

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CCC)

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Minutes of a Meeting held on 13th January 2014, Mike Sheridan Room, Ballater

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| <p>Present: Graham Adams (GA) Chair James Anderson (WJ) Jane Angus (JA) Anne Reid (AR) Ruth Sim (RS) Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB) Cllr Katrina Farquhar (CKF) (also CNPA elected rep) PC Steven Lafferty, for Police business Cat Houston (CH) Minutes</p> | <p>Apologies received: Ian Cameron (IC) Pat Downie (PD) Finance Francis Duguid (FD) Vice Chair Billy Duguid (BD) Susan Matthews (SM) Secretary Sheila Sedgwick (SS) Cllr Peter Argyle (CPA) Jack Coull (for BRD Ltd)</p> |
| <p>1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence.</p> | <p>ACTION</p> |
| <p>2. Police Business. PC Lafferty said it had been a pretty quiet month. A window had been broken at the hut on the green before Christmas. Enquiries had concluded but the perpetrator remained untraced. Braemar and Aberdeen's Mountain Rescue teams had been involved in a well-publicised rescue on Ben MacDui, where a climber had fallen a considerable distance and suffered only minor injuries, an event PC Lafferty described as "quite miraculous". He also drew the committee's attention to a new operation aimed at tackling crime in the run-up to the Commonwealth Games in July, which was aimed at quelling anything from fraudulent tickets to much larger crimes, and any information from the public would be gratefully received. CGB asked that if the A93 snow gate is to be closed at one end but not the other, could adequate signage be put in place to warn drivers they possibly cannot complete their journey. PC Lafferty said the appropriate signage had been available for a few years but perhaps some officers were not aware of its existence. He would seek to remedy this. Phil Swan queried the purpose of Police Scotland's monthly reports to the Community Council. PC Lafferty replied that Police Scotland sought to engage with the public in every way it can. It also made use of Facebook, Twitter, online reporting for general crimes and specialist reporting of crimes such as those involving wildlife. The public could also make use of the 101 telephone service. Offices were still open on a limited basis but it was found that the public engaged more with Police Scotland through phone and online, as this was easier. The Community Council reports were simply another way of engaging with the public on a regular basis and anyone was welcome to come and ask any questions they wished. Faye Swan asked about whether the parking restriction signs for Bridge St were coming any time soon, as the business community would appreciate their arrival. It was established that the situation was same as previous, with the signs ordered but not present. Faye also raised the issue of parking by parents along Monaltrie Avenue near the school. Some discussion followed, in which it was established that the headteacher regularly issued circulars asking parents not to park there. It was asked</p> | |

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| <p>could double lines be applied. PC Lafferty said any change in parking regulations in the area would be down to Aberdeenshire Council (AbCo).</p> <p>The issue of pedestrian crossings on Bridge Street was also raised. GA stated that a Puffin crossing had been identified as a possible solution and that BD, who was not present this evening, had undertaken to look more closely into it.</p> | BD |
| <p>3. Minutes from the December meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the December meeting were agreed as an accurate account.</p> | |
| <p>4. Matters Arising from the December meeting.</p> <p>Planning confidentiality/Pannanich Rd site: CGB said she had agreed to look into matters of confidentiality within pre-planning issues, following the November meeting, in particular with regard to the sale of the land at Pannanich Rd to Stagecoach/Bluebird. She had had a meeting with the deputy chief of Legal and Governance at AbCo. Because of the concerns raised, AbCo are looking at the length of time taken on this occasion to complete the sale. CGB said that one might reasonably expect a planning application to take six to nine months, but where the situation drags on and on and no one knows what the likely outcome it to be, it becomes unacceptable to many parties.</p> <p>Phil Swan said that the community should decide what the land should be used for and queried the accountability of the Community Council in this matter. GA replied that in this case six or seven years had passed where the Community Council hadn't known what was happening. He added that they were now making some headway and that it was Phil's own hard work while on the Community Council and work by other Community Council members that had forced the collapse of the first apparent sale. CGB indicated she was "still fighting this battle" and added that the Legal and Governance representative she had met with "completely saw" the problem faced by the Community Council and understands its frustration. She indicated that situations such as this occur maybe two or three times in 10 years; it is unfortunate but it doesn't happen very often.</p> <p>A939: GA indicated that this was an item that had been delegated to BD, who was not present. WJ indicated that the matter was "in hand". CGB said she had spoken to Steven Archer, director of Infrastructure Services at AbCo and that he had instructed her to email him about the matter and that she had done that. A reply was awaited.</p> | |
| <p>5. Reports.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council: CKF reported that Trading Standards now had a Twitter account to help publicise their services: http://www.twitter.com/AberdeenshireTS. Young drivers who would like to apply for funding to complete Pass Plus should email southmarr@aberdeenshirecommunitysafety.org.uk. And there are three awards presently seeking nominations:</p> <p>Design awards: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/design_awards/2014_awards.asp</p> <p>Sports Awards: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/recreation/sports_council/ and Inspiring Aberdeenshire (form will be attached as a Word document to emailed draft minutes).</p> <p>Phil Swan asked about the Local Tree Plan; who was looking after that and how was it progressing? CKF agreed to look into this.</p> | CKF |

