

Minutes of the Braemar Community Council Meeting held on Monday 17th December 2018 at Braemar Primary School.

Present: Community Councillors – Alasdair Colquhoun, Trevor Garlick, Shaila Daniels, Jayne Watson, Aimi Blueman, David Sherrard, Elliot Perkins, Paul Gibb & Geva Blackett.

In attendance: Angus McNicol (Invercauld Estate), David Frew (Mar Lodge Estate) and 3 members of the public.

2. Minutes from the last meeting were approved. Proposed Aimi Blueman, Seconded Trevor Garlick.
3. Matters arising from the last minutes:
 - TG circulated the constitution – **AP discharged.**
 - TG wrote to Andy Sheridan (Aberdeenshire Council (AbC) Waste Management requesting new and larger dog waste bins at certain locations and mentioned the corroded bins. AbC will put one new bin at the Linn of Dee but will empty other bins more often rather than replacing them with larger bins. ACC have replaced the corroded bins – **AP discharged.**
 - AC to advertise Dial-a-bus service on the village noticeboard – (see later) – **AP1 carried over.**
 - BCC provided evidence to Belinda Miller (AbC) of parking problems in the village. **AP discharged.** AbC have now submitted an EOI to the Rural Tourism Fund for plans to improve the car, motorhome and coach parking in Braemar. This is now being progressed into a full application which will improve the car park in Balnellan Road, change the current coach park into a car park by the Mews, improve the current coach drop-off point by the Mews and move coach and motorhome car parking to beside the Braemar Highland Games Centre (to include lighting and waste disposal facilities). **AP2 TG to invite Belinda Miller back to consult and discuss on the next phase with the Community in 2019.**
 - TG wrote to Stagecoach regarding the provision of a toilet on the bus from Braemar to Aberdeen. Stagecoach responded saying they understood the point and that they always try to provide a bus with a toilet but cannot guarantee this – **AP discharged.**
 - DS spoke to Angus McNicol and now the Braemar Community Facebook page and the Invercauld Estate website have been linked such that people can read about Invercauld's proposed development plans opposite Braemar garage. An article has also been placed in the Buzzard – **AP discharged.**
 - AC corresponded with Gavin Miles (CNPA) and he will come after Christmas to discuss the North Braemar scheme with BCC. **AP3 AC to arrange a meeting date in the New Year.**
 - The owner of the wall outside 1 Castleton Terrace which is falling into the road has not yet been identified – **AP4 GB to establish who the wall owner is.**
 - AC contacted Mar Roads (AbC) and requested that the electric sockets on the poles are checked and repaired. AbC have checked and repaired them – **AP discharged.**
 - TG wrote to the Co-op manager (Alan Porter) requesting the Braemar residents preference for regular (even if shorter) Post Office hours. Alan Porter responded saying he will do his best to maintain steady hours but the co-op is short staffed and staff cannot be made to be Post Office trained. Co-op have been posting opening hours on the Community Facebook page. Geva Blackett has taken this issue up with Mark Gibson (Post Office). **AP5 TG to write to Alan Porter's manager to pursue this issue further.**
 - SR progressing the signatory changes with the BCC bank. **AP6 AP carried forward.**

