

Minutes of the Braemar Community Council meeting held on Monday 20th February 2017 at Braemar Primary School at 7.30pm

SEDERUNT: Councillors: Mrs Selena Hill, Mrs Joanne Morris, Mrs Sue Sherrard, Alastair Colquhoun, Miss Kim Neilson and Mrs Jayne Watson. Also Cllr. Geva Blackett.

In attendance: Brian Wood (CNPA), Simon Blackett (BCL), Julian Fennema (BTG), Sue Harper (BOG), Federica Bertolini (Fife Arms), PC Jeff Hall, Colin Walker (Scottish Water), Kes Juskowiak (Scottish Water), Martin Dunbar (Scottish Water) and 9 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Carole Paterson, David Geddes (BRHS), Caroline Hadley Smith, Trevor Garlick, Angus McNicol.

MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD 19th December 2016:

The minutes were proposed by Sue Sherrard and seconded by Alasdair Colquhoun.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 19th December 2016:

Alasdair Colquhoun confirmed that he had written to the planning department in respect of the junction at St Andrew's Terrace to advise them that we would like to take a further look at the plans once the Roads dept. have made their comments. He has not heard back.

Alasdair Colquhoun also confirmed that he had forwarded a letter of support to the Planning dept. in support of the Glenshee Ski centre planning application.

With regard to the village lighting, Pete Mulvey confirmed that the council have agreed that the Lantern style lights will continue in the village centre. However the council will make changes to the bulbs as and when they have the money available to do this. Pete advised that the Led Bulbs are only available in brilliant white or warm white. He suggested that the warm white colour would be preferable to the brilliant white.

The Emergency Resilience committee has now been formed and in fact they have already had 3 meetings. Sue Harper who is on the committee confirmed that earlier today they had met with the Emergency Planning Officer from Aberdeenshire Council.

The bus shelter now has a new light and the timetables are changing in February.

POLICE:

PC Hall began by passing on his condolences to the family of Elmore Mitchell who tragically died just over a week ago in a house fire in the village.

PC Hall has had a report of a theft of oil from a tank in the village and reminded people to be vigilant.

Cllr. Blackett asked PC Hall if the police are policing the new weight limit on the Gairnshiel Bridge. PC Hall thinks that the snow ploughs may be using the bridge which then causes a problem if other

heavy goods vehicles witness this happening. PC Hall was not sure of the situation and whether the ploughs had been granted permission to use the bridge. He explained that it was difficult to police because of the remoteness.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM SCOTTISH WATER:

Selena Hill introduced the three representatives from Scottish Water and thanked them for coming out to speak to the community about our water supply.

Kes Juskowiak explained that Braemar was very fortunate as our water supply comes from a bore hole and receives limited treatment, it is just put through a basic sand filter. Our supply is chlorinated and the level of chlorine in the supply is very low. Scottish Water is legally obligated by the World Health Organisation to set the minimum chlorine level at 0.4mg per litre. Sue Harper advised that she recently had her water tested by Scottish Water and the chlorine level was 0.56mg per litre. Kes said this is within normal levels. Julian Fennema said there is increasing concern about the drinkability of the water and visitors to an area of outstanding natural beauty expect the water supply to be drinkable. He was concerned about the costs to businesses having to use filters/bottled water.

Kes confirmed that nothing different has happened at the water treatment works recently. He advised that in late November when the Fife Arms had a burst pipe the water had to be tankered in from Alford so this may have meant the water tasted different but this will have only been for a day at the most. Kes confirmed that the supply contains chlorine and not chloramine and is not needed to be boosted with any extra chlorine. He also confirmed there is just one supply for the whole village. One member of the public commented that the change in the taste occurred when the new treatment works was built but Kes could see no reason why this happened. Kes also explained that the water temperature can affect the taste so if the water is cold you will not taste the chlorine. Several residents advised that the water tasted different dependent on where you were in the village.

Cllr. Blackett explained that because of the complaints made by some residents she had been trying to speak with someone at Scottish Water for the past, four weeks but had not managed to speak to anyone. Kes apologised and said this should not happen. He advised her to put in a complaint.

Kes said he was happy to take a group of residents on a tour of the water treatment works to explain the process further. Selena Hill explained that the meeting needed to continue with the other items on the agenda but if the representatives from Scottish Water were happy, the questions could be continued in another room. They were happy to do this so Selena thanked them again for their time. Several members of the public left the meeting at this point to speak further with Scottish Water.

