

# BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)

ballaterandcrathie.org.uk

Minutes of a Meeting held on 11th July, 2016, at 7pm in Mike Sheridan Room  
Victoria & Albert Hall

<b>Present:</b> Francis Duguid (FD) - Chair James Anderson (WJ) - Vice Chair Jane Angus (JA) - Secretary Iain Latta (IL) Pat Downie (PD) Wendy Miller (WM) Bill Cruickshank (BC) Fiona Presslie-Williamson (FPW) Anne Reid (AR) Cllr Katrina Farquhar(CKF)	<b>Also present:</b> PC Stuart Archer - Police Scotland Phil Swan Alistair Cassie Ken Wilkie Tony Cox - Ballater Flood Group (TC) Alex Burnett MSP (CAB) Jack Coull - BRD (JC) John Bolton - Flood Resilience Plan (JB) Ruth Sim (RS) Faye Swan (FS)
<b>Apologies</b> Cllr Geva Blackett Joanne Croll	

## 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

## 2. Election of office bearers

Chairman - James Anderson (WJ) proposed FD: seconded AR:

Vice Chairman - Francis Duguid (FD) proposed WJ: seconded PD:

Secretary - Anne Reid (AR) proposed FWP: seconded WJ:

Planning - TBC

Treasurer - Pat Downie (PD) proposed WJ: seconded WM:

## 3. Emergency services: Constable Stuart Archer

PC Archer reported that crime levels remain fairly low in the area.

He advised the public to be particularly vigilant in locking cars and property and to ensure that keys were stored securely as thefts are being made by opportunists from outwith the area. PC Archer also mentioned Operation Zenith, it is ongoing throughout the summer months and is acting as a good deterrent for motorcyclists.

**FPW** reported that locals are concerned about the increasing drug problem in Ballater. PC Archer said he wasn't aware of it having escalated recently and being any worse than anywhere else. However, they can only act upon specific information being given to them and then they can follow it up.

**AR** reported lorries and cars speeding on Braemar Road early mornings and evenings. **FPW** also added motorcycles speeding on Braemar Road. PC Archer said that a temporary mobile monitor can be set up to ascertain volume of offenders and speeds. The mobile camera van is currently being used elsewhere but if there is evidence it is needed on Braemar Road we can get it when it becomes available.

**JB** reported youths making a temporary campsite on the south side of the river in a field on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Taking various cars into the field, starting a campfire and leaving a mess when leaving on Saturday. The owner of the field will be notified - Glenmuick Estate.

**PS** asked that a drug awareness day could be set up in Ballater to give people an understanding of the whole concept/problem.

**RS** reported the frequency of the disabled space outside the Coop being used repeatedly by non blue badge holders. **PC Archer** said Police Scotland are able to issue tickets to the offenders if they are present when it occurs.

### **3. Minutes of June's meeting**

**JA** has received a letter from the police on the safety of the landscaping project at Crathie school. The police have made a visit and have not found a problem, the council do not have to include community councils on planting issues currently

**JA** did not find this satisfactory. **WJ** has suggested that Crathie school can monitor the situation and report back should anything arise.

Minutes were then approved.

### **4. Matters arising from June's meeting**

**WJ** gave a progress report about Abergeldie castle - shoring up project. An otter survey needs to be carried out by John Gordon before any re-instatement can be carried out.

**IL** enquired on progress with regards to the reinstatement of the Pictish stones at Tullich.

**KCF** said If they were to stay at Tullich they need to be fully enclosed to preserve them as they are the fourth most important collection in Scotland. They are currently in storage in a facility in Mintlaw and will be moved to the museum at the Station when rebuild is complete if safety is improved and money is available.

### **5. Reports**

#### **BRD**

**JC** reported the campsite has been very busy with tourers but that part of the site has never made any money unfortunately. **RS** asked if the disabled facilities at the main toilet block were complete. She has heard they are not complete but **JC** has been away for a few weeks and was unsure but will look into the matter.

**KW** enquired about the poor signage for the Caravan park. Tourers are doing 3 point turns at the golf club as they miss the sign. Sat Nav are taking them down Deebank Road which is not suitable. **WM** suggested a sign saying to turn Sat Nav off - it has proved efficient and popular elsewhere. The sign on Victoria Road is misleading. **CKF** will speak to the roads department about the problem.

**JC** reported that the planning application and building warrant have been sought for the station reinstatement/rebuild and that the tender process has started albeit slowly. **CKF** will look into it to try and speed up the process.

