

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)

www.ballaterandcrathiecommunitycouncil.com

Minutes of a Meeting held 9th December in Michael Sheridan Room at 7pm

Present:	Apologies	Also present:
James Anderson (WJ) - Chair	Jo Croll	Tony Cox (TC) - BFRG
Fiona Presslie - Secretary (FP)	William Braid	Allan Harris - BCE/BRD
Jane Angus (JA)	Emma Stewart (ES)	
Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer	Francis Duguid	
Richard Frimston (RF)	Cllr Paul Gibb (CPG)	
Lewis Macdonald (LMD)	Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB)	
Ian Latta (IL)	Cllr Peter Argyle (CPA)	
Lisa McMahan(LMM)		

1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

2 Emergency services

No report

3 Minutes of November's meeting were passed.

Action Tracker updated.

Although **WJ** had arranged to switch off water at Monaltrie Toilet Block, the pipes had frozen and burst. Estimated to cost £120 to repair, but still ongoing issues regarding ownership of the block.

Relocation of bus stop in Golf Road is subject to report by Jim Bowe to be submitted for a decision during financial period 2020-21.

WJ to contact Snow Roads to list public toilets as place of interest.

RF had met with Ian Hill from Invercauld Estate and Andrew Ferguson of SNH to discuss the removal of trees to open up the view at Craigendarroch. Also noted that rhododendrons are encroaching on the woodlands and that there was a lack of oak tree regeneration due to rabbits and deer. Proposed that an area might be fenced off to allow oak saplings to grow. Invercauld Estate delighted that BCCC is taking an interest in the woodlands and would appreciate any notification of trees requiring attention on their land. **WJ** suggested that **RF** should mention a large tree in the Deuchar pool requiring removal.

PD to contact **CPG** to request contact for Aberdeenshire Council regarding work being done on the village green.

WJ to follow up the Flood Action Plans of Aberdeenshire Council's Roads Dept and Waste Dept.

FP awaiting a response from Police Scotland with regard to parking issues on Bridge Street.

4 Changes to Constitution regarding meeting location

FP had spoken to Alison McLeod and there would be no objection to BCCC changing the frequency of meetings held in Crathie. It would be subject to a formal process, the first part of which has been completed by setting the matter on the agenda. **FP** will draft an amendment to the constitution to the effect that there will be 3 meetings per session in Crathie, subject to weather conditions and the agreement of the sitting BCCC - this will be sent to the Area Office for approval. Subject to Area Office approval, there will be a Special Meeting or AGM to agree on the amended constitution, for which 10 days' notice at least will be given to BCCC members and the public.

5 Reports

BRD/BCE NTR.

Aberdeenshire Council

WJ read from **CGB's** report that all three councillors will attend a meeting to discuss the issue of the Sunday service to Braemar which remains under threat. There is now funding in place for the replacement of the Gairnshiel Bridge. The A939 would be gritted as and when required while the A97 Migvie road remained closed. The Invercauld Bridge at Braemar will probably remain single file with traffic lights following repairs to it. **CGB** intends to invite Murray Ferguson of CNPA to attend village AGM to discuss the Smart Village Programme.

Work at the Old School is currently out to contract with Public Contract Scotland and Aberdeenshire Council hope to find a contractor to enable work to begin in February, weather permitting.

Ballater Flood Defence Group

WJ, **FP** and **TC** had attended the Infrastructure Services Committee meeting last week to present the BCCC's concerns with the proposed 3A flood defence plan favoured by the Council. However, their concerns were not taken on board, with the Committee voting in favour of 3A, on the basis it was preferable to vote on any plan, regardless of how poorly it represented the interests of the

community than to be seen to have voted against a flood defence plan, missed out on this round of potential funding with the possibility of flooding taking place in the interim, with possible disastrous effects and loss of life. In spite of **CPA's** assurances at the October meeting, the ISC were not prepared to look at the proposals put forward by **TC** which he believes might offer a better solution and at a lower cost. **TC** felt it might be possible to challenge the Council's decision on a technical basis and as a failure of process, as the Council had indeed consulted the community but had not listened. However, as it seems unlikely that plan 3A will receive funding when it goes to SEPA and central government, bearing in mind that there are 168 other applications for funding for flood defences and that officials of Aberdeenshire Council admit that plan 3A is terrible, then it would seem likely that no work on flood defences for Ballater would begin before 2034. **CPA** had urged **TC** and his group to continue their work on a solution to the risk of flooding in Ballater. In order to express the anger of the community at this result, **FP** will write to the ISC to request a meeting between councillors, council officials, council consultants and BCCC & Ballater Flood Defence Group in order to present to the community what the real future holds in terms of Flood Defence for the village.

CNPA NTR

Community Action Plan NTR

Halls NTR

Enhancement Group Lights now all working.

Paths

IL attended Council meeting regarding paths. Plans in place for the walk round the golf course and also improved signage to improve safety and accuracy of directions. A new walking brochure is to be prepared.

6 Planning Matters

RF reported that SSE have put forward applications to deal with a number of trees in the village and that an application has been made for an extension to Inver Croft, but no issues.

7 Correspondence NTR

8 Finance NTR

9 AOCB

PD was concerned about road closures and roadworks undertaken by Nicol of Skene on behalf of SSE in the village - all causing a great deal of disruption with little prior notification. **FP** to e-mail SSE to request notice of any future road closures planned so that BCCC might notify the village.

LMM was concerned about the lack of gritting on Craigendarroch Walk, Hawthorne Place and Station Square. There were no bins available for members of the public to grit problem areas and icy conditions were making it particularly dangerous for the elderly to get about. **FP** will email **CGB/CPG** to request more gritting.

WJ had been informed that one of the stones at Tullich is upside down.

PD reported that the visibility at the exit of the graveyard at Tullich is very poor with cars emerging well into the carriageway before being able to determine if the road is clear or not.

WJ had also received complaints about the parking system at the Station being confusing for both visitors and locals, in particular the section immediately in front of the cycle shop as the space to manoeuvre to get back out is quite limited.

JA will write to the Association of Cairngorm Villages for an update on their activities.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 13th January at 7pm in the Michael Sheridan Room.