

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)

ballaterandcrathie.org.uk

Minutes of Meeting held on 13th November, 2018, at 7pm in Mike Sheridan Room

<p>Present: Fiona Presslie (FP) - Dep Chair Jane Angus (JA) Iain Latta (IL) Pat Downie (PD) Francis Duguid (FD) Joanne Croll (JC) William Braid (WB) Lewis Macdonald (LM) Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB) Cllr Paul Gibb (CPG)</p> <p>Apologies Anne Reid (AR) - Sec Emma Stewart (ES) James Anderson (WJ) - Chair</p>	<p>Also present: Members of the public</p>
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1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

2. Emergency services:

Sgt Stephen Robertson has moved on to Aberdeen and replaced by Sgt Keith Greig
Report received from police -

October 2018 saw a relatively low number of anti-social reports being received by Police.

Crimes such as housebreaking and thefts remain very low in the Upper Deeside area.

Following the theft at the bike shop in Ballater, a number of males have now been charged in respect of this crime and have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Reports of speeding motorists continue to be received at various locations in the Upper Deeside area.

The snow road signage for the B976 is in the process of being replaced with newer and more obvious ones being utilised.

Wildlife crime remains very low.

As the summer months have come to an end, so has the busy schedule of shows, games and festivals across Deeside and we are pleased to report that all have passed without incident.

Issues surrounding phones scams continue to feature both locally and nationally.

3. Matters Arising from Last Meeting:

Minutes approved

Reviewed and updated Action Tracker

4. AOCB - Ballater Old School

It was decided to jump straight to this matter of urgency as many members of the public were present purely because of this matter.

Following the Reporters decision to grant approval for planning further to GHA's appeal, a discussion was held in the room to decide the next steps.

After lengthy discussion it was concluded time was of the essence and that the residents were left with no alternative but to pursue a judicial review as soon as possible. The matter of alternative plans that had been made available to the public by Ian Roger Architects at the Halls open Day was discussed. Concern was raised that as these plans have not been officially submitted, therefore GHA would have very little incentive to even consider submitting them.

It was agreed that the CC would request an emergency meeting ASAP with GHA to advise that the residents intend to pursue a Judicial review, discuss their position and if there were any alternative ways forward. Request from the floor that contact should be made at a higher level than Craig Stirrat and CGB suggested the chair of GHA. CGB recommended CC to express disappointment that at no point in time did Craig Stirrat discuss any alternatives before pursuing an appeal.

CGB to provide contact details, AR to action.

It was agreed that the residents would investigate action with regards a judicial review. Residents are aware that this will be costly. Gavin Gray advised Stronachs have indicated it could cost £4-£5K to get this moving initially with further costs if the judicial review is pursued. The residents agreed that somehow they will find the funds between them and will also look into Crowd funding.

CGB urged everyone present to also write collectively and as individuals to James Dornan, MSP (james.dornan.msp@parliament.scot) who is chair of the Conveners committee currently reviewing the planning bill, expressing concern at how a planning committee following a site visit and the community unanimously objected to a planning application and yet the Reporter can overturn this at the stroke of a pen, urging a change in the Bill to prevent this happening again.

james.dornan.msp@parliament.scot

CPG to investigate if the sale has actually completed & if there has been a breach of condition of school use. **CPG**

The residents retired to another room to continue their discussions to allow the CC meeting to continue with other business.

5. Reports:

BRD & BCE- WB

Nothing to report

AbCO - CGB - report provided

Aberdeenshire LDP

Recommended that all read and comment on the Aberdeenshire LDP as it will also affect us. Will give us the heads up when it's available.

China Visit

Very successful visit to China with regards to developing agreements between CNPA & Geopark. There are 83,000 Chinese students in the UK. Plans to encourage organised tours/a day in the Park.

Snow signs at Crathie and webcams

Unfortunately it is not possible to get snow gates. Suggested webcams pointing at signs would be next best alternative. CGB has identified £3.5k funding for Strathdon side but we will need more to cover Crathie end. Discussed and agreed that CC should contact 4 main businesses in this area to seek further sponsorship.

Gordon Riddler asked CGB to look into the signage for the snow road at Gairn Sheil points to Crathie, not Gairnside. **CGB to investigate.**

Free Festive Lunch in Aboyne, Crathie & Strathdon

Planned for 28th December, for anyone who wants to come along, communities joined together.

Gathering many donations of food items from Estates and Tesco.

Aboyne - have Cubs and Scouts volunteering with cooking and clearing up.

