

## **Minutes of the Braemar Community Council meeting held on Monday 15th August 2016 at Braemar Primary School at 7.30pm**

**SEDERUNT:** Councillors: Mrs Carole Paterson, Mrs Joanne Morris, Mrs Caroline Hadley Smith, Mrs Sue Sherrard, Alastair Colquhoun, Michael Holley and Miss Kim Neilson. Also Cllr. Katrina Farquhar.

**In attendance:** Angus McNicol (Invercauld Estate), Simon Blackett (BCL), David Geddes (BRHS), Brian Wood (CNPA), PC Jeff Hall, and 2 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Mrs Selena Hill, Cllr. Blackett and Trevor Garlick.

### **MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016:**

The minutes were proposed by Michael Holley and seconded by Sue Sherrard.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

Brian Wood wanted to point out that the Google calendar was now in use and wanted to encourage people/groups to use it in order to help co-ordinate all the different events happening in the village.

### **POLICE:**

PC Hall was aware of a bird box in the Mews being burnt although the matter hadn't been reported officially to him. He is going to check if the Fife Arms CCTV show up anything.

Operation Zenith is continuing with regard to the motorbikes.

PC Hall appreciates that parking is still an issue, especially at this busy time of year and unfortunately some tourists don't realise their parking errors.

Simon Blackett asked if PC Hall had a problem with the entrance to Braemar castle being coned off in order to stop people stopping there to take photos. PC Hall was happy with this as the entrance is situated on a particularly bad bend and creates a hazard. Caroline Hadley Smith suggested moving the 30mph speed limit to include the bend but Cllr. Farquhar advised that there were no plans to move any speed limits at present.

### **REPORT FROM BRAEMAR COMMUNITY LTD:**

Simon Blackett reported the following:

**Castle:** He advised that visitor numbers were up on previous years. They currently have 3 resident students working there and 2 volunteer students. There have been plenty of events including concerts and dinners. The Highland Fling event was very successful. The Leader funding application is still ongoing.

**Auchtavan:** The Open Day was held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August but unfortunately nobody came as the weather was terrible and the road was blocked with a fallen tree! The turf bench has now been completed by Aboyne Academy pupils.

**Braemar Outdoor Group:** No new developments to report. Carole Paterson passed around an email from Peter Crane, Head of Visitor Services CNPA, regarding the proposed Deeside Way extension. They are still awaiting a detailed response from SNH but meantime they have sent a proposal to Scottish Enterprise to ask for funding support.

Simon Blackett pointed out that BCL are happy to help with funding applications for local projects by allowing the applications to be submitted in the name of BCL, however BCL must be kept fully informed.

### **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GROUPS:**

#### **St Margaret's**

Brian Wood informed the meeting of the numerous concerts/events that had successfully taken place recently in St. Margaret's and also details of events coming soon. All events have been recorded and can be viewed on the St Margaret's website or You Tube.

A funding application has been submitted to Heritage Lottery Funding with the decision known on 13<sup>th</sup> September. Meanwhile other funding sources are being pursued and the project are grateful to Iwan and Manuela Wirth for their support.

The project now requires a part-time paid programmer/administrator and it is hoped to employ someone in the autumn.

#### **Invercauld Estate**

Angus McNicol reported that as from next week there will be plans for the former Strachan's shop on display in the shop window. The plans show the building being converted into a pub and a single storey flat.

With regard to the recent problems with the Vodaphone signal Angus confirmed that he has spoken to an engineer about the masts at Morrone and Auchallater.

Invercauld Estate have now received planning consent for the new pods at the caravan site and are just waiting a building warrant. Plans will be submitted soon for an extension to the site office.

The Estate are still working on clearing the Lade behind the shops on Glenshee Road.

Joanne Morris asked if there was going to be a marquee again at the back of Strachan's over the Games weekend. Angus advised that Mr & Mrs Gaze were planning on running this again this year.

### **REPORT FROM C.A.P:**

Email received from Trevor Garlick advising that there will be an Open Evening on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September starting at 6.30pm to look at a “refresh” of the 2013 Community Action Plan.

### **REPORTS FROM ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCILLORS:**

Cllr. Farquhar had nothing to report.

Cllr. Blackett had sent a message advising that the problem with the Royal Mail had been resolved for the time being as the Postmen/women are using the Stagecoach depot. Cllr. Farquhar advised that the situation had now changed as someone had made a complaint to the planning office as no planning permission had been granted for the Royal Mail to use the building. Stagecoach have been told to apply for planning permission. Joanne Morris asked about mail deliveries to Braemar; she had been told by a resident, Stanley Pottinger, that the deliveries to St Andrews Terrace and Balnellan were only every other day now. Margaret Clelland, who lives on St Andrews, and Sylvia Shaw, who lives on Balnellan, said this was not correct and they were still getting daily deliveries.

### **CNPA UPDATE:**

Cllr. Farquhar gave a short presentation on the Big 9. The Big 9 is the consultation document for the next Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan for 2017-22. The consultation period ends on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and a copy of the document is available for viewing at the Braemar Tourist Information Office. The consultation focuses on nine key issues affecting the CNP. Cllr. Farquhar urged everyone to join in with the consultation and pointed out that you didn't need to have an opinion on all nine issues, just the ones that mattered to you. There is a meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September at the Lecht ski centre with Association of Cairngorm Communities to discuss the consultation.

### **PLANNING:**

**APP/2016/1846:** Hayfield, 7 Linn of Dee Road. Mr & Mrs Court. Full planning permission sought for alterations and renovations to dwelling house. No objections raised.