4. Police report –Anti-social behaviour, violence disorders, wildlife crime and house-breaking theft have all been at a low level. The A93 has been patrolled frequently in relation to criminals travelling from the Aberdeen direction and south over the A93. Police continue to receive reports of speeding in Upper Deeside. Working with AbC Road Department to utilise speed survey equipment. Change of staffing. Sergeant Stephen Robertson has moved into Aberdeen and Sergeant Keith Greig has commenced duties in Deeside.
5. Report from Aberdeenshire Councillors –
Geva Blackett (Councillor and CNPA update)
 - After re-advertising , three candidates are being interviewed on the 20th December for the Head Teachers post of Braemar Primary School. Geva Blackett will notify BCC is no one is appointed.
 - Complaints have been received that the late night bus from Ballater to Braemar (202) is not waiting for the the arrival of the 201 bus from Aberdeen and hence people are getting stranded in Ballater. Geva Blackett has taken this up with Stagecoach and they have now confirmed that the bus (202) will wait but also that from Jan 2019 the 201 bus will go all the way through to Braemar.
 - AbC have moved the heavy goods sign from the Crathie-Gairnshielturn off on the A93 to the Glen Gairn turn off the A93 near Ballater. Reflections from the sign were causing problems to driver .
 - There are new “road closure due to snow” signs at the Crathie-Gairnshiel turn off the A93 but these have not been getting opened up when required. People have been going up the road and getting stuck. AbC are considering putting snow gates somewhere on this road.
 - As of the 8th Jan 2019, Ballater BRD is going to take onthe Braemar - Aberdeen run to replace the previous ACC Dial-a-bus service. BRD should be in touch with BCC regarding advertising the service in the Braemar Buzzard and Community Facebook page etc. The servicewill run every two weeks.
 - Polhollockbridge over the Dee was re-opened last week. Only 4 people allowed on it at any one time.
 - Aberdeenshire Main Issues report will be published on the 15th January 2019 with a 12 week consultation period. Geva Blackett alerted the BCC that they may want to consider responding to one aspect relating to potential housing for workers with particular needs relating to rural industries which is covered in Chapter 4 of the report. She emphasised that should enough people and bodies such as the Community Councils respond then this may influence change in the policy.
 - Six new board members have been appointed onto the CNPA board. GB has been elected Deputy Convener and Peter Argyle is now vice Convener of planning.
 - The proposed Local Development Plan will be out for consultation shortly.
 - The CNPA board have approved the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan and the Cairngorms Economic plan.
 - On the back of a visit to China, the CNPA board have invited Chinese politicians over here and they have agreed to market the CNP to Chinese students studying in the UK.

Paul Gibb

- If there is a lack of drivers for the Ballater BRD service from Braemar to Aberdeen and the replacement service doesn't work then AbC will take it back on.

- The police have been monitoring vehicle speeds on the A93 at the south (by Castleton Hall) and north end (between village and castle) of Braemar. At the south end the average speeds recorded did not exceed the legal speed limit and hence no action will be taken by the police. At the north end the average speed of vehicles was 38 mph (N direction) and 37mph (S direction). The police consider there are no issues here and they will not recommend ACC to take action. There is a need to discuss the threshold speeds at which point action will be recommended by the police. Paul has spoken with Martin Hall (Strategy Manager ACC) and they hope to implement a common process across the six areas with handling feedback regarding speeding concerns. Geva Blackett suggested BCC are cautious with implementing any speed control measures at the north end until the future plans of Braemar castle are clear. **AP7DS asked if we can request speeding data and Paul Gibb said he will do this.**
- On the 9th Jan, Martin Hall (Strategy Manager ACC) and the Area roads managers are meeting to review the list of requests for pedestrian crossings. He will provide an update in the New Year to advise which sites are being progressed and a timescale for this. M. Hall also advised that Joanna Stewart (Strategy Development Officer) will contact the Braemar Head Teacher in the New Year about the Safer Routes to School Initiative. This initiative can draw on funding for implementing a crossing at a frequent crossing point on a route to school.

6. CNPA update - see above in Geva Blackett's report.

7. BCL update –AB outlined that a visioning day with the Princes Foundation was held at Braemar Castle. BCL are looking at a new visitor centre for the Castle and possibly a car park extension. BCL are having a further meeting with the Princes Foundation in the New Year. DS reported that BCL together with CNPA tendered to four businesses for a contract to conduct a feasibility study for housing at the Kindrochit Site. Two acceptable quotes came back and BCL are applying for £10,000 from the Rural Housing Fund to pay for the study. The feasibility study should start in the New Year.

8. Mar Lodge Estate Vision & outline Master Plan

David Frew (Operations Manager National Trust for Scotland) introduced the Mar Lodge Estate Vision document and described the consultation process which is underway. He then outlined the main objectives within the document. These include the cessation of muirburn, continuation of the management for woodland regeneration, development of a visitor facility at the Linn of Dee and securing the financial stability of Mar Lodge Estate. There was a general discussion about the balance between conservation and field sports at Mar Lodge. The cut-off date for responses is mid-January 2019.