REPORT FROM BRAEMAR COMMUNITY LTD:

Report received from Simon Blackett:

Braemar Castle: Two new staff have started this month; Georgina Errington who is the new castle manager and Matt Halliday who will be in charge of fundraising. The castle will open Saturday 1st

April. Some of the projects that the castle will be looking for funds for are replacing the harling, landscaping, car parks, toilets and upgrading the flat.

Auchtavan: As part of the winter festival there will be a walk to Auchtavan together with a BBQ.

Braemar Outdoor Group: One of their projects is to improve the paths around the Birkwood and they are looking for volunteers. Training is available. The Deeside Way is progressing slowly.

Community Office: A Community Office has been set up in the Sunday school room in Braemar Parish Church. It will have two desks in and will be suitable for small meetings. More information will be available in the future. There will be a modest charge to cover the electricity and to make a donation to the church. The office will be connected to broadband.

Community Garden and Play Park: Both these projects are progressing.

Simon advised the meeting that he was now on the board of Visit Aberdeenshire and was happy to speak with anyone about this.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GROUPS:

Braemar Tourism Group:

Julian Fennema advised that the Snow Road contract was not yet fully signed but an agreement has been reached with Scottish Enterprise. Braemar will be well represented on the Snow Road committee. BTG have agreed on a designer to update the village map and it is hoped this will be completed ready for the new season.

St Margaret's:

Brian Wood advised that Jane Smith has been appointed as a part time Arts Administrator. She will spend a day a week in Braemar.

Braemar Care Initiative:

Aimi Blueman advised that they are holding a workshop on Wednesday 14th March 2017 at the Braemar Golf Club 10am – 4pm. The purpose is to help the steering group decide the best organisational structure for the BCI to take. Aimi invited two BCC members to come along to the workshop. **ACTION: Joanne Morris to email the details to the BCC members.**

REPORT FROM C.A.P:

In Trevor Garlick's absence Joanne Morris handed out copies of the revised Community Action Plan to everyone at the meeting. There are more hard copies available and Trevor will distribute these around the various authorities and interest groups in the village. He will also forward an e copy to the Braemar website. Trevor advised that he managed to stay within budget in producing the revised plan. He will claim some funding from Aberdeenshire Council with the balance coming from BCC as agreed. Trevor wanted to thank all those who have helped assemble the plan, mainly Carole Paterson, David Geddes, Angus McNicol and all the project leaders. He also wanted to acknowledge the help given by Dale Johnson and Roger Sudworth in updating the photographs and also Rosy

Wood and Aimi Blueman in proof reading. Finally he wanted to thank the formatter Cat Houston for doing a great job at a reasonable price.

Trevor suggested that we try to keep the projects alive and current through the Buzzard, Braemar TV, BCC/BCL meetings and perhaps another Village Hall session later in the year. He stressed that the document will soon date. The BCC should decide when it next updates the CAP but Trevor suggested 2019 or sooner.

REPORTS FROM ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

Cllr. Blackett was concerned that the Roads/Bridges dept. in Aberdeenshire Council had not been consulted regarding the new Snow Road project. She has asked for an update so she can inform the Council. She felt that the project will be of benefit to the area.

Cllr. Blackett attended a meeting of Royal Deeside Can Do which involved Tarland, Lumphanan and Aboyne schools. There is a move to get the school children involved in explaining the history of the area to any visitors.

Following on from her meeting with Rob Simpson, Head of Housing, Cllr. Blackett has asked him for an update. With regard to affordable housing Cllr. Blackett advised that the strip of land beside St Andrews was not going to be cost effective to build on due to the rocky ground and access issues. With regard to the land behind Rucksacks ear marked by Gordon Land for low cost housing, she advised that there was significant access issues. Cllr. Blackett advised that the Scottish Land Fund had money available for communities to buy land for low cost housing. She was concerned that unless the community acts quickly Gordon Land will pay the fine to Aberdeenshire Council and not build any affordable homes.

Cllr. Blackett is due to have a meeting with the Head of Roads dept. to discuss the road maintenance during the winter months. She suggested that any comments anyone wanted to make are fed to her via the BCC secretary.

CNPA UPDATE:

Brian Wood advised that the election to find a replacement for Katrina Farquhar will be held soon. Nominations close on Thursday 23rd February with voting closing on 30th March.

PLANNING:

APP/2016/3334 – 4 School Road Braemar. Applicant Mr McCabe. Full planning permission for the erection of garden shed and replacement boundary fence (retrospective) and installation of flue. No objections raised.

APP/2017/0046 – Balintuim, Clunie Bank Rd Braemar. Applicant Mr McIntyre. Full planning permission for alterations and extension to dwelling house. No objections raised.

