels that there is a lack of urgency on the part of Aberdeenshire Council and SEPA to deal with the short-term threat of flood, in particular as the river, in its current state, does not appear to have the capacity to hold a spate. Shingle deposits have increased. The report by Douglas Johnstone suggests the removal of stone out of the river to lower its level, this taking place from about 2.5km above Sluivannachie and down to the sewage works. **WJ** questioned what effect this might have on properties on the south side of the river, as well as further downstream.

CKF reported that Aberdeenshire Council issued a Flood Management Strategy in November 2015 before the events of 30th December and Ballater was not included in them. However, Ballater is now included and a Flood Management Strategy Assessment will begin to cover the period 2016-2022. The Bund surrounding the Golf Course will be returned to its original Aberdeenshire Council planning specification.

JB reported that SEPA had financed an aerial examination of the river to assess and analyse its current status.

6. Community Council Elections for 2016

The CC elections will take place on Thursday 16th June. The closing date for nominations is 12th May and withdrawal of nominations must be made by 19th May. There are 10 vacancies for Ballater and 2 for Crathie. Should there be more than 10 and 2 applications respectively, an advert advising the nominated candidates, the times and places of the election will appear on 27th May. **CKF** will collect the ballot boxes and printed lists from Alford should there be elections.

7. Planning Matters

An application from Glenmuick Estate to put in a hydroelectric scheme on the Braichlie Burn has been called in by CNPA.

A planning application had been made for the installation of a track from the green bridge at Glen Fenzie to Morven in order to extract timber. There is some concern at the removal of forestry from this site and possible effects of heavier effects of intrusion.

There was no objection to the grant of a liquor licence to the Riverside Café at Cambus o' May.

8. Correspondence, as above from Linda Bonar on the Co-operative and Post Office

9. Finance

The bill had been received and settled for the hire of the halls for the Community Council flood meetings. A donation of £50 would be made to the Film Club to thank Ade Scripps for providing sound.

PD asked **CKF** to check why the community council had received less funding. This is usually determined by the number of people on the electoral roll.

10. AOCB

CKF reported that Sheridan Place will be officially opened by Ross Donald on Wednesday 17th August.

JA queried the plan of the exterior of the Old Royal Station showing the planting of trees which suggests a reduction in car-parking capacity, the lack of bicycle racks and any Natural History Section in the museum section and exhibitions. **IL** reported that a 3-d model of the exterior and interior of the Old Station are now available for people to look at.[Comments might have to be made to be made by Saturday 21st .? JA]

WJ asked when the restoration of Tullich Church might be completed but **CKF** replied that no funding was currently available and was due to the unsafe condition of the masonry, so the scaffolding would remain in position. **FD** asked **CKF** to check that footpaths in the new section of the Tullich graveyard would be suitable for wheelchair users.

RS asked if the pot-holes on the South Deeside Road on the Dallyfour stretch might be fixed as they narrowed the road. **CKF** would speak to Ralph Singleton.

RS asked for confirmation from Stagecoach that the Blairgowrie service would be accessible for wheelchair users. **CKF** replied that Aberdeenshire Council had been keen to ensure that the service would be accessible to cyclists and wheelchair users, but she would check with Stagecoach. [She has now done so and was assured that the 'bus has accommodation for both wheel-chairs and bicycles, but it is not clear if there will be help with loading.]

RS also asked **DH** to verify that the disabled access toilet at the refurbished block in the car-park had been upgraded.

PD reported that a number of council house tenants who had been flooded out of their properties were concerned that they had been given potential return dates in 2017. **CKF** would investigate.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

The next meeting will be 13th June 2016, Albert Hall, 7-9pm.