

## **Minutes of the Braemar Community Council meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Braemar Primary School at 7.30pm**

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

**In attendance:** Brian Wood (CNPA), Simon Blackett (BCL), Sue Harper (BOG), Federica Bertolini (Fife Arms), Angus McNicol (Invercauld Estate) PC Jeff Hall, Sarah Hubbard (BTG), Jo Smith (Cairngorms Community Broadband) and 6 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Carole Paterson, David Geddes (BRHS).

### **MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017:**

Joanne Morris pointed out that the date of the AGM should read Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

Following this correction the minutes were proposed by Sue Sherrard and seconded by Kim Neilson.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017:**

Joanne Morris asked if anyone had an update regarding the water supply following on from the last meeting. Sue Harper advised that Scottish Water had been in contact to ask if the taste of her water had improved. She told them that she could still taste the chlorine. Scottish Water advised that there were still improvements to be made at the plant. Alasdair advised that Scottish Water will be at the AOCC meeting at Braemar castle in June.

Caroline Hadley Smith and Sue Sherrard have agreed to represent BCC at the Braemar Health Initiative workshop which didn't take place in March but will take place soon.

Angus McNicol confirmed that signs asking people to pick up their dog mess has been put up in the Caravan Park and on the gate leading into the woods near the Youth Hostel.

Selena Hill confirmed she has completed the questionnaire to Scottish Police.

Alasdair Colquhoun confirmed he has forwarded a cheque for £100 to the Community Garden project.

### **POLICE:**

PC Hall is aware of the traffic issues in the village and said that unfortunately common sense does not seem to be prevailing with people parking on blind bends in particular. PC Hall felt that maybe putting yellow lines down was the way forward especially as the village is just going to get busier during the summer months. Federica Bertolini suggested a subcommittee to look at the parking issues and how to resolve them. Cllr. Blackett suggested Lorna Hogg could come along.

PC Hall also wanted to advise that the police were aware of the black Audi abandoned on the A93 and that everything is legal with the car.

### **REPRESENTATIVE FROM CAIRNGORMS COMMUNITY BROADBAND:**

Selena Hill introduced Jo Smith from Cairngorms Community Broadband (CCB) who was going to give a short presentation.

CCB exists to improve digital connectivity in the remote area of CNP and its surrounding areas. CCB aims to serve those areas known as “white” postcodes which have not benefitted from the recent roll out of High Speed Fibre Broadband. Jo identified over 100 “white” postcodes in the Braemar area. Some postcodes are known as “grey” postcodes and they have limited/poor broadband coverage. However at the present CCB are only able to help those with “white” postcodes.

Simon Blackett suggested we identify which properties have the “white” postcodes. **ACTION: Alasdair Colquhoun to find out this information.**

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

Report received from Simon Blackett:

**Braemar Castle:** The Castle had a busy opening weekend. There will be a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration dinner and ceilidh at Mar Lodge on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017. Tickets will be priced at £15 per head. The Castle is also holding a raffle with some very good prizes, raffle tickets available around the village.

**Auchtavan:** Will be open to visitors on the various days held during the summer months.

**Community Office:** The community office in the Parish church is now up and running and available to hire for small meetings for a modest charge. Wi-Fi and an A3 colour photocopier has now been installed.

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

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

#### **Braemar Tourism Group:**

Sarah Hubbard advised that they are working on the village map and parking is marked on the map!

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

Brian Wood advised that the new Arts Administrator for St Margaret's, Jane Smith, has been working hard to establish close links between the St Margaret's project and organisations and individuals both within the village and beyond. She regularly holds drop in sessions in the Community Office when she is available to meet and discuss with anyone who has an interest in the Project.

A varied and ambitious programme of events is already taking shape kicking off with a fund raising dinner in support of Blytheswood's Suits on Bikes initiative to be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May. There will be a second Transatlantic Connections concert on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May featuring Fiona Kennedy, Paul

Anderson and from Nashville, American singer/songwriter Mary Gauthier. Tickets are now on sale from our website, from the sweetie shop in Braemar and Yule's in Ballater.

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

The updated CAP has now been distributed.

**REPORTS FROM ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCILLORS:**

Cllr. Blackett advised that there was nothing to report.

