

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

[www.ballaterandcrathiecommunitycouncil.com](http://www.ballaterandcrathiecommunitycouncil.com)

Minutes of a Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> January via Zoom at 7pm

Present:	Apologies	Also present:
Jim Anderson (WJ)- Chair Jo Croll (JC) - Vice Chair Richard Frimston (RF) - Secretary William Braid (WB) Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer Ellie Kinghorn (EK) Gareth Johnston (GJ) John Bannerman (JB) Emma Stewart (ES) Lisa MacMahon (LMM)		Cllr Paul Gibb (CPG) Cllr Peter Argyle (CPA) Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB) Tom Flynn (TF)

### 1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

2 Emergency Services Report nothing received.

### 3 Matters arising from previous meeting and Action Tracker update.

December minutes passed.

RF to contact Janelle Clark for update on funding for Zoom subscription.

RF will contact both Invercauld Estate and Ballater Golf Club regarding the fallen pine between Dooker and the Bridge. If both parties agree in writing to permit the CC to remove the tree without prejudice, then the BCCC will undertake to do so. WJ pointed out that the real concern lay in the possibility of further damage to the Bridge should the tree move.

### 4 Reports

#### BRD

Plans for the Pump Park continue to make progress. The Tour of Britain is scheduled to pass through Ballater on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

#### Aberdeenshire Council

CPG noted that the crossing at Eastfield is adequately signposted and the barriers are maintained on the footpath, so any further improvements would be unlikely. CGB had graver concerns regarding the exits from the car park at Tullich and the housing opposite the graveyard due to limited visibility and the speed of traffic. CPG had spoken with Martin Hall from Roads Dept about a

crossing between Viewfield Road and Station Square. He had also discussed the problem of the intrusive lighting at the Police Station with Sergeant Greig. The flashing speed sign on the eastern side of the village had been reported but repairs were unlikely until the current covid restrictions had been lifted.

**CPA** noted that the provision of council services, in particular roads and waste, was under tremendous pressure. This was in part due to the freezing weather conditions combined with the restrictions imposed by covid on numbers of employees working on the council vehicles.

**CGB** reported that work on the Cambus O'May Bridge has been halted. Thanks to generous donations of venison from Invercauld, Glen Muick and Balmoral Estates, **JC** and **CGB** had been able to distribute meat (prepared by Menzies of Braemar) to over 80 households in the area.

#### FIG

**RF** had circulated the first draft of the Flood Report on the 2016 flood. He thanked Tom Flynn, John Barrowman & Peter Dranfield, along with Jonathan Duncan of the Aberdeenshire Council Flood Team for their assistance. **TF** noted that the input of residents of Ballater had been crucial in obtaining such a clear picture of what happened that day. **WJ** expressed the support of BCCC for the FIG report. **RF** now plans to record the consequences of the flood, both economic and otherwise.

#### Halls

**WB** reported that the architect was drawing up plans to restructure the basement area to improve the toilet facilities and provide an office and storeroom. There were also plans for a new kitchen for the Victoria Hall.

#### Enhancement Group and Improvement Group

The groups are working together to present plans to Aberdeenshire Landscape Group regarding paths across the Green. **WJ** queried whether these would be advisable as it would unlikely that the public would adhere to the paths.

**5 Planning Matters** Nothing to report.

#### **6 Correspondence**

**WJ, WB** and **JC** to discuss the village defibrillators.

**JC** asked if **RF** would distribute the Marr Area Partnership Bulletin to all members of the **CC** as she was now working with the Marr Area Food Project Group.

**7 Finance** No change since last meeting.

#### **8 AOCB**

**JC** asked if there was anywhere in the village that might be used as a store for clothes which had been collected for emergency distribution. **CGB** said she would forward the Olio app to **JC** which sought to eliminate food and clothing waste.

**WJ** reported that the new bridge on the *Glen Muick* road at the Crofts had been damaged twice in recent weeks. The road surface was unsuitable for the road conditions and should have a surface dressing. **CPA** would check if the road was on the current list for attention.

**The meeting concluded at 19.45 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> February, 19.00 to 21.00 hours, possibly by Zoom.**