

# BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

[ballaterandcrathie.org.uk](http://ballaterandcrathie.org.uk)

Minutes of a Meeting held on December 10<sup>th</sup> 2012 at V&A Halls Ballater

<p>Present:</p> <p>Jane Angus          Ian Cameron          Susan Matthews (Secretary)          Sheila Sedgwick (Acting Chair)          Ruth Sim          Phil Swan</p> <p>Cllr Peter Argyle          Cllr Katrina Farquhar (also CNPA elected rep)          Members of the public.</p>	<p>Apologies received:</p> <p>Graham Adams          Pat Downie          Francis Duguid          Martin Holroyd          Anne Reid          Cllr Geva Blackett          Police</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><b>For a copy of these minutes in larger font contact the secretary on 0785 2414024.</b></p>
<p><b>1. Welcome &amp; Apologies for Absence.</b> As above. Sheila Sedgwick chaired the meeting due to the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair.</p>	<p><b>ACTION</b></p>
<p><b>2. Police Report.</b>          The police were unable to attend due to a mountain rescue callout. No matters for police attention were raised.          One carry over action from the previous meeting - the secretary to send letter drafted by Jane Angus thanking the Royal guard for cleaning up the river and banks around Victoria Bridge.</p>	<p><b>SM</b></p>
<p><b>3. Minutes.</b> The minutes of the November meeting were approved.</p>	
<p><b>4. Matters Arising</b></p> <p>4.1. Re 5. Co-Op. Anne Reid has sent a follow up e:mail to Mr McCarthy thanking Alan Henderson for attending the November meeting.</p> <p>4.2. Re 4.2. Marker posts have been placed at the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) boundary at the bottom of Craigendarroch Hill/Monaltrie Avenue. Phil Swan will continue to monitor the status.</p> <p>4.3. Re 6.1.2 Crathie School now has three pupils, so will remain open through this school year.</p> <p>4.4. Carry over actions from previous meeings:</p> <p>4.4.1. Can we have elections such that the whole Community Council is not up for election at the same time? (ref AGM/May). This will be a standing item on the agenda until it is dealt with.</p> <p>4.4.2. Status of Cinder Path Maintenance contract with Cairngorm Outdoor Access Trust (COAT).</p> <p>4.4.3. Follow up discussion on Outdoor Access and any outstanding issues re Tom Meann with Murray Ferguson of CNPA (ref. March).</p> <p>4.4.4. Attendance of an officer from Fire and Rescue at a meeting.</p> <p>4.4.5. Attendance of Tesco Community Champion at a meeting (ref. May).</p> <p>4.4.6. Use of Community Councils funds and clarification on what is allowed re fund raising (ref. AGM)</p>	<p><b>PS</b></p> <p><b>SM</b></p> <p><b>IC</b></p> <p><b>GA/IC</b></p> <p><b>SM</b></p> <p><b>SM</b></p> <p><b>PD</b></p>

## 5. Reports

### 5.1. Aberdeenshire Council.

5.1.1. There was some discussion between the Aberdeenshire Councillors present and Phil Swan arising from an email exchange regarding the land sale at Craigview Rd. Phil, presenting himself as an individual (ie not representing the Community Council) had copied the e:mail to members of the Community Council. The Councillors, having taken legal advice requested that Phil confirm in writing that he was not implying failure of any of them to comply with the Councillor's code of Conduct. The Chair asked that the discussion be held after the meeting with those concerned and the Community Council will follow up at the next meeting for any decisions/actions to be recorded.

5.1.2. Anne Reid had written to Cllr Farquhar requesting a handrail be installed at the pavilion steps in Ballater. Cllr Farquhar confirmed that she has requested this but doesn't know when it will be done as there is a "long list".

5.1.3. Aberdeenshire Council is required to reduce its energy consumption according to Scottish legislation and is looking into use of new low energy street lamps which have minimal impact on lighting levels. More information will follow as decisions are made. (It has been decided against turning off every other light as consultation showed this to be only marginally favoured and it cannot be done with the current wiring set up).

5.2. Waste Collection changes will be made to comply with Scottish legislation. They will harmonise practices across the urban and rural areas and include a waste food collection, and plastics in the recyclables. More and detailed information will be issued prior to launch of the new services.

