**BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)**

**ballaterandcrathie.org.uk**

Minutes of a Meeting held on 9th April, 2018, at 7pm in Mike Sheridan Room

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| **Present:**  James Anderson (WJ) – Chair  Jane Angus (JA)  Joanne Croll (JC)  Iain Latta (IL)  Fiona Presslie (FP)  Pat Downie (PD)  Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB)  **Apologies**  Cllr Peter Argylle  Cllr Paul Gibb (CPG)  Anne Reid  Francis Duguid  Wendy Miller  Linda Drever | **Also present:**  Allan Harrison – BBA/BRD/BCE  Members of the public |

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**
2. **Matters Arising from Last Meeting:**

* CGB informed meeting of response from School re. food outside school kitchen indicating no issue that they are aware of.
* CGB informed meeting of response re. training, no formal training to be provided although a handbook will be issued. Agreed to revisit after election
* CGB/WJ provided update on repair to Bridge of Gairn.
* CGB confirmed funds approved for study to look at alternative options.
* WJ provided an update on Snow Gates – A number of incidents on A939. WJ/GVB to meet with police/Invercauld
* Minutes Approved

**3.Emergency services:**

* Report received from police,

**4.Reports:**

BRD/BBS/BCE - AH

* Caravan park – opened last Friday
* Look at refreshing the website
* New bus to be leased, delivery 3-4 months
* BRD provided a grant to Lorraine Barr who is setting up IT training course
* Paths & Bridges – report issued, Polhollock work to hopefully finish October 2018.
* BBA – Royal Lochnagar Distillery has designed whiskey cocktails for promotion in the village.
* Looking at getting some ‘Ballater Welcomes …’ Banners
* Discussion on electric car charging points – who maintains and look into location. ACTION: WJ to raise work associated charging points with Martin Hall

Aberdeenshire Council - CGB

* Invercauld bridge to be closed 4 weekends in June 2019,
* Ballater Bridge requires 12 weeks work, 7.5t weight limit, work to start Mid-July. Bridge will be shut for 2 weeks, 1 at beginning, 1 at end.
* Car Parking – Meeting with Belinda Miller (Head of Economic Development) & Martin Hall to discuss additional parking options scheduled for following week.
* CNPA – Old School Redevelopment likely to be on agenda for May CNPA meeting. Previous delay due to Roads Dept feedback.

Aberdeenshire Council – CPG

Stagecoach

Issue relating to a passenger buying a fare to Ballater but being dropped off in Aboyne where the service terminated. Awaiting further details.

Tyres at back of chip shop; concern over growing hazard

I received a follow up email from Bob Thomson [Planning Enforcement Officer]. He advises a site visit has now been carried out at the premises and it is the view of the Planning Enforcement Senior Planner that the collection of tyres, old vehicles etc at the rear of the premises is not a planning matter. It is if anything waste, although a good number of the tyres are new and unused.

He provides the following link:

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/scotland-tightens-waste-tyre-licensing-rules/>

which he advises provides some information regarding waste tyres and relatively new legislation changes in 2016. He says it was hard to estimate the number of tyres on the site, to see if this would exceed thresholds, but in any case this would be for SEPA to consider as it is their sphere of responsibility. He adds they may have issued and exemption, but as it stands there are no breaches of Planning Control, and the complaint file has been closed.

Planning for Power on the Green

Ian Peacock [Roads Engineer] advised he has spoken with SSE this morning [Friday 6th] and the works to install and connect the cabinet are planned to be carried out on Tuesday 24th of April, weather permitting. Ian has been keeping in contact with John Burrows, Ian is hoping to meet John on site the week beforehand to mark out the exact position of the pillar.

Fence on Braemar Road

I have sent a reminder to Janelle and asked if there were funding within the station funding that the fence could be mended and given a coat of paint [so that it can complement the station in its newness – I am not advocating a change in colour].

Re-Location of Bus Stop in Ballater

Following a meeting on the 16th Feb we [Councillors] were promised plans of what an alternative solution might look like. I have not seen any plans yet and have asked for an update.

Pathway next to St Nathalans

I spoke to the golf club secretary and they advised that they don’t own the path. I have asked Ken Regan if he could follow up with Estates to check if it is in council ownership or not.

