

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)

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Minutes of a Meeting held on 8th April, 2019, at 7pm in Crathie Church Hall

Present: James Anderson (WJ) - Chair Jane Angus (JA) Jo Croll (JC) - Secretary Emma Stewart (ES) Lewis Macdonald (LMD) Lisa McMahon (LMM) Francis Duguid (FD) Cllr Paul Gibb (CPB) Pat Fraser (PF)	Apologies Fiona Presslie (FP) - Dep Chair Ian Latta (IL) William Braid (WB) Anne Reid (BRD) Cllr Geva Blackett Cllr Peter Argyle Pat Downie (PD)
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1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

2. Emergency services

No report from emergency services.

3. Minutes of March's meeting were passed

Action Tracker updated.

4. Reports

Ballater Royal Deeside Limited

Anne Reid e-mailed minutes of BRD meeting of 5th April. As a result of the resignation of the secretary of Old People's Association, BRD has been asked to possibly take on the Hut on the Green should the Old People's Association cease to exist.

The cost of restoration of Cambus O'May Bridge is estimated at 400k, with 130k already in the bank. BRD may develop a fundraising role.

BCE

Now a total of 95 pitches at caravan park. Ballater Boules donated money for a boules pitch on the site. Adult play area has been installed and dedicated to the memory of Ian Wisely on the plaque.

There will be a loss of 100k due to refurbishment undertaken this year. New toilet block put on hold until more information available regarding proposed flood defences.

Aberdeenshire Council

CPG reported that Waste Collection on Saturdays will move back to the Roads Depot from April onwards as the Garden Waste Collection service re-started.

The V&A Halls committee had expressed concern at the condition of the Caithness stone slabs outside the halls as the surface flaking caused by snow & ice might

contribute towards an accident. **CPG** had spoken with Janelle Clark who advised that a local stonemason had reviewed the stones and in his opinion, the paving should settle down. V&A Halls will reiterate their concerns directly to Janelle Clark and **CPG** will report back to the **CC**.

The surveys for the relocation of the new bus stops will be completed as soon as possible.

CPG gave an update on progress at the Tullich Project. Work on the shelter should start in mid-April with completion planned for August. Urquhart Stonemasons will be back on site in April to continue repairs to the Church, anticipated to take six weeks. An activity programme is planned for the summer months. **FD** praised the quality of the path and ramp giving access to the Churchyard from the Deeside Way.

CPG also enclosed a report from a meeting with Stagecoach regarding the Deeside Corridor service (201 and 202). There had been complaints about the school service in that the lower deck was often full and elderly passengers were unable to access the upper deck. There had been problems with bad behaviour of pupils on the upper deck and it was difficult for the driver to impose discipline on pupils. This issue needs to be raised with parents and the school.

The unreliability of the service, including vehicle breakdowns, was also raised. This had led to city buses, without toilet facilities, being used on the Deeside routes. Stagecoach hoped to introduce newer buses in the coming months. Susan Watt from Aberdeenshire Council would monitor the service and would penalise Stagecoach through the Council's Contract Performance Monitoring System should there be any further reliability/breakdown issues on the contracted part of the journeys.

The lack of up to date information available in the bus shelters would also be addressed as there should be sufficient network coverage to allow coaches to send location information.

There had been complaints about the fact that the 201 and 202 service did not go straight through Banchory, but passed through several residential streets, thereby increasing the travelling time for passengers from further west, either heading in or out of Aberdeen. There was also concern about the number of city passengers using the service to travel within the city limits thus reducing the number of seats available to passengers travelling further west. It had been pointed out that it was cheaper to take a taxi to Crathie for a family of three than to travel by bus. Similarly the journey from Braemar to Ballater is expensive compared to the journey from Braemar to Aberdeen. **CPG** explained that there were higher subsidies for certain parts of the journey.

PF asked if there had been any way of continuing the service to Braemar on a Sunday. **CPG** had suggested diverting his salary as a councillor to this service in order to find

out if the existence of the Fife Arms and Highland Games Centre might increase demand for this service. However, it was deemed that this might be viewed as reversing council policy and also as a means of buying votes in future elections. Ewan Wallace is looking at the possibility of restructuring the subsidy so that a midweek low-volume run might be dropped and thus allow a restricted Sunday service to operate.