#### **Halls Update**

##### **Defibrillator units.**

The guarantee has expired on them. 2 planning applications have to be submitted for them. **FD** has done this but was unable to comment as he had to excuse himself from the meeting early due to family commitments

**Aberdeenshire Council**

**IL** asked if the waste collection was going to be changed to a 3 week cycle. **CKF** reported that the current system is working and there are no plans to change it.

**CKF** will look into the council house gardens upkeep, this has not been happening on Deebank Road & Sheridan Place.

**WJ** queried the grass being cut at Tullich graveyard. **CKF** has said it is still to be done.

**CKF** will follow up on the uneven kerbs on Bridge Street by Bean for Coffee and Catherine Huntly. There have been 2 falls in the past week. Jack Clements reported to the council on Monday morning.

**JC** mentioned there are weeds at the east side of the church. He is led to believe the council own this property. **CKF** will investigate further.

**WJ/IL** concerned about the remaining sandbags at the tennis courts. **CKF** told us they will remain until the bund has been reinstated, although they have deteriorated so much they are of no use now as flood protection.

**IL** queried the road to Glen Muick is very untidy/unkempt. **CKF** thought the issue had been dealt with already.

**FWP** queried the signage at the Cocks Neck and Polhollick bridge. A sandbag has been put at the end of the road but this is not a deterrent for cyclists or runners. Better signage is required.

**WJ** noted that the trees need cutting back at Pannanich and there are holes on the Old Line path.

**WM** noted that residents from council houses have been complaining that when their houses are reinstated electric storage heating is going in instead of oil as they had before. **CKF** has been informed that this new storage heating system is superior/ more efficient and cheaper than the oil heating. As the residents are unhappy **CKF** has suggested getting a housing rep to the next meeting to answer all questions.

**WM/AR/FWP** There is an escalating problem with lack of dog waste bins and with dog owners not picking up waste. This is a problem of a grand scale at Dundarroch Road. Could CCTV be installed to catch the perpetrators? Bins are needed on the Cinder path and Cambus 'O' May. Replacement bins are required at the Caravan Park, Anderson Road and Sluivannichie.

**RS** voiced concern that there are no dropped kerbs at the Coop. She takes an invalid friend twice weekly shopping and with walking sticks and a shopping trolley it is almost impossible to get off the kerb and across the road. **RS** said the council refused to install dropped kerbs. Also, there is not enough disabled parking - one opposite the Coop and a further 2 that are too far away for anyone with a disability. The one in particular opposite the Coop sees more able bodied parked in it than anyone else. **CKF** to investigate further.

*For Information - the manager of the Coop helped with the shopping last week and their policy is that anyone wishing assistance with their shopping will receive it.*

**CKF** highlighted the importance of the CNPA Partnership Plan which is the 5 year plan for the Cairngorm National Park. It is called the big 9 as it covers 9 topics: 1 Landscape Scale Conservation - 2 Deer and Moorland Management - 3 Flood Management - 4 Visitor Infrastructure & Information - 5 Active Cairngorms - 6 Learning and Inclusion - 7 Housing - 8 Community Capacity & Empowerment - 9 Economic Development.

more details can be found on: <http://cairngorms.co.uk/working-partnership/consultations/thebig9/>. How can we encourage more visitors?

How can we help in Rural development? Housing? The deadline for submission is Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 2016. **TC** enquired if there was a specific development plan for BCCC submitting a plan, **CKF** answered there is no specific development plan.

### **Ballater & Crathie Resilience Plan**

**JB** reported the resilience plan has been accepted by BCCC, and has been submitted to Janelle Clark of Marr Area, Colin Grey, Emergency Planner ABCO, Steve Robertson, Police Scotland and Colin Westwood, Ballater Fire Station. Foundation Scotland accepted the application for money and a grant has been received by BCCC and passed to **JB** for use on furthering the development of the plan.

Ordnance Survey are making up maps of the area free of charge. Beaton Craigie room which will be used in the event of another disaster will also be free of charge. Getting details of all Ballater residents is proving to be very difficult due to Data Protection. A list of all people is needed especially those most vulnerable who would need assistance and/or reassurance first. Willie Meston ( one of the trustees) to be contacted in relation to residents in Patterson Cottages.

**WM** has suggested forms at the doctor's surgery so residents can offer their information freely.

There will be an open day at the halls on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016 to try and recruit volunteers/marshals who would potentially help in the event of another disaster.

**WM** has suggested contacting Deeside Piper/P&J/STV to recruit volunteers.

**TC** has suggested that the two groups (Ballater Flood Group & Ballater Resilience Group) have a joint venture presentation/public seminar date TBC (within 3 weeks).