5.3. Aberdeenshire Council has issued its first Budget Briefing Paper for 2013/14. This can be obtained from the Aberdeenshire Council website or ask a Community Council member for a copy. There are a number of budget "pressures" arising from existing services, Scottish Government legislation (for example in waste collections) and Council initiated projects (such as broadband and the "100 day pledge"). Work is continuing to get to a balanced budget.

### 5.4. Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA)

5.4.1. Debbie Moir of the Cairngorm Business Partnership gave a presentation on the activities and benefits of the organisation. There are some active members among the Ballater businesses and anyone interested in knowing more is encouraged to contact Debbie.

5.4.2. The new Chief Executive of the Cairngorm National Park Authority is Grant Moir, who was previously Director of Conservation and Visitor Experience at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. If people want to know more about the CNPA the office staff in Ballater are very helpful and can be contacted by a visit to the office or telephone 013397 53601.

5.4.3. Jane Angus proposed that the Community Council write a letter of thanks to Jane Hope for her for her work at the CNP in keeping an effective and reasoned objective attitude among the staff and with the residents.

## 6. Vision for Ballater.

6.1. Many actions have stalled due to the time that has been taken up, during recent meetings, on other items. It was suggested that an additional meeting be considered in the New Year to clear the backlog.

6.2. Jane Angus, Sheila Sedgwick, Ruth Sim and Phil Swan have volunteered to work

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<p>with Nick Mardell who is the Development Projects Manager for Deeside and donside, and other Ballater groups, to review and refresh the "Ballater Community Action Plan".</p> <p>6.3. Jane Angus reported that the ropes for the squirrel bridge at Balmoral are awaited and that she has purchased a camera (ex budget) in order to gather evidence of how the bridge is used. This could support future fund applications for further bridges.</p>	
<p><b>7. Ballater News</b></p> <p>7.1. <b>Victoria &amp; Albert Halls</b> - Plans with the previously announced refurbishment to upgrade the kitchen, toilets, stair treads and lighting are progressing well.</p> <p>7.2. Santa is in Ballater at 11.30 on Christmas Eve.</p>	
<p><b>8. Consultations.</b></p> <p>8.1. The list of new Scottish Government consultations is available in the library, on noticeboards and the website. Jane Angus asked those interested to read the Consultation documents on the Land Reform Bill and pass any comments to her.</p> <p>8.2. Dinnet and Kinord Estate Forest Plan Consultation has been issued to all Community Council members and is available to anyone interested. Jane Angus and Ian Cameron will review and comment on the changes.</p>	JA/IC
<p><b>9. Planning</b> Phil Swan reported that:</p> <p>9.1. The application for holiday chalets at the Inver Hotel has been approved by the CNPA Planning Committee, subject to conditions.</p> <p>9.2. He has been in contact with Aberdeenshire Council planners re the process by which they approved the application at Birch Cottage, Dee Street. (It was reported at the last meeting that it is considered significantly different from the original application and that the Community Council has not been informed and therefore not had an opportunity to comment). Cllr. Argyle offered to visit the site in daylight, in order to determine whether he agrees with Phil Swan's assertion that the outcome from these changes was "a mess".</p> <p>9.3. The application at Gairnshiel Lodge for an additional entrance gate will go to appeal. Since the application has been refused by the CNPA who "called it in" the appeal will be decided by a reporter appointed by the Scottish Government. The applicant had requested a meeting with Phil Swan to "have a chat" about it and this was scheduled to take place on 12<sup>th</sup> December.</p>	
<p><b>10. Finance.</b> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p><b>11. Correspondence.</b> Nothing significant to report</p>	
<p><b>12. AOCB.</b></p> <p>12.1. Jane Angus asked that the Community Council request that the problem with proliferation of ragwort be addressed. Jane to supply names and addresses of whom to contact.</p> <p>12.2. Sheila Sedgwick asked the Aberdeenshire Cllrs when we could expect the Tullich Stones to be in place again.</p>	
<p><b>13.</b> The next meeting will be on Monday January 14<sup>th</sup> in the Mike Sheridan room, V&amp;A Halls Ballater starting at 7pm. (This meeting was cancelled due to weather).</p>	