BCC members asked a number of questions and David Frew responded:

- Confirmed that the proposed Linn of Dee development would offer more ranger jobs and jobs in catering and retail.
- It is likely that Restricted Funds that NTS hold will be released to fund the Linn of Dee development. However, there have also been other organisations that have expressed an interest in being involved and contributing to the funding e.g. CNPA.
- Although development of Derry Lodge is desirable there are currently greater priorities. NTS cannot get a sensible business model for the building and it is also recognised that development of this building would change the nature of that location.
- Outlined that the NTS board have three options in response to the Mar Lodge Estate Vision. 1. Approved, 2. Not approved or 3. Choose to pause and delay finalising it until the Deer Review Committee and Werrity Review have reported back in 2019.

- Confirmed that the NTS Board will be approving the Mar Lodge Estate Vision in Feb 2019. The Linn of Dee development will need separate approval at a later date.
- Confirmed that NTS have an awareness of the other visitor centre developments in Braemar but doesn't oversee a large overlap among these.

9. Planning Update –

- Deeside link path approved. Next step is for OATS to secure funding.
- Castleton Terrace – Appeal reporter visited on the 11th Dec 2018. He will report back on the 16th January.
- 4 Broombank Terrace – Application for demolition consent. Historic Environment Scotland have commented that is a 19th Century building and caution that ACC should give it due consideration. After discussion there was majority decision of BCC not to comment or object to the application.
- 8 Broombank Terrace – Application to split the feu. No concerns from BCC. New build application will come later.
- Licensing application for Farquharsons Bar – TG had sent a note to the Liquor Licence Premises (Delsya Borland) mentioning that BCC felt that a 1am closing time on Mon – Thurs was too late. It could experience a spill out from the Fife Arms when they close at 12pm and also outside drinking may disturb local residents. TG received no response. AC was asked by Angus McNichol (on behalf of the license applicant) if BCC would remove their objection if Farquharsons Bar adopted the same opening hours as the Fife Arms (11am - 12pm Mon-Thurs, 11am - 1am Fri & Sat). BCC are generally agreeable to this but want to collect some more information before doing so. **AP8AC to find out the opening hours of all the licenced establishments in the Braemar. AP9 DS to arrange a meeting with the Farquharsons Bar proprietor through Angus McNicol to discuss the management of the beer garden.**

10. BCC Correspondence –

- Sandra Stewart reported an overflow of sewage into the Clunie before the Golf Club and also a concern over an outlet from the sewage works near the confluence of the Dee and Clunie. **AP10 PG to pass details of correct ABC contact to TG. AP11 TG to contact ABC about this matter. AP12 TG to respond to Sandra Stewart.**
- Braemar Nursery complained about the amount of dog poo occurring and re-occurring frequently within the area they use for outdoor learning in CreagChoinnich woods. Angus McNichol offered to produce official Invercauld Estate signs about this issue to put up in the woods. TG suggested putting a piece in the Buzzard or getting a feature on Braemar TV. **AP13JW to provide Angus McNicol with the text/pictures for the sign.**
- David Geddes is concerned about the number of notices appearing on lamp posts again in the Village. **AP14AC to put a note up in the notice board reiterating the previously agreed guidelines for notices on lamp posts (4 lamp posts, put up 7 days before, take down 24hrs after event, no tape just string or cable ties). AP15 TG to respond to David Geddes.**

11. A.O.C.B –

- EP reported a drain overflowing on the Cluniebridge in the Village. **AP16TG to write to AbC to report this.**
- DS suggested that BCC acknowledge the Mar Lodge Estate staff that put up the Christmas lights in the village. **AP17DS to put note in the Buzzard and also to ensure dates of the BCC meetings go into the Buzzard.**

- AC offered thanks to JW for her input into BCC as a co-opted member. This is JW's last meeting.

12. Date of next BCC meeting – Monday 18th February at 7pm.

Meeting closed 9.10pm