

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CC)

ballaterandcrathie.org.uk

Minutes of a Meeting held on 12th January 2015, at 7pm in the Mike Sheridan Room, Ballater

<p>Present: Billy Duguid (BD) Chair Francis Duguid (FD) Vice-chair Pat Downie (PD) Treasurer James Anderson (WJ) Jane Angus (JA) Ian Cameron (IA) Mike Forman (MF) Phil Swan (PS) Cllr Katrina Farquhar (CKF) (also CNPA rep) Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB) Apologies received: Sheila Sedgwick</p>	<p>Also present: Barry Florence (BF) - Fire & Rescue Service David Horne (DH) - Ballater Royal Deeside Limited Tony Cox (TC) - Old School Working Group Richard Gledson (RG) - Balmoral Factor for Ballochbuie Forest Management John Bolton John Mackay Iain Latta Richard Watts Members of the public Moirra McDougall (minutes)</p>
--	---

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

2. Emergency services - Police and Fire Services

No member of Police Force present, but the current report is available on the Community Council website. BD reported that local concerns had been raised regarding drug/drug-dealing problems and recommended members of public should contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

BF reported 4 calls in last month, one of which was in Braemar, as Ballater was the station closest at hand, due to the shortage of volunteer personnel. CGB to contact David Wright regarding coverage. The recruitment evening in December generated some interest for new volunteers.

3. **Skatepark** No representative was present.

4. Ballochbuie Forest Regeneration and Management Plan

A working group including John Mackay and Sue Walker with Tree Line Forestry has been examining the Ballochbuie area. RG summed up the long-term plan to cover all major areas of concern - deer numbers, capercaillie, Caledonian pine regeneration - to be achieved by means of rotational fencing policy. In

discussion, in spite of episodes of cut fencing, the Community Council was supportive of the plan and a letter to be sent to RG to that effect.

5. Listening Post

No matters raised from previous meeting. The next Listening Post on Saturday 31st January is at The Hut, 11am to 2pm

6. Minutes from the December meeting were agreed.

7. Matters arising from the December meeting.

PS to report on Public Accountability at the February Community Council meeting.

8. Reports

Ballater Royal Deeside Limited

DH reported that Jack Coull has stood down as Chair of BRD and DH has assumed this role. Thanks to Jack Coull for his past assistance to the Community Council are to be sent. The BRD board meet on Friday 16th January.

Old School Working Group

TC reported that BRD has agreed to lead the Community Asset Transfer application stages 1 to 3 and the Old School Working Group to work within the framework of BRD. There will be formal notification of Old School Working Group meetings to BD so that he might inform JA, who will attend.

BD will send a copy to TC of the formal letter of support of the Old School Working Party by the Community Council.

TC will report to JA on results of meeting between Old School Working Group and Aberdeenshire Council on Thursday 15th January.

Future uses of Old School were discussed and TC will speak with Ronnie Macrae regarding a presentation to a wider audience of a community trust housing scheme.

Aberdeenshire Council

CGB reported on success of Pheasant Initiative supported by local estates to assist families in need at Xmas, with Deeside and Donside estates providing game and logs etc, Balmoral has a plucking machine.

CGB suggested an approach Aberdeenshire Council to conduct a consultation with local people regarding implementation of 20mph speed limits in various areas within village and after discussion, this consultation was supported.

CKF approached R Singleton regarding parking facilities in the village. Mr Singleton will make contact with PD for further discussion.

Toilet facilities in Monaltrie Park and Car Park. CKF will again raise the possibility of current toilet attendants looking after both sites. CKF also to

approach Ballater Chiels and Ballater Games to support refurbishment and maintenance of Monaltrie Park facilities.

The new bus shelter in front of the new co-operative store, CKF reported that the bus stop had been included in the original plans for the store, hence no consultation was required with the Community Council for erection of the current shelter, but some members had different memories of the discussion. However, Community Council members requested that CKF approach Aberdeenshire Council Transport Services again on issues of public safety, access and parking facilities and clarify that the Community Council would support a proper shelter for people with luggage to be built near the temporary bus-stop at the car park. CKF will invite Transport Services to a Community Council meeting.

PD requested CKF to make enquiries regarding the maintenance of the gutters above the Co-operative store on Bridge Street as there is currently a problem with dripping water and ice forming on the pavement below.

CNPA

CKF to invite Grant Moir to a Community Council meeting to report on CNPA's plans for Ballater office.

9. Planning Matters None

10. Correspondence There was discussion on the CNPA office closure [since when a letter was received of his intention to attend on February 9th]

11. Finance Nothing to report

12. AOCB

BD will contact Janelle Clark with regard to rules covering non-attendance of CC meetings.

BD to confirm vacancies on Community Council for Ballater and Crathie with view to co-opting members to the Council.

WJ raised complaints about O2 telephone coverage on Upper Deeside. PD reported that O2 had responded to previous complaints with the information that the mast was damaged/awaiting repair. CKF reported that Telefonica and Vodafone will unite from March/April onwards so that masts will be incorporated together which should improve coverage.

FD spoke to Lorna Hogg suggesting more Glass Recycling Bins could be placed at Ballater Business Park and Braichlie Road Depot.

13. Date of next meeting

Monday 9th February at 7pm in the Mike Sheridan Room.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm