

## **Minutes of the Braemar Community Council meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at Braemar Primary School at 7.00pm.**

**SEDERUNT:** Councillors: Alasdair Colquhoun, Trevor Garlick, Joanne Morris, Aimi Blueman, Caroline Hadley Smith, Jayne Watson, Sue Sherrard and Shaila Daniels. Also Cllr Blackett and Cllr Gibb.

**In attendance:** Davy Geddes (BRHS), Brian Wood (CNPA), Angus McNicol (Invercauld Estate), Sarah Hubbard (BTG) and four members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Samantha Tait, Liz Henderson (CNPA).

### **MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017:**

The minutes were approved. Proposed: Trevor Garlick Seconded: Jayne Watson.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017:**

**Dog Mess Signage:** This is still ongoing. **ACTION: Cllr. Blackett to liaise with Jayne Watson.**

**Nicolle MacDonald Community Safety Officer:** We still need to arrange CPR training and or Dementia awareness evening. **ACTION: Joanne Morris to email Nicolle to arrange something for the New Year.**

**Cruise Ships Aberdeen Harbour:** Brian Wood confirmed that Doreen Wood and Julian Fennema have been to a meeting about getting "Cruise Ready". He advised that Braemar needed to establish what capacity we have for visitors as there is an opportunity for the village if we want it but we need to be "Cruise Ready". Sarah Hubbard (BTG) reported that the majority of members at the last BTG meeting felt it was worth looking into and there was a suggestion of producing a promotional video to show the cruise ships. Alasdair Colquhoun felt that it was important that the village needed to be united with representatives from the various groups represented. **ACTION: Trevor Garlick agreed to speak to Julian Fennema.**

### **RESIGNATION OF A COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBER:**

Alasdair Colquhoun reported that with regret Kim Neilson feels unable to continue as a Community Council member. Kim was in the process of arranging a village clean up in the spring. Aimi Blueman agreed to take on the role. **ACTION: Aimi to liaise with George Niblock at Aberdeenshire Litter Initiative.**

### **POLICE:**

PC Hall was not present at the meeting. Alasdair read out a Community Council report for Upper Deeside which we received from Sergeant Stephen Robertson. He reported that the area continues to have few reports of violence and disorder and low numbers of acquisitive crime.

BCC have received an email dated 24<sup>th</sup> Nov from Margaret-Jane Cardno at Aberdeenshire Council advising that Police Scotland are keen to review how they engage with communities via Community Councils. A meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> December to look at forming a working group, unfortunately

no one from Braemar was able to attend. We received an email from Max Wallace dated 14<sup>th</sup> Dec advising us that he was the representative for Marr area on the working group. More information will be available in the New Year.

#### **REPORT FROM ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCILLORS:**

Cllr. Blackett advised that a new engineer, Ralph Newlands, had been appointed to support the Principal Roads Engineer, Angela Funk.

Cllr. Blackett advised she had been at a meeting with the Director of Infrastructure and Head of Roads to talk about problems with clearing paths/roads. She stressed that the recent wintry weather had been a widespread problem and didn't just affect Aberdeenshire. She advised that Braemar was one of two Community Councils that responded two years ago to the suggestion by Aberdeenshire Council of creating Snow Wardens. The Council will give training to any volunteer Snow Wardens and also provide all the equipment needed. Aberdeenshire Council will supply the village with a map showing where the grit bins are and the community can work with the Council to ensure they are in the right places. The bins should be filled every Monday but we can report it online if the bins are empty. Alasdair Colquhoun asked if the Council would train a Snow Warden to use the small tractor plough. **ACTION: Cllr Blackett will look into this and advise Philip MacKay at Aberdeenshire Council that Braemar are interested in training some Snow Wardens.**

The email to report any problems with the road clearing is:  
marr.roadenquiries@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

#### **REPORT FROM CNPA:**

With regard to CNPA planning Cllr Blackett asked whether BCC are basing their comments regarding planning applications on the planning policies contained in the Local Development Plan (LDP). Alasdair confirmed BCC does not have a hard copy of the booklet but as local residents we can surely base our comments on local knowledge. Brian Wood offered BCC his hard copy of the LDP. Cllr. Blackett asked if BCC needed some training in dealing with planning application. **ACTION: Cllr Blackett to arrange a training session.**

Brian Wood stressed that the LDP forms the basis of policy for all planning applications so it is vitally important that as many people as possible get involved in the consultation for the new LDP. The consultation period is open till 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018. CNPA are arranging an Open Day in the village hall on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 and we need as many people as possible to attend. There are posters advertising the Open Day in the notice board and it is on Facebook. Sarah Hubbard agreed to put the village map on social media showing the potential new building sites. Sue Sherrard commented that there was only a short time frame between the Open Day and the end of the consultation period.

Brian Wood advised that out of the total 19 Park Board members 5 are due to stand down by the end of Sept 2018. Of these 5 there are 3 from this side of the Park so it is important to encourage people from this side of the Park to apply for the positions. They are ministerial positions and the commitment is 2 days of meetings and 1 preparation day per month.