Crathie are setting up their own resilience plan.

### **Ballater Flood Group**

**TC** reported that the flood team and SEPA are now in agreement and are able to make a single decision. The Aug 11<sup>th</sup> 2014 datum shows the spate flooding was at its highest for 40 years. SEPA is in agreement that (Bastion) HESCO's should be installed between Sluivannichie and beyond the Royal bridge. Amount required undecided as yet. Cross area checks need to be carried out. The golf club bund is to be reinstated but it means the Hydro need to turn power off, date still TBC. Stone removal from the river has been halted as a certificate is required. A height gauge at the Royal bridge has been suggested with a webcam to monitor height. Philip McKay from the AC flood team is in agreement as are SEPA but Alistair Cassie said this has been tried and it wasn't accurate. It was proposed **PD** & **CKF** a second gauge be installed higher up the river to give people earlier warning of potential flooding.

*For Information Only - A gauge being installed on the Cluny Burn*

It would appear that flood prevention is a landowner matter and not a council matter, where the duty of care lies, if there are council properties and schools on the land.

There will be an open discussion held on prevention of flooding for individuals date TBC (within 3 weeks).

Alan Monk can be contacted on either 07908 757189 or calling Stonehaven Flood Team 01569 762001 - he is on the flood prevention team.

## **7. Planning Matters**

To be circulated once a week. Any comments to be sent to secretary **AR** to discuss/agree. Otherwise individuals should send in their own opinions

3 Netherley Place change of use from shop (class 1) to food and drink (class 3)

**FPW** voiced concerns wrt other establishments in the village already providing this service.

**WJ/PD/IL/WM** reported that residents are pleased about a forthcoming food and drink establishment and there has been positive feedback and that if prices are high at the new establishment the other cafes will benefit.

(No further action to be taken).

### **MSP - Post Office Issues**

**CAB** reported he had had a good response from the senior person at the Head Office in Edinburgh. The head office had been given a list of potential premises including the bus depot that they were looking at. **CKF** was given the credit for doing all the leg work.

The current situation is that they are still doing their handover in Aboyne.

**CKF** went to Altens to see for herself how the system works. The Ballater postmen still have to sort the parcels and special delivery letters themselves. The letters themselves are not being sorted properly in accordance with previous walks. The number of postmen has now gone from 7 to 3.

**WJ** is still receiving complaints about late mail.

**PD** complimented the postmen on the service they provide for us even in difficult times -we were all in agreement about the sterling job they do.

**CKF** will report her finding over the past 2 days to Julie Peroni. Another public meeting is to be held within the next 2 weeks, the Royal Mail representatives are committed to attend another meeting.

## **8. Correspondence**

**WJ** has received an email wrt a new business moving to the village who has concerns about flooding. The email came in too late to be dealt with at this meeting and will be discussed at September's meeting.

**JA** has written to the Royal Mail wrt to late mail, lack of postmen etc to the meeting reps but has had no reponse as yet.

**IL** reported the possible use of bus garage for postal hand over.

## **9. Finance**

No report

## **10. AOCB**

**JA** email from Police Scotland. The police are no longer able to provide support for delivery/deployment or retrieval of cones for 'no waiting'. Some local authorities can provide this service but for small community events the event organisers are to include this in their planning - implementation of cones provided by local authority.

**IL** concerned about who is maintaining the flower pots attached to lamp posts at bottom end of the village. Jim Clark RHS to be contacted.

**JA** received an email from Val Norton of Ballater Victoria Week. They would be grateful for box office relief during Victoria Week. Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact Val on:

[valnorton@gmail.com](mailto:valnorton@gmail.com) or [valvictoriaweek.com](http://valvictoriaweek.com)

**JA** reported that Cairngorm Leader papers (rural development programs) are available as handouts. If you are interested **AR** now has the information

**WJ** asked if there was interest in the Community Council learning on 20<sup>th</sup> August in Banchory. Nobody was available. There is an online version available for those who cannot attend under the Aberdeenshire council website/Marr area.

PD had a letter from John Burrows looking for volunteers within BCCC who could possibly assist with form filling/funding available for ventures etc. Pat will send letter on for info to BCCC

**JA** ABCO general planning meetings are held at the Lecht. **JA** will continue to attend these meeting as no one else is available.

The next meeting for Cairngorms Association to be on Sept 13<sup>th</sup> at the Lecht.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

The first meeting of the newly elected Council will be 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2016, Mike Sheridan Room, 7-9pm.