

Minutes of the Braemar Community Council Meeting held on Monday 20th August 2018 at Braemar Primary School at 7pm

1. Sederunt

Present: Councillors Alasdair Colquhoun, Trevor Garlick, Shaila Daniels, Jayne Watson, David Sherrard, Elliot Perkins, Aimi Blueman. Also present Cllr Geva Blackett, and Cllr Paul Gibb

In attendance: Belinda Miller (Head of Economic Development Aberdeenshire Council) Angela Funk (Principal AC Roads Engineer), Brian Wood (CNPA), David Geddes (BRHS), Simon Blackett (BCL) and four additional members of the public.

2. Minutes from the last meeting: edits had been made to the minutes of the last meeting. Minutes were approved. Proposed Alasdair Colquhoun, Seconded David Sherrard.

3. Matters arising from the last minutes: Braemar Care is no longer awaiting the outcome of a funding application to the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership as they have been successful with a bid to the Scottish Government Resilience Fund and have been granted £36,000 over three years.

4. Update from Belinda Miller (Head of Economic Development - Aberdeenshire Council) on the Car Parking Consultation: Belinda explained there was an opportunity for funding from the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund which provides funding for small villages and towns with problems associated with tourism. The deadline for expressions of interest (EOIs) for the second round of funding is Mid October 2018. Following the consultation held in Braemar in June the following areas were felt to be key:

1. Mews – additional parking in front of the mews could be created (4-5 spaces)
2. Coaches – Coach parking could remain as it is (but make the area more attractive and better for continental coaches) or move coach parking to the Games park, possibly with space to drop off at the mews.
3. Fife Arms - Two spaces would be dedicated to valet car parking for the hotel, the rest of the spaces would be available for public car parking.
4. Games Park – spaces to be made available for car parking and additionally six overnight spaces could be created.
5. Balnellan – The car park could be reconfigured to allow more parking and campervans etc. could be directed elsewhere to prevent more than one space per vehicle being taken up.

Belinda suggested better signage for car-parking and directional walking signs were key. All these ideas would be put forward as part of the EOI package.

There was general agreement with the key areas with concerns about Pipe Bands having an area to play if additional space were created from the existing pavement space, the walk route between the Game Park and the rest of the village, and the possibility of the Duck pond car park being used by Camper Vans.

Action: Belinda Miller to put forward EOI and further consultation with the village to follow

4.1 Angela Funk - Principal Roads Engineer, Aberdeenshire Council

Angela Funk from the Roads Department spoke about the Snow Warden Scheme which is designed to provide members of the public with PPE, Snow Shovels, Grit and training in the use of these to clear pathways on behalf of the Council.

Alasdair Colquhoun asked if training could be provided for individuals to use the existing path-clearing machinery; Angela said this had been previously requested of AC Roads and declined.

Action: Members of the public wishing to be snow wardens to contact the Community Council;

Action : Cllr. Geva Blackett to follow-up on the possibility of snow plough training for the Community.

5. Police Report: Alasdair Colquhoun read the Police Report; There were few instances of anti-social behaviour, wildlife crime or acquisitive crime. There had been two recent fatalities on the A93.

6. Report from Aberdeenshire Councillors

Cllr Geva Blackett –stated it was her intention to fight the withdrawal of the A2B dial a bus, this was supported by Cllr Paul Gibb.

Geva alerted the Council to scam calls. Bank customers are being called and told fraudulent activity had been noted on their account; they are told to delete their mobile banking app and then the fraudsters upload their own software gaining access to the individual's full bank details. Aberdeenshire Council's Trading Standards Team have raised this alert after activity in the Aboyne area.

A paper was to be submitted regarding dog fouling at the Marr Area Committee; the paper covered council areas such as schools, playparks etc. There was agreement that the council areas were not a problem in Braemar. Issues with dog fouling remain and

consideration was to be given to problem areas; where dog poo bins might be better situated, increased in size where necessary and positive signage.