**CNPA UPDATE:**

Report received from Brian Wood:

Geva Blackett has now been appointed to the CNPA Board as the directly elected member for ward 5, covering Upper Deeside, Glenshee and the Angus Glens.

The draft new National Park Partnership Plan has now been completed by the CNPA Board and will now go to the Scottish Government for final approval.

Work is also being done on the many responses to a "Call for sites and ideas". These will help inform the creation of the next Local Development plan for 2020.

Work is ongoing to develop and implement Volunteer Cairngorms, a scheme to encourage volunteers to become engaged in the work of the Park. In particular we are hoping to enlist and train Volunteer Rangers to work with and support the various Ranger services across the National Park.

**PLANNING:**

**APP/2017/0495:** Invercauld House. Applicant Moors Partnership. Application for the erection of a hay/log store. No objections raised.

**APP/2017/0505:** Auchallater. Applicant Invercauld Estate. Prior notification for erection of agricultural building. No objections raised.

**APP/2017/0485:** Hill track access, Morrone. Applicant Police Scotland. Full planning permission for repairs to existing 4.1km track. No objections raised.

**APP/2017/0702:** Princess Royal & Duke of Fife Memorial Park. Applicant Braemar Royal Highland Charity. Full planning permission for erection of Highland Games centre inc office, café and retail space and installation of Air Source Heat pump. No objections raised.

**APP/2017/0776:** Crathie Cottage, 28 Mar Road. Applicant Mr Andrew Braidwood. Full planning permission for alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, alterations to ancillary bothy and siting of oil boiler. No objections raised.

## **REPORT FROM INVERCAULD ESTATE:**

Angus McNicol reported:

Invercauld Estate have put in a submission to the CNPA "Call for sites" for housing and car parking. This will be a long process.

Invercauld Estate are involved in the Cairngorms Nature Big Weekend which is happening in the middle of May. They are involved with tree planting and mud pies.

The Estate is working with the Woodland Trust to look at small woodlands to commemorate the anniversary of the end of WW1 next year.

Deeside Way – COAT now have a draft route so things are progressing.

There will be a 6 day orienteering challenge taking place in Deeside during August. On 3<sup>rd</sup> August they will be orienteering around Creag Choinnich and will be using the field next to the garage for parking.

Cllr. Blackett asked if there was any progress with what was the Strachan's building. Angus advised he was in discussion with some interested parties. He confirmed that the Estate are not looking to sell the building. At present they are considering replacing the windows.

## **DOG MESS SIGNAGE:**

Joanne Morris showed the Community Council members the print out of the various signs as suggested by Aberdeenshire Council. None of the members felt that any of the signs were appropriate. Cllr. Blackett expressed her concern that there doesn't appear to be any co-ordination between Aberdeenshire Council and Gillian Able from the Green Dog Walking Scheme. Kim Neilson advised that there are some dog mess signs in relation to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Kim Neilson also felt that part of the problem was the lack of bins. Cllr. Blackett advised that the school children are encouraged to identify where the problems exist and then decide if it is possible to get a bin lorry to it. **ACTION: Cllr. Blackett to email Gillian Able and arrange a meeting with Jayne Watson at the school and also maybe Kim Neilson can attend.**

## **VILLAGE SIGNAGE:**

Email dated 13 April 2017 received from Ian Peacock at Aberdeenshire Council re the village signage. The signs at both the entrances to the village should hopefully be up by the end of April and the signs at the junction to the village directing people off the A93 should be done by the end of May. There will also be a parking sign installed at the duck pond. The large signs before the village junction may have to wait for a few months as there may be additional symbols needed. Angus McNicol asked if the larger signs could be moved closer to the village junction.

### **BLAIRGOWRIE BUS:**

We received a copy of the Marr Area Bus Forum. Unfortunately the bus service from Ballater to Blairgowrie is not commercially viable and will not be running this summer. Also the request for a bus service between Braemar and Linn of Dee has been ruled out as it would not be commercially viable.

