

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minutes of a Meeting held on May 14th 2012 at V&A Halls Ballater

<p>Present:</p> <p>Graham Adams (Chair)</p> <p>Jane Angus</p> <p>Pat Downie (Finance)</p> <p>Francis Duguid (Vice Chair)</p> <p>Martin Holroyd</p> <p>Susan Matthews (Secretary)</p> <p>Anne Reid</p> <p>Sheila Sedgwick</p> <p>Ruth Sim</p> <p>Phil Swan</p> <p>Cllr Peter Argyle</p> <p>Cllr Geva Blackett</p> <p>Cllr Katrina Farquhar (also CNPA elected rep)</p>	<p>Present:</p> <p>Members of the public</p> <p>PC Donald MacLeod and Sgt Stephen Robertson for Police Matters.</p> <p>Apologies received from:</p> <p>Ian Cameron</p>
<p>1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence. As above.</p>	<p>ACTION</p>
<p>2. Police Report.</p> <p>Sgt Stephen Robertson, who has recently taken over from Sgt Stuart Clark, introduced himself. He has moved from Banchory and is pleased to have this new posting to the Ballater/Braemar area. He said that, given the large geographical area he and his team covered, it was particularly useful to have Community Council and public input to "head off" potential problems.</p> <p>PC Macleod had issued the Local Policing report, which the secretary will distribute. Items of note include: - A person has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal related to a dog biting incident in Crathie and the police are investigating a suspected theft of heating oil from a house in Ballater that was unoccupied at the time. Regular patrols monitor anti social behaviour of which there have been no incidents recently.</p> <p>Susan Matthews reported that a tour bus travelling along the South Deeside Road from Ballater to Crathie, passing the sign "Unsuitable for long vehicles " had frustrated a resident by continuing for 6 miles at ~ 20 mph with no attempt to allow the vehicle past. The use of this stretch of road by the tour buses has been discussed and followed up by the police on previous occasions over the years. The buses cannot be prevented from using the road and it appears to be a route they want to use. Sgt Clark spoke to some of the drivers last year requesting that they be considerate of other road users and it appeared to improve the situation. For the, hopefully, rare</p>	<p>SM</p>

<p>cases of bad driving Susan will continue to encourage residents to note and report what details they can.</p> <p>Ruth Sim provided the officers with some information on design of websites and reports for people with visual impairment.</p> <p>Phil Swan reported his intention to try and involve young people more in Community Council business. There will be a specific agenda item at a future meeting for a presentation by Logan Muir (who attended the April meeting).</p> <p>Sgt Robertson said they would attend and wanted to support youth engagement in the community.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the police for their attendance and welcomed them to future meetings.</p>	SM
<p>3. Minutes.</p> <p>3.1. The minutes of the April AGM meeting were verified as correct. Pat Downie reminded the Community Council to consider whether we wanted to re-elect the entire Community Council every 4 years or to limit the number of members elected at one time. It was suggested that the post of Chair and Secretary should not be vacated simultaneously. The secretary will contact Marr Area office for advice on what other Community Councils do and what leeway we have to change.</p> <p>3.2. The minutes of the April regular meeting were approved.</p>	SM
<p>4. Matters Arising</p> <p>4.1. Re item 4.1, maintenance of the "cinder path"; status on progress was not available.</p> <p>4.2. Re item 4.2, meeting to be arranged on Ian Cameron's return, for a follow up discussion on Outdoor Access and outstanding issues re Tom Meann.</p> <p>4.3. Re item 5.1.2. Ruth Sim has written to the Council regarding the proposed changes to the "blue badge" parking spaces and had not received a reply. There was still confusion about how the Community Council inputted into such consultations. Cllr Argyle explained that there were two separate processes going on. One required by the Scottish Government, for a formal consultation when personal blue badge parking spaces were changed. The other by Aberdeenshire Council who were preparing and then consulting on a Ballater traffic review. He advised that there is still time to input and he will investigate and advise on the timetable. He also volunteered to see if Ralph Singleton, the Principal Roads engineer for the Marr Area could attend a future meeting.</p> <p>4.4. Re Item 12.2. Two national speed limit signs have been erected on the Braemar Road by the Craigendarroch, which gives the impression the road is suitable for 60mph. However it is an area of high pedestrian activity, associated with people staying at the hotel and the junction at the access</p>	<p>IC</p> <p>GA/IC/SM</p> <p>Cllr PA</p>

