

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)

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Minutes of a Meeting held 11th November at Crathie Church Hall at 7pm

Present: James Anderson (WJ) - Chair Fiona Presslie - Secretary Jane Angus (JA) William Braid (WB) Jo Croll (JC) - Vice Chair Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer Francis Duguid (FD) Richard Frimston (RF) Emma Stewart (ES) Lewis Macdonald (LMD) Ian Latta		Apologies Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB) Lisa McMahon (LMM) Also present: Tony Cox (TC) - BFG Gordon Riddler (GR) Cllr Peter Argyle (CPA) Cllr Paul Gibb (CPG) Michael Coletta (MC) George Inglis (GI)
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1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

2. Emergency services

Generic report received with usual reminders regarding home security.

3. Minutes of October's meeting were passed.

Action Tracker updated.

WJ to arrange to switch off water in Monaltrie Park toilets. JC waiting for contract of ownership to finalise insurance.

FD will assist Ian Hall in installation of fencing at Postie's Leap following which work will then be complete on repairs.

FP will attend a meeting on Thursday to report further on winter road issues at Gairnshiel and Crathie.

FP will contact Police Scotland regarding the possibility of issuing parking tickets to parking offenders on Bridge Street, in particular near the pharmacy.

CPG will contact the Roads department regarding the poor application of white lines to the side of the road at Coilacriech.

4. BCCC Councillor Attendance

WJ reminded all members of the rules regarding attendance and urged everyone to try to attend as often as possible. Should a member fail to attend for 3 successive meetings without apology, then it is possible for the rest of the Community Council to vote on whether that membership should be cancelled.

5. Reports

Ballater Flood Defence Group

MC believes that his role to assist the CC in representing the community view of the flood defence proposals is currently in abeyance but would be happy to continue as and when the CC required.

WJ reported on the discussion held at the Marr Area Committee meeting last Tuesday when the proposed flood defence plan was passed on to the Infrastructure Services Committee to be discussed further prior to the application going forward to SEPA by 31st December 2019. CPA pointed out that it was better to put forward a proposal at this stage, regardless of how unpopular it might be, as the alternative was in fact to do nothing. SEPA will have 168 flood plans from all over Scotland to consider and prioritize - it may even be that the Ballater Flood Plan will not even reach the stage of funding.

FP pointed out that there were anecdotal reports in the village that it would be better to wait for a better option, but CPA indicated that might mean waiting until the middle of the next decade before anything could be done.

WJ suggested that the CC should make a presentation, again, to the Infrastructure Services Committee as there was a feeling that the CC had not done enough to represent the community's unhappiness with the preferred option of Aberdeenshire Council.

WJ invited TC to outline his proposals for an alternative Flood Defence Plan. TC pointed out that he had great admiration for the Council and their attempts to find a solution and spoke highly of Lee Watson, the Principal Engineer for Flood Risk and Coast Protection. The council had supplied TC's group with all the findings of their consultants, RPS. TC and his group are working on a different plan, which in their opinion, works better and costs less than that of RPS.

CPA suggested that TC and his group should submit their plan for analysis before the Infrastructure Services Committee meeting takes place on 28th November. CPA has been assured that Aberdeenshire Council are prepared to look at an alternative, even if it contradicts the findings of their chosen consultants. CPA would also be prepared to defer the Ballater decision to a later date, BUT an option would have to be decided on by 31st December 2019 so that it could be presented to SEPA. WJ requested TC to keep the CC in the loop and should TC require a public meeting to present the alternative Flood Plan, CC would offer assistance.

BCE NTR.

Aberdeenshire Council

CPG reported that there are budgetary constraints regarding the opening of the public toilets at Crathie through the winter. It would cost £7-8k to make them winter ready.

A visitor had fallen and reported uneven pavement surface outside Brown Sugar Café. It was pointed out that SSE had been doing work on the pavements in the summer.

CPG asked the CC to outline what the requirements would be regarding opening times etc for the public toilets in Church Square.

CPG awaiting a response from Cheryl Roberts regarding a safety on shelter roof of the Pictish Stones at Tullich.

CNPA NTR.

Community Action Plan

MC would report at next meeting.

Halls

Listed Building consent has been received. The toilets have been completed and there have been excellent reports following functions in the halls.

It is intended to use the space formerly occupied by VisitScotland to set up a CNAP interpretation centre with space for the Local History Group, the Highlands Games trophy display and a Family History Society section.

FD to forward consent received from the Lord Lyon to use the Burgh coat of arms on the façade of the building.

Enhancement Group

Xmas lights to be switched on final Saturday 30th November.

Paths

IL to attend meeting next week and report back.

6. Planning Matters

WJ declared an interest and JC led the meeting.

GI was concerned at plans to develop Monaltrie House as a wedding venue. The access road in front of his property was only 4.3metres wide which meant single file traffic. He was also concerned about late night noise: traffic (especially coaches collecting guests late at night), possibility of fireworks in a residential area, catering trucks. As there had already been over 6 objections, the application would be called to the planning committee and the CC agreed that JC should write to reiterate the concerns of the objectors.

7. Correspondence

FP received an e-mail from Ben Addy of Moxon's Architects to point out an error in the minutes of last month as the planning application for their office/studio had never been called in by CNPA. This was agreed and noted.

JC will be attending a meeting on 5th December organised by Visit Aberdeenshire aimed at businesses wishing to capitalise on cruise ships visiting the area. FP will pass this information on to BBA.

JA pointed out that although it was possible to apply for a job online with Aberdeenshire Council by using the local library service, this did not mean that an applicant would be in a position to receive an online response from the Council.

8. Finance NTR

9. AOCB

PD reported the installation of six new bins in the village.

FD had attended the opening of the Tullich Stones and wished to commend all involved on the quality of workmanship.

JC expressed thanks for all those involved in the erection of the plinth in the Station Square although she had to report that it had already been vandalised. Unfortunately CCTV did not show the culprits. Police Scotland urged the community to report all instances of vandalism so that an accurate record could be maintained. FP asked about the possibility of CCTV on the façade of the Victoria Halls - this is actually on the agenda of BRD for future consideration. FP requested more bins, in particular for dog waste which is a problem on the foot path on the South Deeside Road - dog owners are hanging the waste bags on trees! CPA will contact the Dog Patrol.

ES reported that the 20mph sign at Crathie Primary School was still not working and that residents still had concerns about the 50mph speed limit through the village as being too high. ES also raised the issue of congestion at the school and café. ES also asked about the possibility of more meetings to be held in Crathie. WJ suggested that this should be looked into - it would require a change in the constitution.

LMM reported that the Pass of Ballater road was very eroded - resurfacing is scheduled for later this year. RF reported electricity outages on Golf Road as a result of underground cables corroded as a result of flooding in 2015.

The meeting finished at 9.15pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 9th December at 7pm in the Michael Sheridan Room.