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| <p>CNPA: CKF said that there had been a planning meeting this week, with nothing major to report. A collection of films made by schoolchildren across the area about their environment had been shown at the Aboyne Community Centre and had been very well received.</p> <p>CGB added that the BBC's Winterwatch programme was being recorded at Mar Lodge next week and filming would also take place on the Invercauld Estate.</p> <p>JA expressed concern that the CNPA's newsletter appeared to have grown a little sparse; it was not covering as much and was "more official than news". CKF said there was a new press officer and that she would ask about it.</p> | CKF |
| <p>6. Election.</p> <p>An ad is to be placed in The Piper on January 30th inviting nominations. A meeting was scheduled for the 27th January for PD, JA and SM to work on the election and posters would be put up after that. The date for the election was reconfirmed as Thursday March 20th.</p> | PD, JA, SM |
| <p>7. Ballater News.</p> <p>Groups Meeting: JA drew the Community Council's attention to a meeting that took place on December 10th which she said went very well. Key organisations attended and it had been hosted and chaired by the Community Council's FD and BD. Nick Mardall added that there had been agreement that the CC would look at reviewing the previous Action Plan and take responsibility for taking it forward. Mike Powell of Marr Area Partnership and he had agreed to support the group in its efforts to bring groups together to avoid duplication of effort and improve communications.</p> <p>Ballater Eagle: Ian Hay stated that he had been present at this meeting and had impressed on those present that they should make use of the Ballater Eagle for any communications they wished to spread. He added that the Spring copy date was Feb 1st. GA indicated that the Eagle column previously compiled by Phil Swan should be revived and that any members who wished to add something should email it to him for collation. Phil Swan queried that the Eagle's communications were seemingly always positive, and that more contentious local issues were perhaps overlooked. IH replied that the magazine's constitution prevented it from being overly political or religious, and that its main intentions were to inform, educate and entertain.</p> <p>BRD: Jack Coull had indicated by email that the Dalmochie Logging Camp purchase should be completed by the end of February.</p> <p>BBA: The group's AGM was scheduled for Feb 5.</p> <p>V&A Halls: The committee's next meeting takes place on Jan 21st. IH added that the first floor renovations were complete and that the ground floor alterations should be completed by the end of the month.</p> | |
| <p>8. Scottish Government Consultations.</p> <p>CGB indicated that there was a Housing Bill in the offing and that it was mostly "tweaking". There was a meeting scheduled for Thursday to which she would take any rural concerns.</p> <p>Community Empowerment Bill consultation: Nick Mardall indicated that he would be attending a meeting relating to this on Monday and asked would the Community Council like to attend. The meeting was taking place in the BRD office from 10-1pm. It was suggested perhaps FD or BD might be available.</p> | FD/WD |
| <p>9. Planning Matters.</p> | |

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| Nothing outstanding. | |
| 10. Finance. Nothing to report. | |
| 11. Correspondence. The Secretary is due to attend a course in Data Protection in February and has been investigating what Community Council's are supposed to do, if anything, to comply with legislation. | |
| <p>12. AOCB.</p> <p>Recycling plans: CKF reported that following a pilot, recycling arrangements in the Marr area would soon change. Householders would be given two wheelie bins: one for refuse and one for recycling, which would take all recyclable materials except glass. These would be collected on alternate weeks as at present and glass recycling facilities would be increased. In addition, each household would be provided with a separate container for food waste, which could be attached to either wheelie bin and would be collected each week to be sent for composting.</p> <p>GA queried the progression of a report into the Broadband speeds achieved by the area. CKF said Cllr Peter Argyle had previously been dealing with this and she would ask.</p> <p>Ian Hay enquired as to a likely date for the next meeting discussing the proposed Bus Depot at Pannanich Rd. GA indicated that Karen Kerr (of Andrew Cowie Construction) was working towards setting the date for another meeting but that any meeting would require more information to be available first. He added that it was in hand and not forgotten.</p> <p>CH asked if her daughter Lizzie (aged 9) could briefly attend the next meeting to ask for the Community Council's support in looking at suggestions aimed at securing some more play equipment for the village, in particular a zip wire.</p> | CKF |
| 13. Date of Next Meeting. Monday 10 th February at 7pm in Mike Sheridan Room, Ballater, V&A Halls. The meeting closed at 8.10pm | |
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For a copy of these minutes in a larger font contact the secretary on 0785 2414024.