

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CCC)

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Minutes of a Meeting held on 9th December 2013, Mike Sheridan Room, Ballater

<p>Present: Graham Adams (GA) Chair Pat Downie (PD) Finance Francis Duguid (FD) Vice Chair James Anderson (WJ) Jane Angus (JA) Ian Cameron (IC) Billy Duguid (BD) Anne Reid (AR) Sheila Sedgwick (SS) Ruth Sim</p>	<p>Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB) Cllr Katrina Farquhar (CKF) (also CNPA elected rep) Jack Coull for Ballater Royal Deeside Ltd (BRD) PC Steven Lafferty, for Police business Cat Houston (CH) Minutes 40-50 members of the public</p> <p>Apologies received: Susan Matthews (SM) Secretary Cllr Peter Argyle (CPA)</p>
<p>1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence.</p>	ACTION
<p>2. Police Business. PC Lafferty reported one incident of housebreaking at a licensed premises in the village. A few days of inclement weather had brought a spate of road traffic accidents. Mountain Rescue had attended a further four callouts, with no serious injuries reported. Signs to enforce the 45-minute waiting time in Bridge Street are still awaited. Festive campaigns to tackle anti-social behaviour and vehicle safety had been launched.</p>	
<p>3. Bus Depot Presentation. Karen Kerr (KK) of Andrew Cowie Contractors was present to answer questions from the Community Council and the public regarding the proposed Stagecoach bus shelter at Pannanich Road/Craigview Road. KK began by stating that initial plans had been for an open bus park on the site, but that following a previous similar consultation, proposals had been extended to incorporate a sheltered unit to house up to eight busses on the land. She added that a tree belt adjacent to the land would be maintained and that this and additional planting at the site would act as a buffer between the housing development and the garage. The present hammerhead access on Pannanich Road would be maintained as access from Craigview Road was deemed unsuitable. The proposed construction measures 8-9m at its ridge height. There were several questions from members of the public present and some dissatisfaction voiced that no one from Stagecoach itself was present on this occasion to answer their questions. Many issues were raised, including the correct designation of the land, operating conditions and times, the visual impact of the building, whether refuelling would take place there, lighting, consultation with SEPA, what would happen to the proposed Co-op store should a future garage planning application be refused, and future consultation of the public regarding this matter. KK and GA pointed out that things were still at a pre-application stage and that many of these queries, including those regarding environmental impact and noise abatement, would be thoroughly dealt with at the time of any planning application. KK agreed to take all the points raised back to Stagecoach and it was suggested that a further</p>	

<p>public meeting, to which representatives of Stagecoach, SEPA, Aberdeenshire Council and the CNPA would be encouraged to attend, be held nearer the time of an actual planning application, as part of a wider consultation exercise. GA suggested that such a meeting be held on a night not designated as a BCCC meeting, and perhaps in a larger hall, as clearly the proposals had raised lots of questions among the public.</p>	
<p>4. Minutes of the November meeting. The minutes of the November meeting were agreed.</p>	
<p>5. Matters Arising from the November meeting. A939: BD raised the issue of the poor state of the A939. He said that Aberdeenshire Council (AbCo) had patched the road to a degree, but that it had been a "token gesture" that had not solved the underpinning issue. He added that if a single fence post were to be removed at a particular point, the road would collapse and the options left would be to narrow or close it. CGB said photos had been taken and sent to the roads dept at AbCo with a request for a site visit but that this had been refused. BD asked for the council's support in taking the issue and the photos to the media and received this unanimously. Reserve Fund: FD asked that £62 be utilised from the reserve fund to pay for hall hire and minute-taking at a meeting to be held on December 10th in the Beaton Craigie Room to bring together several Ballater groups and organisations for community-based aims and to avoid duplication of effort. The funding was agreed.</p>	BD
<p>6. Reports. None from CGB or CKF.</p>	
<p>7. Election. An election is necessary as the six-month period of WJ's co-option to the council is almost up. Ruth Sim tendered her resignation from the council on account of recent ill-health. GB thanked her for her time and input. RS was asked if she would consider continuing in her role until the early spring so that elections for all three vacant posts (two in Ballater and one in Crathie) could take place at the same time and she agreed to do this. A provisional date of Thursday 20th March was set for the elections. JA and PD agreed to prepare for the election with SM after the Christmas break.</p>	JA, PD, SM
<p>8. Ballater News. BRD: Jack Coull reported that potential funding had become available for the replacement of the community bus. The present bus is five years old and maintenance is becoming more costly. Jack added the resale value of the bus would be more now than say in three years' time. BBA: SS reported the BBA's concern for the potential empty shop units left by the proposed Co-op/Stagecoach development. Separately, the BBA also has concerns that business rates were likely to go up considerably in the future. Halls: Bookings are to be taken through Faye Swan from the new year at info@victoriaandalberthalls.co.uk. Fundraising is to continue next year for heating and insulation of the Albert Hall. The new renovations have been well appreciated and Dr Glass's presentation had been a success.</p>	
<p>9. Scottish Government Consultations. CGB said the proposed Community Empowerment Bill will empower community councils and that the council should have someone look at the proposals. FD agreed to look at the consultation document and compose a few words on it for the next meeting.</p>	FD

10. Planning Matters. Nothing to report.	
11. Finance. No change.	
12. Correspondence. Nothing additional to report.	
<p>13. AOCB.</p> <p>WJ raised the issue of councillors' attendance. GA said there was time to prepare something to add to the council's constitution at the time of the AGM in April, using the standard schedule wording.</p> <p>BD had some information on Puffin crossings, which he says could be introduced to both ends of Bridge Street with no interference to present parking arrangements, and which he would distribute to members.</p> <p>JA said that the Cairngorm Partnership had reported the loss of 90 B&B rooms in the area, and added that there was a potential to exploit an upturn in Scandinavian visitors. The procurement of a date for a proposed meeting with CNPA CEO Grant Moir was no further forward.</p> <p>PD suggested that perhaps Sandy Alexander's recent 100th birthday could be marked by the council, perhaps with the provision of a dram for him.</p> <p>The defective nature of numerous streets lights around the village were noted by CKF.</p>	<p>BD</p> <p>CFK</p>
14. Date of Next Meeting. Monday 13 th January at 7pm in Mike Sheridan Room, Ballater, V&A Halls. The meeting closed at 9.15pm	

For a copy of these minutes in a larger font contact the secretary on 0785 2414024.