Geva noted that when survey work was being undertaken on Invercauld Bridge there was a temporary speed restriction which she witnessed being flouted. The restriction is in place to ensure the safety of staff working on the bridge and this should be respected and observed.

Action: Councillors to identify dog poo priority problem areas and look into positive signage options.

Cllr Paul Gibb – Has been working with Ralph Newlands from the Road Department regarding speed limit signs. It is nationally agreed there should be no repeater signs for a 30 mile/hour limit. Other options included road markings to indicate pedestrians crossing and a speed monitoring device which will include a speed limit reminder for around £2-3k.

The temporary speed recording device has now been removed and the data will be analysed.

Action: Paul Gibb to ask for data to be supplied to BCC to evaluate the extent of the problem and BCC to consider options for reminders of speed limit and how these could be funded? Paul will continue to press AC on the issue.

7. CNPA update – Brian Wood said following the consultation on the new Local Development Plan new sites for development has been identified (not in the Braemar Area) a further consultation was to be conducted re these new sites between 13th August and 21st September. Following this the final draft of the plan would be issued for consultation with the approved plan released in Spring 2019. All comments made had been taken into consideration but they may not be referred to directly in the plan.

A ‘significant’ number of applications had been received for the 10 CNPA Board vacancies and a shortlist would be drawn up.

8. Update from BCL - Simon Blackett said BCL had been asked to instruct a feasibility study by the Rural Housing Fund into the possibility of Community Run Housing on the land behind Kindrochit Court.

The Community office in the church was available to the community for meetings.

BCL are looking for new directors and new project ideas.

BCL are continually pushing for the extension of the Deeside Way.

A BBQ will be held at Auchtavan on 16th September.

Castle - A visitor survey is to be conducted to investigate why people come into the Braemar Castle grounds but not into the castle. Simon noted there was a continued problem with cars pulling into the main gates rather than the car park. A £1.6 million lottery heritage fund application has been submitted and the flat behind the castle has been refurbished. A visitor centre is being considered for the castle, possibly in conjunction with the Princes' Foundation. Invitations to an 'enquiry by design' meeting would shortly be issued for the 14th November.

9. BCC Constitution changes – Trevor Garlick listed the questions that need to be agreed by the Community Councillors to form the new constitution to be agreed by September. All community councillors present agreed to the changes. In addition, the BCC needs to re-state the Independent Verifier (of accounts) and draw up an updated list of members. An EGM would be held to vote on the new constitution.

Trevor noted that the BCC constitution did not currently allow for an individual to hold multiple posts - he had been acting as vice-chair and secretary. BCC preference is that each officer is a different Community Councillor. David Sherrard proposed an amendment to the constitution (to allow the Secretary or the Treasurer to also be Vice Chair, if needed). Aimi Blueman seconded the proposal.

10. Planning - David Sherrard outlined the planning applications;

Shieling – Plans for the new building design and demolition of the current building had been re-submitted

Action: BCC to review new plans (APP/2018 2034 and 20135) and revert to DS.

4 Broombank Terrace – Councillors agreed that a justification should be submitted for demolition and an objection would be raised until this justification was submitted.

Bellevue – The councillors shared Historic Scotland concerns and felt a neutral comment should be submitted to emphasise that the re-use of materials should be considered in the design of the new building.

Castleton Terrace – An AC meeting to be held on 21st August.

West Quoich Road – The National Park had called this application in.

11. Correspondence

Alasdair outlined correspondence regarding the withdrawal of the A2B Dial a Bus and the possible replacement of a scheme run by volunteers through Ballater Royal Deeside. Geva said the decision was on hold until later in August. It was agreed that currently it is not commercially sustainable, but that there may be a link in with Braemar Care Volunteers, when that scheme is commissioned. The BCC noted that it could help advertise any replacement scheme.

The CC had received an invitation to attend the Community Safety South Marr meetings. No one was able to attend and apologies were sent to say whilst BCC support the group, and would share our work on speed restrictions, that no BCC member could attend.

12. AOCB – There was no further BCC business.

13. Date of next BCC meeting Monday 15th October 2018