**APP/2016/1790:** Clagganghoul. Invercauld Estates. Full planning permission sought for formation of a forestry track. No objections raised.

**APP/2016/1791:** Clagganghoul. Invercauld Estates. Full planning permission sought for formation of forestry access track. No objections raised.

**APP/2016/2044:** Braemar Mountain Sports. Advertisement consent sought for erection of two freestanding illuminated signs. Some of the Community council members were concerned about the height of the signs and also whether they would affect visibility when pulling out from the car park. Alasdair Colquhoun is to forward the comments to the planning department.

**APP/2016/1735:** Moorfield House Hotel. Mason-Gray Hotels Ltd. Full Planning permission sought (retrospective) for installation of decking area. No objections raised.

**APP/2016/2070:** Castleton Guest House 3-4 Castleton Terrace. Full planning permission for alterations and extension to form 2 dwelling houses. No objections raised.

**APP/2016/2184:** Auchallater Bothy. Balmoral Estate. Full planning permission sought for alterations and extension to dwelling house. No objections raised.

#### **DOG WALKING SCHEME:**

Carole Paterson advised that she has 15,000 dog waste bags which are free to dog owners providing they sign first to agree to dispose of the dog waste in the correct manner. She advised that anyone who signs up will get free gifts. Kim Neilson advised that there is a problem around Mar Lodge. Carole will add their name to the list to receive bags to hand out.

#### **SATELLITE PHONE:**

As a result of the village being cut off in the aftermath of Storm Frank, Ballater Rotary Club have very kindly given us a cheque for £1000 for the purpose of purchasing a satellite phone and some of the upkeep costs. Michael Holley is currently looking into this. Joanne Morris advised that she had been told that the upkeep costs of the phone might be expensive. Michael will look into this.

#### **VILLAGE PARKING:**

Simon Blackett expressed concern over the number of vans belonging to workers in the Fife Arms parking in the village. He has offered the use of the church grounds as parking for these vans. Michael Holley commented that at a meeting with Federica and Tom (Highlands Hospitality) they had said that by using the coach park at the Mews as a yard this would keep the work vans off the street, this obviously hasn't happened.

Carole Paterson had received an email from John Macpherson suggesting that all traffic should be directed to the Games Park for parking instead of the main car park next to the Butchers. He suggested that the signs should begin at the main road and continue right through the village. David Geddes confirmed that the Highland Society have agreed to make the Games park available for parking, obviously with the exception of the immediate run up to Games Day. Sue Sherrard commented that currently the signs were confusing as the signs directing people to the Games Park only mention coaches. Also she was not aware that you could drive inside the Games Park.

John Macpherson commented in his email that the Games Park needs to appear more welcoming, at present the only signs say "Dogs not allowed in". David Geddes said he would have to bring this up at the Highland Society meeting.

Carole Paterson read out a letter from Ian Peacock (Aberdeenshire Council) apologising for the delay in producing the new signs for the village. He is meeting shortly with the sign shop and will send a proposal through to BCC.

### **CRATHIE COMMUNITY:**

Simon Blackett explained that Ballater and Crathie had been a joint Community Council for many years. At present there isn't a representative from Crathie but several residents of Crathie have indicated that they would be interested in standing if they were joined with Braemar instead of Ballater. There is a consultation process which needs to be followed before this can happen. Cllr. Farquhar confirmed that both Community Councils would have to be consulted. Carole Patterson suggested that Braemar Council members think about it.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Letter dated 20 July 2016 received from Forest Enterprise Scotland with details of the Deeside Woods Land Management Plan. Kim Neilson took the time to read through the plan and reported back to the meeting that it was a very good forest plan. Carole Paterson thanked Kim for reading through it and reporting back.

Email dated 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016 from Norma Makin at South Marr Community Safety Group. The email advised about an emergency contact information disc which has been introduced as a way of passing on emergency contact information. More information can be found at [www.aberdeenshirecommunitysafety.org.uk/emergency](http://www.aberdeenshirecommunitysafety.org.uk/emergency)

Letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016 received from Sandra Stewart. Mrs Stewart expressed her concern that floral tributes and statues etc. left on graves were being damaged by the grass cutters, this is in addition to the damage caused by the rabbits. Iain Welsh from Landscape Services replied in an email dated 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016. He confirmed he has asked the supervisor to check with the local squads if there are any specific issues at Braemar which require attention. He pointed out that that his staff are aware of the sensitive nature of cemetery work and usually carry it out to a high standard. With regard to the rabbits he will check whether something should be done to stop them getting into the graveyard.

Letter received from BT giving advance notice of payphone removal. As yet we are not sure if the Braemar payphones will be affected.

An email was received from Neil Stewart at Aberdeenshire Council confirming that the Etape Royale cycle event will go ahead on the 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016.

Email received notifying us of a free community path training day on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016. Carole Paterson will forward this to Simon Blackett for the attention of the Braemar Outdoor Group.

**A.O.C.B:**

Joanne Morris - asked about the trees on Clunie Bank Road being cut back. Cllr. Farquhar has spoken to Mark Nicholson (Mar Estate) about this.

Michael Holley – asked about the fence on Clunie Bank Road which was damaged. Cllr Farquhar confirmed it belonged to Mar Estate. Michael also said that a sign was needed on Clunie Bank Road directing people up Morrone.

**.Date of next meeting:** Monday 17<sup>TH</sup> October 2016.

Meeting closed at 20.50 hours