

BALLATER & CRATHIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&CCC)

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Minutes of a Meeting held on 11th November 2013, Mike Sheridan Room, Ballater

<p>Present: Graham Adams (GA) Chair Pat Downie (PD) Finance Francis Duguid (FD) Vice Chair James Anderson (WJ) Jane Angus (JA) Ian Cameron (IC) Sheila Sedgwick (SS) Billy Duguid (BD) Susan Matthews (SM) Secretary</p>	<p>Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB) Cllr Peter Argyle (CPA) Jack Coull for Ballater Royal Deeside Ltd (BRD) PC Donald Macleod, for Police business Cat Houston (CH) Minutes</p> <p>Apologies received: Cllr Katrina Farquhar (CKF) (also CNPA elected rep) Anne Reid (AR)</p>
<p>1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence.</p>	ACTION
<p>2. Police Business. PC McLeod reported a busy month. There had been an incidence of vandalism in Netherley Place, items removed from a trailer in Ballater Business Park and a break-in at a dwelling house on the South Deeside Road, as well as four mountain rescue operations. The road issues highlighted at the previous meeting had all been looked into.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of the October meeting. The minutes of the October meeting were agreed.</p>	
<p>4. Matters Arising from the October meeting. 5.1.1) There was further detailed discussion on the state of the A939 and its suitability as being classified an A-road. GB said that she had distributed an email on the issue, and a response from Aberdeenshire Council is awaited.</p>	
<p>5. Reports. 5.1) Aberdeenshire Council (AbCo) GA enquired about the recent public forum at Sluie Mohr regarding the proposed housing development at Sir Patrick Geddes Way. BD said it had been a successful meeting, well organised, with 30-40 attendees, and that Sluie Mohr was a good venue for the forum. Feedback generally was that people would be pleased to get the housing in the village. BD had distributed about 100 flyers to the properties around the proposed development and the CC felt that Ballater residents likely to be affected by the development knew of the meeting, so that a follow-up session wasn't necessary. IC referred to a recent collision on the Ballater bypass, which possibly involved an AbCo vehicle, and wondered would AbCo be producing a report. It was established that no report would be forthcoming until the Police had finished their enquiries. CPA reported with disappointment that a recent budget meeting had been cancelled, owing to lack of proposed attendance. He had attended a forum on police reform, the creation of a single force and its effects on policing in the region. He pointed out that nobody from the north-east is on the Scotland Police Board, and that councils can only advise the board of their thoughts. He added that the police's role in education was under threat.</p>	

BD said he had been inundated with requests, particularly from older people, for a pedestrian crossing of some sort on Bridge Street and asked could a 20mph speed limit be applied to the section of the A93 that runs through the village.

PA advised that a 20mph speed restriction in all residential areas was being considered, but that he was unsure if this would be applied to a main street. He added that ways to make it simpler for the elderly and less able to cross the road could certainly be looked into.

5.2) CNPA

PA advised that discussions into the CNPA's presence in Ballater were continuing and that there was talk of making the village a public sector hub.

A site visit to the proposed new Co-operative site at the Stagecoach garage had established that it was not possible to relieve parking concerns via Viewfield Road. He added that the application had gone through as approved and reiterated that it was a separate issue from Stagecoach's application. On that issue, he could report that Stagecoach's bid on the land adjacent to Pannanich Road had been accepted, subject (he assumed) to approval and planning consent. JA stated that the land in question would be better served as office space.

5.3) Association of Cairngorm Communities

JA had investigated whether Community Councils had a right to be consulted by the CNPA on planning issues and had discovered that they were not. PA impressed that while community councils were not *statutory* consultees, they were nonetheless consultees. CGB suggested that JA bring the issue to the attention of the community empowerment bill consultation, which is presently ongoing. SM to distribute details. JA repeated the need for office space in the village for small and/or start-up businesses. Other Community Council members stated that once the existing Co-op sites became available there may be possibilities for office space, particularly in the Netherley Place location. It was reported that a report into the area's broadband coverage was due out in December or January.

5.4) Core Paths

GA reported that he had been approached by COAT (Cairngorm Outdoor Access Trust) and asked if the Community Council would like to act as a repository for collecting information regarding core paths, to which he had answered yes.

5.5) Grant Moir (CNPA CEO)

SM reported that it had been difficult to secure a meeting as too few attendees were able to commit to the dates presented so far. She added that if Mr Moir were to be making a special trip to Ballater to meet the Community Council, then at least 8-10 council members need to be present. She asked if the council would like to rethink the meeting procurement process and it was suggested that the meeting be opened to a wider section of groups from the village, such as the BRD and BBA. SM to contact these groups.

SM

6. Ballater News.

Halls: CPA remarked that the Victoria and Albert Halls were looking very good and that the Halls Committee was to be congratulated on its efforts.

Co-operation: FD reported that he had met with Nick Mardell of DDDP (Deeside and Donside Development Projects) and Mike Powell of Marr Area Partnership with a view to see what can be done to make things better in the area and prevent different

The 2014 meeting dates had been circulated.	
12. Date of Next Meeting. Monday 9 th December at 7pm in Mike Sheridan Room, Ballater, V&A Halls. The meeting closed at 9pm	

For a copy of these minutes in a larger font contact the secretary on 0785 2414024.