<p>road for the hotel poses a hazard. The Community Council has requested, and continues to request, for the 30 mph limit to be extended to include the junction at the Craigendarroch.</p>	<p>Cllrs PA/GB/KF</p>
<p>5. Reports</p> <p>5.1. Aberdeenshire Council.</p> <p>5.1.1. The Chair welcomed the three councillors and invited them to provide a joint report. Since the 1st meeting of the Council is scheduled for 17th May there was little new to report.</p> <p>5.1.2. Phil Swan stated that he had heard that the land at the junction of the A93 and Craigview Rd was to be sold by the Aberdeenshire Council with development approval. He has inquired of Aberdeenshire Council for information and not received a reply. He requested that the Aberdeenshire Councillors find out if the land is owned by the Council, if they are considering selling it and what, if any, plans there are for development on it.</p> <p>5.2. Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA)</p> <p>5.3. Phil Swan has been invited to a meeting on 30th May with other Cairngorm Park Community Council planning representatives. The aim of the meeting is to provide a communications network across the various planning reps with the idea that this will help improve the involvement and representation of the local communities in the planning process.</p> <p>5.3.1. Katrina Farquhar reported that there were a number of ongoing improvements in the website. Graham Adams requested that the CNPA improve on their document version and change control so that changes and updates are visible and are notified as they are made. Jane Angus requested that the design allow for people with slower connections, for example by providing an option with text only. Phil Swan stated that he had been in correspondence about one year ago with both Jane Hope and David Green in an attempt to persuade CNPA to introduce a facility whereby an automatic message to CNPA's web site users is issued whenever a user logs on after a change is made.</p> <p>5.3.2. Jane Hope, Chief Executive Officer has informed the Board that she intends to retire. No date has been given.</p>	<p>Cllr KF</p>
<p>6. Vision for Ballater</p> <p>6.1. Co-Op - There are concerns over inadequate staffing at the small store and that the range of goods has been reduced again. Braemar are also having issues with their local store and are trying to contact the Co-Op management.</p> <p>We will try to get the Area Manager to a meeting and will contact Braemar Community Council to investigate if our efforts were helped by co-ordinating with them.</p> <p>6.2. The Banchory Tesco Community Champion, Ruth Morrison, has</p>	<p>AR</p> <p>SM</p>

<p>contacted the Community Council regarding participation in community projects. The secretary will invite her to a meeting so that we can learn more about her proposals.</p>	
<p>7. Ballater News</p> <p>7.1. BOVOF (Ballater One Voice Our Future): At the March meeting Nick Mardell (Deeside and Donside Development Projects Manager) had requested that the Community Council have more involvement in the BOVOF activities since BOVOF was set up under the Community Council by the previous Chair who asked Gordon Riddler of BRD (Ballater Royal Deeside Ltd) to manage it. Susan Matthews requested that we clarify the arrangement and if the Community Council is responsible for BOVOF projects that we receive regular reports and get involved in the communication and decision making. Graham Adams will meet with Nick Mardell to discuss.</p> <p>7.2. Sheila Sedgwick reported on BRD projects:-</p> <p>7.2.1. They are aiming to get the finger posts and village signs in place for early June.</p> <p>7.2.2. The transition of the Caravan Park from Aberdeenshire Council ownership is progressing.</p> <p>7.2.3. The notice board on the green - maintenance and costs are to be discussed at a meeting with CNPA. Graham Adams will attend.</p> <p>7.2.4. The BOVOF self build group has met with the Balmoral/Birkhall estate to discuss opportunities for purchase to build on estate land.</p> <p>7.2.5. Ballater Walking Week starts 20th May. Geva Blackett said that next year is "Natural Scotland" and they will advertise and promote Ballater walking week and that BRD should contact them.</p> <p>7.3. Jane Angus reported that the Halls Committee are making progress applying for grants.</p>	<p>GA</p> <p>GA</p> <p>SS</p>
<p>8. Scottish Government Consultations. The list of new consultations was issued and is available in the library, on noticeboards and the website.</p>	
<p>9. Planning Phil Swan reported that all planning applications to date had been reviewed by the sub-committee and comments made accordingly.</p>	
<p>10. Finance. Pat Downie reported that we had received notification from Aberdeenshire Council of funding for the year which is £511.66p. Action continues from the AGM to investigate how the Reserve Fund can be used and what fund raising the Community Council is permitted to do.</p>	<p>PD</p>
<p>11. Correspondence. The correspondence report was issued prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p>12. AOCB.</p> <p>12.1. Pat Downie reported that Craigendarroch hotel is to be fully timeshare.</p>	