APP/2017/0086 – Cnoc Na Mearlach. Applicant Mr Neil Caple. Consent for demolition of dwelling house. No objections raised.

APP/2017/0087 – Cnoc Na Mearlach. Applicant Mr Neil Caple. Full planning permission for erection of replacement dwelling house. Alterations to boundary wall and installation of 8m high flag pole. No objections raised.

APP/2017/0360 – 4 School Road Braemar. Applicant Mr McCabe. Full planning permission for change of use of land to domestic garden. Erection of garden shed and boundary fence (retrospective) and installation of flue.

CCTV:

At the last meeting the possibility of having recording CCTV situated at the two entrances/exits to the village was discussed. Alasdair Colquhoun had investigated the options and reported back to the meeting. He advised that the current web cam at the snow gates could be adapted to record for up to two months and this is being trialled. With regard to vehicles to/from the East Alasdair suggested a camera is erected just outside the garage. He has already asked the garage proprietors who are in agreement to the camera being hooked into their broadband. The cost of this would be in the region of £2000.00. Alasdair advised that BCC have sufficient funds to cover this. All the BCC members present at the meeting agreed that the cameras were a good idea and were happy for Alasdair to proceed.

GREEN DOG WALKING SCHEME:

The meeting was reminded about the Green Dog Walking Scheme. The scheme is for residents of Braemar and if they sign up they will receive free poo bags whenever needed and an initial free gift. The scheme can be joined in the Speciality Shop (re-opens 12th March). Visitors can purchase bags from the local garage and the Caravan Park. Carole Paterson has asked the Dog Warden to visit the village and there will be more Council signs going up around the village. Cllr. Blackett reported that in other villages around Deeside the school children have been involved in looking at signage and the location of the bins. She said such projects fitted in with the Curriculum for Excellence and suggested to the Head teacher Jayne Watson that this is something that Braemar School could get involved in. **ACTION: Joanne Morris will contact Angus McNicol to ask him what actions the Caravan Site are taking to tackle this problem.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Briefing note dated 19 Dec 2016 from the Head of Roads Aberdeenshire Council regarding Winter Services 2016/17.

Email received dated 30 Jan 2017 from Cairngorms Community Broadband. They wanted to come along to a Community Council meeting to brief the community about the faster broadband services on offer. Joanne Morris has replied and invited them to the meeting on 17th April 2017.

Questionnaire received on 7th February 2017 from Scottish Police regarding local policing. **ACTION: Selena Hill to complete on behalf of BCC.**

Email received on 25th Jan 2017 from Lee Haxton at CNPA. He is inviting the members of BCC to a Social Enterprise Summit on Tuesday 28th March in Tomintoul. The email has been circulated amongst the members.

Letter dated 18th Feb 2017 received from Caroline Hadley Smith on behalf of the Braemar Community Garden Project. The letter explained the work being done by the project and asked for a donation of £250.00 from BCC. Selena Hill explained that the purpose of BCC is not to provide funds for village projects. However it was agreed to donate £100 towards the project. **ACTION: Alasdair Colquhoun to forward a cheque to BCL for the project.**

A.O.C.B.

Carole Paterson – Carole had asked for the following items to be included:

Grit Bins – Carole has applied and been successful in getting 6 new grit bins for the village.

Signage – the new signs will be in place for the start of the summer season.

Carole Paterson wanted to offer her condolences on behalf of BCC to the family of Elmore Mitchell following her tragic death.

Facebook – Carole was concerned that the Community page on Facebook is being used to highlight some negative issues such as the dog mess problem and the drinking water issues. This page can be seen by some potential visitors to the village and therefore may give the wrong impression. Cllr. Blackett felt that it was important to get such information out to the village residents. She expressed her concern that the page is being used by businesses to promote their business which again isn't the purpose of the page. Cllr. Blackett suggested we make the Community page a private group so that it would be just seen by village residents. Alasdair Colquhoun suggested that BCC look into doing this.

Date of next meeting.

The next BCC meeting will be on Monday 17th April.

Date of AGM.

This year's AGM will be on Monday 24th April. There will be four vacant seats. Concern was raised about filling these vacant seats. Pete Mulvey agreed to put a notice in the Buzzard and Cllr Blackett advised that an advert should be placed in the Piper. **ACTION: Joanne Morris to give the details to Pete Mulvey and to speak to Nikki Nicol at Marr Area about the advert.** Joanne also agreed to put the details on the Community Facebook page nearer the time.

Meeting closed at 21.00 hours.

