

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

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

Minutes of a Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> November via Zoom at 7pm

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Also present:</b>
Jim Anderson (WJ)- Chair Jo Croll (JC) - Vice Chair Richard Frimston (RF) - Secretary William Braid (WB) Pat Downie (PD) - Treasurer Emma Stewart (ES) Lewis Macdonald (LMD) Lisa McMahon (LMM) Ellie Kinghorn (EK)	Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB) Jane Angus (JA) John Barrowman (JB)	Cllr Paul Gibb (CPG) Cllr Peter Argyle (CPA) Tony Cox (BFRG) Gareth Johnston (GA)

### 1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

### 2 Co-opting new members

**WJ** proposed and **RF** seconded the co-option of Gareth Johnston. **GJ** was unanimously co-opted and welcomed to the Community Council.

**PD** reported that Jane Angus wished to stand down from the Community Council and would be happy to attend meetings as a member of the public when normal arrangements returned. **WJ** expressed the gratitude of the **CC** for her many years of service.

### 3 Minutes of the last **AGM** were approved and there were no matters arising.

### 4 Annual Reports

**WJ** pointed out that all meetings had been via Zoom since March 2020 with no likelihood of meetings returning to normal any time soon. However, the **CC** was going from strength to strength with new members recently co-opted. There were several ongoing projects working towards the greater good of the community.

### 5 Annual Financial Report provided by **PD**. The **CC** is in a strong financial position. Report approved.

### 6 Amendment to clause 5.2 of the constitution

It was unanimously agreed that the number of possible meetings held at Crathie should be increased to 3 in any one year.

**7 Emergency Services Report** had been received from Police.

**8 Minutes of the October meeting were approved.**

**9 Action Tracker updated.**

**10 Reports**

**BRD**

Cambus O'May Bridge repairs nearing completion, with official opening planned for January 2021, Covid-19 permitting. The question of responsibility for the Cambus O'May car park still to be resolved.

**BCE**

Allan Harrison will step down as Chair, to be replaced by Sandy Mitchell. BCE will be happy to be involved in the Bus Park project.

**Aberdeenshire Council**

**CPA** reported that the petition to re-instate the Saturday refuse lorry had been received at the latest area meeting and councillors had requested a report from Waste Department. There may be an option for a short-term reinstatement for the community to get rid of rubbish, but in the long-term it seemed unlikely to be restored. It was an expensive service as waste was not sorted, meaning that it all ended up in landfill, currently costing £80 per ton. **CPA** suggested that **BCCC** should request the opportunity to speak at the next area meeting when councillors would be discussing the report. **RF** to make this request.

**CNPA**

**CGB** had submitted a report. The Old School chimneys would be discussed at next planning meeting. A convener for the Planning Committee is to be elected.

**FIG**

**RF** hopes to have a draft report ready for the next **BCCC** meeting, following consultation with **SEPA** and other local community groups.

**BFRG**

**TC** said that **BFRG** would withdraw from activity regarding resilience to flooding. **WJ** thanked **TC** and Douglas Johnston for all their tremendous efforts on behalf of the community over the last five years. **TC** replied that **BFRG** would respond positively should there be any future requests for assistance from **BCCC**.

**CAP** Nil to report.

**Halls**

**WB** reported that the Hub is almost complete. Depending on Covid-19 restrictions, it is hoped to have an Open Day soon. Alistair Cassie has been contacted regarding what the Ballater History Group would like to contribute to the space, as has the Highland Games Committee.

The Halls Committee is awaiting Government guidance regarding the possibility of meetings returned to the Halls in the coming months.

**Enhancement Group and Improvement Group** nil to report.

**Paths**

**RF** waiting for further information regarding the South Deeside path to Cambus O'May which will become an issue when the bridge re-opens and walkers attempt the circular walk.

**11 Planning Matters**

**WB** had nothing to report.

**12 Correspondence - see AOCB**

**13 Finance** nil to report.

**14 AOCB**

**TC** had asked for clarification regarding the boundaries of Monaltrie Park. Invercauld Estate has moved field fencing 50 metres towards Aberdeen to give the Highland Games Committee more space for the Games, either for parking or any other use.

**TC** requested further information regarding the possibility of the village being assessed in respect of safety and access for disabled members of the community. Having been recently certified officially blind, **TC** had found crossing the street and navigating pavement furniture to be difficult. **CPA** suggested contacting the Roads Department. **RF** to make contact.

**TC** asked if it might be possible to consider signage at the Old Railway Line to encourage users to be mutually respectful of each other. The improved surface had resulted in increased speed of cycles, for example. **RF** to contact Roads Dept to make a request.

**RF** has been unable to ascertain who is responsible for a fallen pine on the riverbank at the Deuchar Pool. Neither Ballater Golf Club nor Invercauld Estate accept liability. **WJ** expressed concern for the integrity of the bridge should this tree be washed downstream. **RF** to send photos and further information to **CPA** to discuss with Landscape.

**WJ** pointed out that the footpath from the Royal Bridge to Glen Muick Bridge was not being used by pedestrians due to inadequate signage, so there were increased numbers on the road itself. As overhanging trees and bushes had not been trimmed on the road verges, this resulted in pedestrians being unable to step onto the verge when faced with vehicles. **JC** suggested contacting Adam Streeter-Smith. **RF** will raise the matter with the Paths Group and **CPA** will contact the Roads Dept of Aberdeenshire Council.

**The meeting concluded at 20.08 hours**

**The next meeting is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> December, 19.00 to 21.00 hours, possibly by Zoom.**