Cairngorms National Park Authority

No report available.

Community Action Plan

JC reported that a Housing Needs Survey would be carried out by Rural Housing Scotland as funds were now in place. This would determine what type of housing and who required housing in the village. The Masonic Lodge had expressed an interest in its land being used to provide housing suitable for the village. The Masonic Lodge would retain ownership of the land, have a presence on the management committee of the housing.

Halls No report

Care No report

Enhancement Group

Railings had been put up on one side of the square. Half the electric cables had been laid. It would be possible to light up all the trees on the Green at Christmas. Permission had been granted for the Church to also have roof lighting at that time. Power would be available to other groups using the Green. Work had been carried out by the Charitable Chiels, Jack Lannigan and the Enhancement Group. Information on the work would feature in the Eagle.

5. Planning Matters

It is anticipated that the Old School planning application should come up at the Planning Meeting on 26th April at Nethy Bridge. BCCC has requested the opportunity to speak in support of the proposals. JC will attend if possible, or FP if not.

6. Correspondence

FP had received a letter from Grampian Housing Association suggesting that it might be worthwhile to explore the possibility of funding for an electric car-sharing initiative at the Abergeldie Road development in order to alleviate potential parking problems.

JC had received a letter of complaint with regard to WJ's role in clearing the Old School site and requesting clarification with regard to the tendering process. WJ had declared an interest in BCCC discussion of this matter. His firm had been asked by Grampian Housing Association to tender for the job which he did and which he

received on that basis. **FD** suggested that it was good that the job had gone to a local firm.

Fay Swan had been in touch to say there had been a double-booking at the Halls and the next *CC* meeting in May should be at the Beaton Craigie Room.

7. Finance There is no change.

8. AOCB

Only the names of council members and the areas which they represent will appear on the *CC* web-page and on any notice-boards. The telephone numbers of office-bearers will also be included. The *CC* postal address will be a PO Box at the V&A Halls - this will ensure continuity of communication even when the office-bearers change. **ES** will set up a generic e-mail address for Crathie.

The template for the Community Council's constitution is provided by Aberdeenshire Council who have been in touch to ask if any changes might be required.

ES has agreed to monitor the defibrillator at Crathie on a monthly basis. **WB** will check the defibrillators located at the V&A Hall and Glenmuick Church on a monthly basis. **JC** will contact the Scottish Ambulance Service to confirm that the defibrillator at Glenshee will now be monitored on a monthly basis by a member of Braemar Community Council.

BCCC will adopt ownership of the Wayfinding Panel set in the square, without having to bear any cost for its maintenance. BCCC will manage any updates which might be required and funding would be provided by BRD. There will be an inscription panel on the side of the plinth. **FD** suggested that the coat of arms of the BCCC should be incorporated.

Toilet repairs at Monaltrie Park are ongoing. **WJ** will report on the final cost. If a donation fee is requested for the use of the toilets, then a maintenance fund should be set up.

There are 3 vacancies on the BCCC. Should there be more than three nominations, then elections will be held on 29th May. Nomination forms are available in the Library and should be posted to Alford.

PF raised the issue of the toilets at Crathie Visitor Centre being closed when the centre was closed in the winter. This had led to individuals using the area of ground behind the centre as a toilet. The car park is used more by walkers during the winter months. The building belongs to Aberdeenshire Council and there is a toilet attendant paid by the council. **CPG** will investigate further.

LMM queried the possibility of a speed limit at the Bridge of Gairn, especially as a new bed and breakfast establishment was due to open.

ES reported that the 20mph flashing signs were out of order at Crathie. **CPG** does not think that a 30mph speed limit will be introduced at Crathie.

WJ reported that up to 10 cars had been stuck on the Gairnshiel/Crathie road during the recent snow fall, in spite of the warning signs at the foot of the road.

WJ indicated that the proposed flood defence plans for Ballater could be view from the BCCC Facebook page. The public consultation would take place in May.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

The next meeting will be 13th May at Beaton Craigie Room, 7-9pm