

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CCC)
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Minute of the Meeting of Ballater and Crathie Community Council held in the Mike Sheridan Room, Victoria and Albert Halls, Ballater, at 7 p.m. on Monday 11th March, 2013.

Present: Graham Adams, Chairman, Francis Duguid, Vice-Chairman, Pat Downie, Treasurer, Susan Matthews, Secretary, Jane Angus, Minutes, Phil Swan, PC Donald McLeod, Councillors Peter Argyle, Geva Blackett, Katrina Farquhar: Members of the public, Messrs Fraser Littlejohn, Montague Evens, and Miss Karen Kerr for the Co-op and for Stagecoach, Mr Andrew Jarvis, Managing Director

1. Apologies: Ian Cameron, Anne Reid, Sheila Sedgwick and Martin Holroyd.

The intimation that Martin Holroyd had resigned from the Community Council was met with regret

2. Police Report: there had been reports of vandalism and the theft of tools from a parked van. Speeding had been observed in the Sluie Mohr area. The new Non-Emergency number is 101 over the whole country, which will be redirected to a local contact with the services.

3. Minutes of the February meeting were approved. There will be a meeting with Aberdeenshire planners on 28th March at the Glen Lui, 11.00 -13.00 hrs

4. A presentation by the Andy Cowie Construction Company and the Co-op was given by the above representatives on a proposal towards the conversion of the Bus Depot to a Co-op larger store and various questions were discussed: increased range of goods : staff relocation from the two present sites: single story with possible mezzanine: public entry from Golf Road in small doors as well as unloading and times through the large doors : the presence of the yellow lines and disabled

parking: positioning of bus shelters : Buses to move to Craigview Road without shelter : delivery services : safety of bus-movement onto the A93: engineering examination of possible pollution by petroleum products: stocking levels and timings. Further consultation and development prospects will continue.

5. Aberdeenshire Council: letters were exchanged on guidelines, and objections to the possible tourist information staffing had been accepted by the relevant committee. Help was available for young people's activities and was in progress. Asbestos at the Old School was being discussed with NEPT, and the question of our CC election process is still to be discussed at a future meeting when there is a larger attendance.

a) Broad-band: funding is becoming available and it was pointed out those technical requirements in the local scenery required connections **through land-lines.**

b) School-parking at Ballater: is to be altered for safety reasons with In and Out signs.

c) Cinder Path – work in progress.

d) Mill of Sterin Bridge: the question of how long should it take for painting was raised.

e) Learning Centre in the Halls was progressing, but the problem with having

f) No open toilet in Monaltrie Park remains for both tourism and local activity there.

6. Cairngorm National Park: Local Development Plan will be open for comments from the middle of April before going to the minister. Three copies are circulating, members are asked to read these and pass them on for debate and any comments at the next meeting.

7. The land at **Dalmuchie** is being acquired for the forestry project, but there was a query on the relationship with wild life.

8. Planning: Questions had been raised and submissions made on Arbor Lodge, Birch Cottage, the house next to Greystones, and Mains of

Monaltrie. A further note will be sent regarding the construction of lay-bys and the work on Balmoral Bridge.

9. Mail – problems with regularity of delivery had been raised and there was discussion on possible changes in Ballater, but no definite information.

10. Joint meeting minutes will be circulated and the BRD would welcome more regular interchanges and attendance at their ‘last Friday’ meetings.

11. The Victoria and Albert Halls meeting on the 19th of March is to include as many groups as possible to look at the final proposals and the closure of part of the areas for refurbishment - plans will be available and storage discussed, with the additional help available with payment for Mr Paul Brown as well as the usual Hall Custodian.

12. Victoria Week planning continues, and includes Graham Adams on star-observation, the St Kentigern’s concert, the Songsters, ‘secret’ films, safaris, walks, etc, and more concentration on the Church Green.

Suggestions and volunteers for more activities are still welcome. (Post meeting note - at the latest Victoria Week meeting, Val Norton asked for volunteers for the Box Office – the CC has usually tackled the Tuesday, but there are other days and opportunities to help in the various activities).

13. There were no suggestions for discussion at the **Association of Cairngorm Communities (AoCC)** beyond the questions on mail, deer numbers, broad-band, geological conservation reviews.

14. Path below Cornellan Square : It was agreed that this is a Right of Way and the Council was not prepared to take responsibility for any notices of a need to take care on the narrow path which was visible though often slippery, which pertained to the land-owners.

15. Next Meeting on April 8th 2013 at 7.30 pm., following the A.G.M. at 7 p.m. at Ballater V&A Halls.

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the secretary on 0785 2414024**