### **A BOARDS OUTSIDE THE MEWS:**

Alasdair Colquhoun advised that he had complaints about the A Boards outside the Mews. He wanted to know how the community felt. Alasdair understood that only Loch Carron had been given permission to put their signs outside. Selena Hill said we need to find out what the legalities are. **ACTION: Cllr Blackett to ask the council what their position is regarding the A Boards.** A member of the public (Jennifer Greenshields) asked to speak. She told the meeting that Tom Addy, from TOR (the contractors carrying out the building work at the Fife) told her that the Council had given Highlands Hospitality permission during the construction project to put out signage as needed. As her B&B is partly obscured by large containers used by the builders she had put out a sign to make her business visible. Federica Bertolini strongly disputed the fact that the Council had given permission to put any signage relating to the promotion of other businesses and she also disputed the fact that Jennifer had heard this from Tom Addy. Federica explained that the only signage the Council had discussed and approved with Highlands Hospitality are those to redirect the coaches to the Games Park.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Email from Natasha Pawlukiewicz at Marr Area office dated 21 March 2017 advising of the Village Halls conference on the 21<sup>st</sup> April at Finzean. **ACTION: Joanne Morris to make sure John Macpherson and the village hall committee are aware of this.**

Notice dated 31 March 2017 advising of temporary road closure on Cairnadrochit starting 17<sup>th</sup> April for 5 days.

Notice dated 3 April 2017 from CNPA advising that the planning application for the Games Park has been called in.

Letters received from village residents, Billy Blackburn, Dorothy Ramsay and Kate Muirhead asking for an explanation as to why For Sale signs have gone up at land behind Kindrochit Court and at the bottom of St Andrews Terrace earmarked for development by Gordon Land. Carole Paterson and Joanne Morris had emailed Mark Nicholson and he in turn emailed Kenny Clubb from Gordon Land. Kenny Clubb replied in an email dated 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017. He advised that road realignment consent at St Andrews junction had now been achieved so they were working to conclude the final issues and then will be in a position to make a start to works on the ground in the next few weeks. Kenny Clubb went on to state he had no idea where the For Sale signs had come from and neither had his colleagues. He said he would check when back in the office on Tuesday. One of the residents, Kate Muirhead, asked if the Community Council would be prepared to write a letter to Mark Nicholson

and ask him if he would be prepared to gift the wood behind Kindrochit to the community in order that the community could build low cost houses/business units. Cllr Blackett agreed that the land should be in the hands of the community. She explained that if Gordon Land do not build affordable houses on the land then they will have to pay a fine of £189,000.00 to Aberdeenshire Council. If the Council do not use that money for affordable houses within 6 months then they will have to pay the money back to Gordon Land. Alasdair Colquhoun asked the community council members as to whether BCC should write a letter to Mark Nicholson. Sue Sherrard proposed that BCC write a letter and Caroline Hadley Smith seconded it. **ACTION: Alasdair Colquhoun to write a letter on behalf of BCC with Cllr Blackett and Trevor Garlick to help by checking it.**

Email received from Federica Bertolini dated 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017 asking if the topic of coach/car parking can be raised at the meeting. It was agreed that this was something that needed looking into as a matter of urgency as the summer season was fast approaching. Federica suggested we form a subcommittee/working group to discuss the problems/solutions in detail. It was agreed that as soon as the new BCC committee has been formed following from the AGM next week then a group could be formed with a representative from Highlands Hospitality, BTG, BRHS, Angus McNicol from Invercauld Estate, Cllr Blackett, Lorna Hogg from Aberdeenshire Council and a representative from BCC. **ACTION: Joanne Morris to contact the various parties to organise a meeting.**

Email dated 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017 received from Marr Area Office advising that the Marr Area Committee Large Project Grant scheme was now open for applications.

Email dated 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017 asking for applications for the "Village of the Year" competition. Joanne Morris asked if anyone from BCC was interested in taking this forward.

### **A.O.C.B.**

**At this point in the meeting Selena Hill had to leave and Alasdair Colquhoun took over chairing the meeting.**

Alasdair Colquhoun advised that there was still some fencing in the River Dee following from the flood. **ACTION: Joanne Morris to email COAT to make them aware of this.**

Cllr Blackett advised she had been made aware that BCC have not made any comments during the consultation period for the Re-establishment of Community Councils. Joanne Morris replied that she had sent the details around to all the members and had not had a response.

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

**Date of AGM:** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

The meeting closed at 21.10.