Crathie help is coming together and hopefully Strathdon will do so shortly too.

Intention to use BRD minibus to provide transport if they can find a driver.

Post Office at the Co-op

See report for response from Customer Services. Local Manager would like to attend our December meeting to discuss further.

Car Park at Swann Place.

Unfortunately the application to the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund was not successful. However, we have been advised we have until Mid Jan 2019 to gather evidence and re-submit. Urging all to gather photographs and complaints WRT lack of parking.

AbCO - CPG - report provided

Grit Bins

AR & CPG met with Ralph Newlands - advised best way to obtain grit bins is to register as a Snow Warden. We can do this individually and we are covered by their insurance. If CC were to do this as a group then the insurance would be £5Million, therefore suggested we do this individually. Action - to discuss volunteers and locations at next CC meeting.

New revised "trial" policy document to determine grit bins requirements. Following up with the policy team [Bill Lennox and Keith Milne] to get a better understanding.

Access at Crathie Kirk

Update from Angela Funk [Principal Roads Engineer] advised drafted letter & following approval CPG to deliver.

Crathie Primary School

Janelle Clark advised pupils only qualify for free transport to school if they live over 2 miles from a primary or over 3 miles from an academy. May be an option for parents to pay for their child to access transport if they do not qualify as above if there's space.

Action ES to contact parents and forward link to the website which provides further information on this option is:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel//school-transport/school-transport/>

CPG can provide further assistance if required.

Disturbance at Nicol Court

Paulene McEwan [Team Leader (Tenancy Services)] regarding Nicol Court: dogs making noise, house parties and window[s] smashed. Paulene advised she will discuss this with the Housing Officer for the area and they will have a discussion with tenant regarding these concerns.

Old Station Place

Paulene McEwan [Team Leader (Tenancy Services)] regarding untidy garden at Old Station Place. Housing Officer has contacted tenant regarding leaving bins on the street. Garden has been tidied & will be monitored. The van was parked in the driveway and therefore is not causing obstruction or illegally parked.

Craiglea, Victoria Road, Ballater

Janelle confirmed HMO license required if there are 3+ people staying at a property who are not the same family. Any complaints will be investigated if the person emails details to the following address: hmo@aberdeenshire.gov.uk **PD to forward**

Stagecoach North Scotland

Following Bus forum meeting minutes, regarding enquiry on student fares, Daniel Laird [Commercial Director] advised:

In Aberdeenshire we offer Unirider products for Aberdeen Zones 1, 2, 3 and an "All Bluebird" product, as well as some local products in the Buchan area. Students travelling from Aboyne would be able to use our Bluebird product, available as a 4-week, 13-week or Full Academic Year [Term] ticket.

Previously, we only offered Zones 1, 2 and Bluebird- we added Zone 3 this year following an analysis of where customers were travelling from with the Bluebird products. The Bluebird student products are priced as follows:

4 Week: £91.55

13 Week: £243.40

Term: £510.00

These products offer a significant saving vs. the equivalent Adult products for customers travelling from Aboyne/Ballater. Currently, all these products can be purchased direct from our website.

I shared this with the BCCC last week, however if there is any comment please feel free to contact Daniel Laird directly: Daniel.Laird@stagecoachbus.com

Flood Defense Report and Community Engagement

Alistair Scotland [Civil Engineer (Consultant)] (covering for Lee Watson - on leave) advised initial report met with much scrutiny at the first stakeholders meeting [SEPA, RPS, ABCO]. SEPA had much comment to make resulting in significant changes to the first draft. Second report being prepared taking into account many of the points SEPA have raised, and Alistair and the team are currently reviewing documents and drawings. A second Stakeholder meeting is planned [it is hoped that this will be before Christmas], with the resulting public consultation early in the New Year.

Compost Bins at Crathie

Andrew Sheridan advised that compost bins can be bought for a discount by individuals. Possibly not the answer that residents are looking for. CPG will talk to Cromar Community Council who has a community composting scheme for more information.

CAP - FP

Sub-groups are being formed and already progressing actions. Next CAT meeting on 19/11/18, further update will be available at next CC meeting.

Halls - Gordon Riddler

Lots going on. Looking at fundraising for heating improvements.

Had a meeting with the Princes Trust. Comments on improvements to the exterior signage of the halls. Downpipe to be replaced with one more in keeping and AbCo will help with funds for new drain to be installed.

6. Planning Matters

No objections, comments

7. Correspondence -

NTR

8. Finance -

NTR

9. AOCB

Meeting Closed 20:56