When speaking to the club secretary, he mentioned a sign had been put up to direct walkers towards the golf course, he agrees there is a right of way along the old line road, but it appears when walkers emerge from the pathway [next to St Nathalans] they then wander onto the golf course. Perhaps a discussion with the golf club and maybe an additional sign might better direct walkers who are not familiar with the area.

Bus stop on Tullich Rd at junction of Craigview Rd

I received an update from Blair Keen [Senior Transport Officer]. He advises the consultation feedback was all positive from both Community and Ward Members. He has raised the necessary works order with the local roads team. Unfortunately, the works have been delayed due to the recent bad weather. The Roads Engineer dealing with this is currently on leave but is due to return next week. As soon as Blair receives new scheduled completion date he will be back in touch.

Trees on Richmond Place

I have requested an update from Ken Regan at Landscape Services.

Crowning of the trees on the church green

I have asked Ken Regan and Neil West at Landscape Services look at the trees on the church green and respond to confirm if the work is appropriate and if so when they might be able to schedule the work.

Polhollick Bridge

As shared last week.

The provisional indicative timetable that the council are currently working towards is as follows;

1. Formal Listed Building Application to be prepared and submitted by end of April 2018;
2. Expected period to discuss, amend if necessary and receive all necessary approvals - estimated two months (May and June 2018);
3. Works costing and award of contract - ongoing to end of June 2018;
4. Final method statements for necessary approvals and lead in time before start of work on site – estimated one month (July 2018);
5. Start on site around end of July 2018;
6. Work complete by middle of October 2018.

Pre-works period indicated supposes all necessary approvals will be received in good time. Works period will be weather dependent and on any additional modifications to Works Plan required as deck straightening operations proceed.

Dee Bridge/Ballater Bridge

Budget agreed for major refurbishment of the Dee Bridge. Repointing of the masonry as part of continued long-term maintenance. This is planned for the 2018-19 year and there will be a traffic light system in place during the refurbishment. Donald MacPherson advises they are currently finalising provisional dates for carrying out the Works and the traffic management necessary for the Works to proceed and he will pass on when available.

CAP - FP

Draft action plan issued to stakeholders. Open Meeting on 19th to seek more general feedback. Meeting with Invercauld Factor on the 12th. Introduced the requirement to form a town team to be referred to as Community Action Team; 7-11 members to report into BCCC and will manage progress of the Action Plan, procedure to appoint this team to be discussed at the meeting on the 19th.

Halls – IL

Belle standing down from committee. Discussion re. trustees and how to move forward. Ed Bushnell elected as interim Chair.

ACTION: Letter of thanks to Belle.

**5. Planning Matters –**

Old School

IL was asked to clarify the email regarding 20 supporters of the application. There appears to have been some confusion and was unable to confirm if any firm support. No one present was aware of any supporters of the development as currently designed. All supportive of a redevelopment and recognise the requirement for affordable housing

G. Gray raised alternative options based on 12-14 properties. Suggested that BCCC raise when speaking at the CNPA meeting. Quick discussion regarding the logistics of the CNPA meeting.

Treehouse application.

Mixed views regarding the email received. Recognise the potential impact on other businesses on other hand support the redevelopment of the building. Agreed that no objection to be made.

**6. Correspondence –** NTR

**7. Finance –** Funding of £507.53 to be received from Aberdeenshire Council

**8. AOCB**

JA - Raised issue of Potholes & snow clearing. CGB indicated that Snow Wardens being looked into. CGB emailed Roads re. potholes. JC/PD raised lack of installation of grit bins. ACTION: AR to send email to CGB

IL – Red Cross Flood meeting, not much new information shared. SEPA/SSE/Aberdeenshire Council attended. Appear to have better response plans in place. Meeting recognized positive work done at camp site post floods.

JC – Station update. Main Build finished end May. Soft opening end July, official opening in September. Pictures have come down; Alistair Cassie has list of images and copyright. There will be an audiovisual display and the Tulloch stones will be displayed. Not much other space for displays. It was suggested that other locales discussed. Site buildings and equipment will be cleared away over next few weeks.

PD – Organisations using toilets should give donation. WJ suggested £200 donation. ACTION: CGB to raise with Area Manager to request funds when park is booked.

WJ – A complaint was raised at SNP meeting about councilor attendance. Letter sent to Geva.

WJ - New Scheme of establishment and elections ACTION: Special meeting to discuss constitution.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

The next meeting will be 14th May. 2018 Beaton Craigie Room, Ballater. 7-9pm.