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BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CCC)

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Minutes of a Meeting held on 12th Mar 2018, at 7pm in Mike Sheridan Room, Ballater

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| **Present:**  James Anderson (WJ) – Chair  Francis Duguid (FD)  Jane Angus (JA)  Joanne Croll (JC)  Pat Downie (PD)  Anne Reid (AR)  Wendy Miller (WM)  Fiona Presslie (FP)  Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB)  Iain Latta (IL)  **Apologies**  Cllr Paul Gibb (CPG)  Allan Harrison (AH) | **Also present:**  Jack Coull (JC)  Linda Drever (LD) |

**Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

1. **Matters Arising from Last Meeting:**

* Minutes approved
* Action Tracker:

1. **Emergency Services:**

* Report sent via email 5th March.

1. **Reports:**

BRD/BCE (JC) –

* Glenmuick Church – planning permission has been granted for the new disabled facilities at the side of the church. Half the money required has been collected for this project.
* BRD contacted re assistance with Playpark facilites and community garden scheme projects.
* New sites are being prepared with improved utility provision.
* Ballater Old Station project has been delayed due to bad weather. Ongoing controversy with Visit Scotland and copyrights.
* BRD have been granted a legacy of a cottage on Salisbury Road for someone in need ie social worker or nurse etc.
* Lorraine Barr will set up an IT course possibly in the Church Hall or Beaton Craigie Room called ‘Keep IT Simple’
* New bus has been leased and not purchased. Manual transmission, no powered lift but a ramp instead. It is a lighter and smaller vehicle and can be driven with a normal driving license.
* Tullich Stones, funding application had to be redone thus causing a delay. No definite design has been approved for the shelter.

AbCo (CGB) –

* Action Tracker Item 12 – individuals to speak directly to police if there are issues.
* The fence at Abergeldie Castle has now been approved.
* Gairnshiel Bridge **-** Paper coming to Marr Area Committee in 2 weeks detailing the work program and allocated budget for the Bridges team in 2018/19 and will include the budget for the design of a new bridge. Must be remembered that papers are officers’ suggestions until approved by councillors and only then do those suggestions become plans. There is still a way to go in the decision-making process before a new bridge is agreed. The bridge will have to be closed for two weeks at the end of April/beginning of May. Following a drive around all the signs leading to Gairnshiel Bridge it has been decided that new signs will be erected and will include signing HGVs along a specific route via Dinnet and Logie Coldstone.
* Snow Gates - Following representations from residents up the B976 (Crathie to Gairnshiel) re the number of cars getting stuck in snow, there was a site visit. Subsequently concern has been expressed by Invercauld estate that the keepers are having to dig people out. Must be remembered that the current signs are blue and thus advisory… Best progressed by B&CCC with support from local councillors as there are no lockable gates between Cockbridge and Braemar
* Temperature gauges - Following the One Show’s scientific explanation of why Braemar is so cold CGB has renewed calls to the council for a temperature gauge to be installed further up than Eastfield Farm.
* Car Parking – After a site visit with John Burrows (BRD) to look at whether the Swann Place car park might be suitable for a Community Asset Transfer request along with the bit of station that goes to the tunnel. It was agreed potentialy 60 cars could fit in there. BRD to discuss and then approach Aberdeenshire Council to see if they would consider. Given that car parking is not charged for, a good case might be made for taking it of the council’s hands and a partnership formed with private enterprise to find the funding to level and tarmac. Invercauld, Mar Lodge and Balmoral all charge for parking.
* Bus Stop - Ward councillors met with officers and a new proposal was put to them – officers are investigating and will report back.
* VisitAberdeenshire -Had a presentation from the new CEO last week and consequently have invited him out to learn about the Park part of the Shire. With Simon Blackett on the VA Board and CGB on the Aberdeen Airport Consultative Board and with CNPA responsibilities for tourism, both working hard to ensure the area is promoted.

CNPA (CGB) -

* Board meeting in Blair Athol Friday 16.03.18. Agenda includes agreeing the Corporate plan, the communications strategy and the budget. Main Issues consultation now finished so results should be through soon and then start work on the next LDP. The Old School planning application has been delayed as an issue arose which requires further consultation – not expected to be back at planning committee before the 20th April meeting. Attending the STA Conference (Scottish Tourism) in Glasgow to a workshop entitled ‘Are you China ready’ as well as hearing about Food Tourism in the main part of the conference – a great opportunity to raise awareness of and promote the NE with all the game and heather fed sheep.

BRG (LD) –

* Equipment will require maintenance by the Halls Trust. All equipment is in store, BRG has had a demonstration of how to assemble and dismantle. All volunteers will be invited to attend a ‘dummy run’ to set up the Rest Centre.
* Arial plans require listed building consent.
* LD attended a seminar on the new General Data Protection Regulation which is effective from May.

CAP (FP) –

* Meeting next Monday. Draft available thereafter.
* CAP launch open evening is on 19th April 7pm in the Mike Sheridan Room.

Halls (IL) –

* Large amount of funding required for the whole development of Ballater.

1. **Planning Matters –**

* Email Derek Murray wrt flooding on the green and opposite The Glenaden Hotel. AR action

1. **Correspondence –**

* Katrina Farquhar has written to ask BCCC to ask if planning permission can be sought for the reinstatement of telephone Kiosk in Sth Deeside Road. A vote was taken and it was agreed. KF/AR action.
* Deeside CPR approached BCCC. They provide training for all communities up Deeside in Defib. Have been trying to contact BCCC for 2 years. They maintain the defib units and replacement pads free of charge. Courses are free, up to 26 people on each course. AR action, organise course.
* Katrina Farquhar – Monaltrie Park Toilets are fixed. There is £1200 in BRD for maintenance. Chairman or secretary to be point of contact for any issues. New plaque has been ordered to thank additional groups that have donated. Council will continue to open/close and clean the toilets.

1. **Finance (PD) –**

* Invoice for meetings with BCCC.
* Payment for secretarial duties has been agreed at £100 pa.

**8. AOCB**

* JA to email CGB wrt geoparks JA action
* AR to email Dee Straw CNPA wrt Old School after an email stating there were at least 20 Supporters of the Project. AR action
* CGB – signs for Gairnshiel bridge are only advisory. Contact all other close CC’s for support for snow gates. AR action
* WM – Fire Brigade look after Defib Pads.
* CGB to contact Nicolle MacDonald as a first responder. CGB action
* LD enquired whether the Monaltire Park toilets could be used for Games Day. A donation has been suggested. LD to take back to Games Committee. LD action
* JC sports and culture consultation filled out as CAP have an interest.
* CGB to email legal and governance wrt CC training. CGB action
* PD - BCCC need a representative for new Data Protection laws. AR action
* PD – Insurance is now direct and BCCC have taken over Monaltire park Toilets and also resilience volunteers. AR to email Insurance company to enquire
* PD enquired as to whether Roads and Landscaping are one department wrt snow clearing.
* PD has noted that the school are encouraging rodents soon as school children still putting food on the ground and not out of reach of rodents. CGB action
* LD enquired as to whether she needs to attend monthly meetings. It was agreed either to continue to come to meetings or send a report to secretary.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Next meeting will be 9th April, 2018, Mike Sheridan Room, Ballater. 7-9pm.