### **VILLAGE SIGNAGE:**

Joanne Morris emailed Ian Peacock at Aberdeenshire Council. His email reply dated 31<sup>st</sup> Oct advised that the Council were in the process of creating the signage for the new Snow Roads and the plan is to incorporate this into the large signs on the A93. The new signs would show the changes which had already been discussed along with symbols for the snow route. He confirmed that they would then look at installing other signs closer to the turnoff from the A93 into the town centre showing the facilities available. The signs would likely be installed early 2018. Ian also agreed to come to Braemar to look at the signage for the Invercauld car park and duck pond. **ACTION: Joanne Morris to continue to chase Ian Peacock.**

### **ROAD CLEARING AND GRIT BINS:**

This has already been covered in the Report from Aberdeenshire Councillors. Cllr. Blackett confirmed she has asked for the A939 to be treated as a higher priority. Joanne Morris asked if the Estate could be paid by the Council as and when needed to grit some of the roads. Angus McNicol confirmed this happened in the past but the Council do not pay enough to make it financially viable for the Estates.

### **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:**

This year none of the businesses had small Christmas trees in their tree holders. In the past real trees were used but it is felt that it is not sustainable to use real trees. Maggie MacKay advised that a small artificial tree can be purchased together with lights for £16. The Christmas Lights group will look into this for next year. Maggie advised that the living tree in the village centre needs pruning. **ACTION: Alasdair Colquhoun agreed to look into getting someone to do this.**

Paul Gibb who had been to a meeting in Strathdon arrived at the meeting at this point.

### **PLANNING:**

**APP/2017/2364** Castleton Guest House. Applicant Mr Glenn Perkins. Full planning permission for alterations and extension to outbuilding to form dwelling house and erection of dwelling house (use as short term lets).

Several residents had raised concerns to us about parking on the green in front of 3-4 Castleton Terrace. However BCC pointed out to them that in the design statement document it clearing states that the planning dept. have confirmed that no planning permission is needed for parking on the green. For this reason BCC felt they couldn't raise an objection.

**APP/2017/2652** Glenshee Ltd. Full planning permission for erection of modular building (non-compliance with conditions from a previous application). No objections raised by BCC.

**APP/2017/2850** Applicant EE Ltd. Site to the east of Bridge of Dee cottage, Invercauld Bridge, Crathie. Full planning permission for erection of 25m lattice tower and installation of antenna and dish, installation of meter cabinets and generator. No objections raised by BCC.

**APP/2017/2878** Applicant Mr & Mrs Calum Innes. Full planning permission for erection of a garage on land adjacent to Mountain Cottage, Chapel Brae, Braemar. BCC sent the following objection to the planning dept.

Braemar Community Council would like to object to the above planning application based on the following points:

- The proposed site falls out with the development plan area and is in a regeneration zone.
- The proposed site stands at the entrance to a viewpoint overlooking the River Dee and has a seating area for this purpose.
- A car park already exists across the road from the proposed site and therefore a vehicle could be left there.
- The building is not in keeping with the area.
- The original planning application for Downies cottage was supported by Braemar Community Council based on the access to the property being via Clunie Bank Road and therefore causing no detriment to the Morrone Birkwood Nature Reserve track.

Mr Calum Innes was at the meeting and asked to speak. He explained why he required a garage and that he had looked for alternative sites.

**APP/2017/2904:** Applicant Mr Ronnie Moore. 2 Canmore Road Braemar. Full planning permission for alterations and extension to dwelling house. No objections raised by BCC.

**APP/2017/2710:** Applicant Mrs Sandra Stewart. Castleton Bothy, 2 Castleton Place Braemar. Full planning permission for conversion of existing gift shop to dwelling house, (non-compliance of a previous application). No objections raised by BCC.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Email received from Cairngorm Community Broadband Ltd dated 29/10/2017 advising us of the decision to suspend CCB's activities.

Email dated 3/11/2017 received from Jean Henretty advising us that she is one of the new Community Learning & Development worker. **ACTION: Joanne Morris to invite her to Aprils BCC meeting.**

Email dated 6/11/2017 received from Stagecoach advising us of the new bus timetable.

Letter dated 23/11/2017 received from Invercauld Estate advising BCC that the management of the woodlands on Invercauld Estate is currently being audited for Forest Stewardship Council certification.

Email dated 29/11/2017 received from Davy Sherrard. The email is asking for a nomination for a BCC member to sit on the panel of the new Hydro Community Fund. BCC have asked Samantha Tait and she is happy to sit on the panel.

Email dated 5/12/2017 received from Aberdeenshire Council regarding the launch of the online consultation regarding Licensing Policy. This has been passed onto John Torrance and John Kinsella who are going to look at it on behalf of BCC.

Email dated 6/12/2017 received from Augustus Juskevicius of Scottish Woodlands advising BCC if they wish to comment on the Mar Estate Long Term Forest Plan which is currently being drafted.

Email dated 8/12/2017 received from Marr Area advising BCC that grants of up to £4000 are still available. Applications should be received by 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018.

Letter received from a village resident asking if BCC would be willing to support a competition to produce a "Welcome to Braemar sign" with the winning design located on all roadsides leading into the village. Whilst most members felt that it was a good idea there was some concern raised about who would choose the winning design and whether it would be in keeping with the village. BCC felt that it would need to see the winning design before giving its approval.

Letter received from Carole Paterson asking people to be diligent in taking down their posters as soon as the event has finished.

**AOCB:**

Joanne Morris has been asked by Derrick Stewart about replacing the Union Jack flag used at the Remembrance Parade. **ACTION: Joanne Morris to speak to John Macpherson in the New Year.**

Date of next meeting **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

Meeting closed at 8.35pm