

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CCC)

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Minutes of a Meeting held on 11th February 2013 at V&A Halls Ballater

<p>Present:</p> <p>Graham Adams (GA) Chair</p> <p>Francis Duguid (FD) Vice Chair</p> <p>Jane Angus (JA)</p> <p>Ian Cameron (IC)</p> <p>Pat Downie (PD) - Finance</p> <p>Phil Swan (PS) - Minutes</p> <p>Cllr Peter Argyle (CPA)</p> <p>Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB)</p> <p>Cllr Katrina Farquhar (also CNPA elected rep) (CKF)</p> <p>Members of the public.</p>	<p>Apologies received:</p> <p>Martin Holroyd (MH)</p> <p>Susan Matthews (SM)</p> <p>Anne Reid (AR)</p> <p>Sheila Sedgwick (SS)</p> <p>Ruth Sim (RS)</p> <p>Police</p> <p>For a copy of these minutes in larger font contact the secretary on 0785 2414024.</p>
<p>1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence. As above.</p>	ACTION
<p>2. Police Report.</p> <p>The police report gave the main item to be vandalism of the caravan park bathroom block. No matters for police attention were raised.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes. The minutes of the December meeting were approved.</p>	
<p>4. Matters Arising</p> <p>4.1. Re 5.4.3 Jane Hope. No action agreed.</p> <p>4.2. Re 9.2 CPA action outstanding.</p>	CPA
<p>5. B&CCC Secretary vacancy.</p> <p>It was agreed that this would be deferred to the next meeting, because there were only 6 members present. However, the idea proffered by GA to separate meeting minutes from other administrative tasks was received positively. GA will talk to Catriona Houston about possible help with the minutes.</p>	GA
<p>6. Reports</p> <p>6.1. Aberdeenshire Council.</p> <p>Tree felling.</p> <p>An Aberdeenshire Council email consultation document was tabled by GA. It pertains to the possible felling of 3 large Douglas Firs on Monaltrie Way amenity area. PS gave a brief account of this episode, the trees being just outside his garden.</p> <p>Broadband Survey.</p> <p>A simple post card sized questionnaire is being / has been delivered to residential addresses in the area. CPA asked that all relevant users of the system be encouraged to complete and (free) post the questionnaire.</p> <p>Sale of Field at corner of Craigview and North Deeside Roads.</p> <p>CPA was requested to obtain an explanation from Aberdeenshire Council as to why this piece of land was being sold with no consultation of Ballater residents, apparently with no valuation having been done and no evidence that the Council were at all concerned about the use to which the land would be put and the resultant impact on</p>	ALL

<p>the whole community. It was suggested that Aberdeenshire Council were perhaps not conforming to the Scottish Government General Guidance document "Disposal of Land by Local Authorities (Scotland) Regulations 2010, specifically paragraphs 2 (re accountability to local people); 10 & 16 (requirement for a competent valuation); 12 & 13 (duty to secure Best Value, not only best consideration).</p> <p>6.2. CNPA</p> <p>The Local Development Plan is due to be released for public consultation on 15th April 2013.</p>	CPA
<p>7. Community Council Elections</p> <p>This item to be deferred to a later (possibly ad hoc) meeting when the full Council is in attendance.</p>	
<p>8. Vision Actions Complete / New Actions.</p> <p>Recreation and Leisure Facilities for Young People.</p> <p>PS observed that it had always been a widely held belief that R&L facilities for Ballater young people were inadequate. This was very evident from the communities' survey by B&CCC in late 2010. PS expressed extreme frustration that B&CCC was doing virtually nothing about this, yet had turned down an unconditional offer by a member of the community to take on this challenge. PS and CKF to meet again to try some other courses of action to get this moving.</p> <p>Co-operative Stores.</p> <p>Considerable progress had been made by a member of the public (Mr Tony Cox), acting in his own capacity as such. He gave a brief account of his conversations with Co-operative senior management, which have led to a start by Coop to reduce the duplication between the two stores, thereby enabling an increased range of overall stock offered to the public. There is more work to be done on this project.</p> <p>Piano Week.</p> <p>JA made an appeal for anyone who has a piano which could be loaned or donated for wheeling around the village and playing.</p> <p>The Old School</p> <p>Since the publication of a consultant's report commissioned by the North of Scotland Preservation Trust, there did not appear to have been any reports of progress. PS reported, however, that upon prompting by a resident, the Council commissioned a rapid survey of asbestos in the Old School complex. CPA was requested to obtain and feedback information on progress with the school complex development. PS to circulate copy of the new asbestos survey report to B&CCC members.</p> <p>Tourist Information Office / Shop</p> <p>The perceived threat of job losses, and even possible closure, were discussed. CGB advised that neither of these outcomes should be regarded as a "done deal".</p> <p>Support for SSSI Status at Delnabo</p> <p>On a show of hands B&CCC confirmed its support for retention of threatened SSSI status at Delnabo.</p>	PS/CKF
<p>9. Planning PS reported that he had been in contact with Aberdeenshire Council planners to arrange a meeting between the 2 parties to review and improve the processes and procedures used. It was expected that this would also improve working relationships and mutual understanding.</p>	
<p>10. Finance. Nothing to report.</p>	

11. Correspondence. Nothing required action in the report from Secretary.	
12. AOCB. 12.1. IC raised a concern about a vehicle with licence plate number SV52 VEM repeatedly being parked on pavements, causing inconvenience and some damage. He was advised to take photos - this is what the police like as evidence! 12.2. CGB advised the website address to be used for live viewing of the snow gates at Braemar is: www.braemarscotland.co.uk/cam/cam.htm	
13. The next meeting will be on Monday March 11 th in the Mike Sheridan room, V&A Halls Ballater starting at 7pm.	