

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Monday 8th April 2013,
at the V&A Halls, Ballater.

<p>Present:</p> <p>Jane Angus Ian Cameron Pat Downie Susan Matthews Anne Reid Sheila Sedgwick Phil Swan Cllr Peter Argyle Cllr Geva Blackett Cllr Katrina Farquhar, also CNPA elected member.</p>	<p>In Attendance:</p> <p>Members of the Public</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <p>Graham Adams Francis Duguid Ruth Sim</p>	
		ACTION
<p>1. Welcome & apologies for absence. As above. Unfortunately due to work commitments both the Chairman and Vice - Chair were unable to attend. Sheila Sedgwick agreed to take the Chair.</p>		
<p>2. Minutes Minutes of the previous AGM held on 9th April 2012 had been verified at the meeting in May 2012. The AGM agreed this had been done correctly.</p>		
<p>3. There were no matters arising from the 2012 AGM.</p>		
<p>4. Chairperson's Report In the absence of the Chairman, the secretary will request a short written report from him to be attached to the minutes.</p>		SM
<p>5. Treasurer's Report Pat Downie circulated financial statements for the year. The balance has dropped slightly due to expenditure being higher than income during the year. In part, this was an invoice due in the previous year arrived in this one. The balance remains healthy at £1999.18.</p>		
<p>6. Planning Report Phil Swan issued a planning report covering the activities of the sub-committee over the last year and the notes of a recent meeting with Aberdeenshire Marr Area planners, which was constructive and useful. We are their most active Community Council in providing comments on planning applications and we learnt that the earlier we are able to submit comments the more influential we can be, as the case officer will try to resolve issues we raise. Phil reported that the main issue we face is one of "creeping incrementalism leading to undesirable outcomes". Examples of these include light pollution, erosion of the settlement boundary and piecemeal development of large and/or second homes reducing the opportunities for more</p>		

<p>affordable housing for people working locally. The meeting thanked Phil for the quality of his report.</p>	
<p>7. Proposals on mid-term elections. Following a review of last years elections the Community Council considered the advantages of moving to mid -term elections, ie half of the members coming up for election every two years rather than all every 4 years. Term of office once elected would remain at 4 years. Aberdenshire Council have advised that some Community Councils already do this and that the change has to be agreed by ALL members of the Community Council. Jane Angus opposed the change and the motion was therefore rejected. The next election of the entire council will be held in April 2016.</p>	
<p>8. The meeting was opened for questions/comments.</p>	
<p>9. AOCB It was agreed to trial one meeting at "The Bothy" in Ballater with hot drinks and cakes/biscuits available to see if this would attract more members of the public and make the meetings a bit easier for those with work commitments. The booking for the usual rooms are made on an annual basis so we would forego the £14 already paid. The cost of the drinks and food would be covered elsewhere and not come out of the Community Council funds. Phil Swan will make the arrangements.</p>	<p>PS</p>
<p>10. There being no other business, the Chair thanked the Officers for their work during the year and the Aberdeenshire Councillors for their commitment in attending and the meeting was closed.</p>	