

Minutes of the Braemar Community Council Meeting held on Monday 18th February 2019 at Braemar Primary School at 7pm

1. Sederunt/Apologies

Present: Councillors Alasdair Colquhoun, Trevor Garlick, David Sherrard, Aimi Blueman.

Apologies: Shaila Daniels, Elliot Perkins

Also present Cllr Geva Blackett, Cllr Paul Gibb, Cllr Peter Argyll

In attendance: Gavin Miles (CNPA) and eight members of the community.

2. Minutes from the last meeting: Minutes were approved. Proposed David Sherrard, Seconded Aimi Blueman.

3. Matters arising from the last minutes:

- The licensing for Farquharson's bar has now been agreed
- There is to be a meeting on 15th March with Martin Hall (Aberdeenshire Council - Roads Dept) to discuss speed calming measures and the Zebra Crossing at the School)
- Belinda Miller (Head of Economic Development Aberdeenshire Council) to attend Braemar and update community on status of bid to Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund 15th April
- Dial-a-Bus - This is now operational under BRD and is reported as being utilised more
- Post office opening hours - no further update Geva Blackett and Trevor Garlick to request COOP clarify PO 'open hours'
- Issues with sewage into the Clunie and at Clunie Road reported to SEPA - who are to investigate.

4. Sunday Bus Service:

Cllr. Argyll said that Aberdeenshire Council were facing year on year budget cuts. The Council had reduced the subsidy paid to Stagecoach and Stagecoach had made the decision to withdraw the Sunday service.

Alasdair Colquhoun had presented a petition to Jim Gifford on Thursday 14th February with 1,400 signatures asking to keep the service for one additional year to assess the impact of the Fife Hotel and Highland Heritage Centre.

The Sunday service had been identified for removal by the Council's PMF process which showed the service to be one of the most underutilised in Aberdeenshire.

Cllr Gibb reported he had been working with Aberdeenshire Council and subject to confirmation, the Sunday service might be allowed to continue for one further year; to assess the impact of the new Tourist attractions and employment in Braemar.

There was discussion around the performance of Stagecoach; Cllr Gibb is to attend a meeting on 21st March to discuss quality of service, heating, breakdowns etc. He noted there would be an opportunity to look at frequency of the service and possible restructure of the service to work within the reduced subsidy whilst providing the community with a service.

5. Police Report:

Alasdair Colquhoun said the police report highlighted a reduction in incidences of speeding. It was noted that there were still incidences of speeding through the village. A local dog had recently been killed in an accident with a car. It was felt that '20's Plenty' in the village centre and side roads should be re-explored having being stalled previously by Aberdeenshire Council (change of staffing and change of policy name) .

Cllr Gibb to attend a meeting with Martin Hall on 19th March to explore speed reduction options.

Cllr Blackett said it was possible to ask the police directly to come with speed cameras to an area and she was happy to progress this if required.

Action: BCC Sec. (TG) to write to Martin Hall (if needed, post Cllr Gibb mtg) to invite him to Braemar to discuss the issues.

6. Report from Aberdeenshire Councillors

Cllr Gibb had nothing further to add having updated the meeting re the Sunday Bus and speeding.

Cllr Blackett reported continuing problems of people ignoring snow gate closed signs. Gairnshiel bridge had been hit again following repairs and the infrastructure was being investigated to see if a camera was possible.

Cllr Blackett said the Council would like to put some bushes on the ground opposite the gallery, there was discussion around this including the maintenance of the area and how money could be better spent. The Community Councillors voted to refuse the bushes with the message that the money could be better spent on Braemar i.e. bus service.

Cllr Blackett noted a meeting on 9th March 'Tackling Flooding together' in Aberdeen.

7. CNPA update:

Gavin Miles Head of Planning attended from CNPA, he outlined the Local Development Plan process starting with the main issues report around one year ago.

Gavin said one of the main changes to the LDP was the removal of the site north of Balnellan on the advice of SEPA as the access floods.

The site to the North of Braemar from Invercauld Hotel towards the Garage is now a preferred site for development with housing and business space. Invercauld

estate were employing architects and urban designers to design the site. There was little prospect of any other development in Braemar.

Trevor Garlick suggested the St Andrews Terrace site could be developed and questioned how more suitable (for Braemar's needs) appropriate housing could be built on that site. Gavin said planning was granted and it could go ahead as is. Changes could be made by the developer if they wish, but may require planning permission and changes may require 25% or 45% social housing. Development of the St Andrews Terrace site can only go ahead when the social housing element on Kindrochit Court is satisfied; Gavin is to meet with Mar Estate to explore options and to enable a possible community housing solution to happen.

Federica Bertolini said Highlands Hospitality were concerned about the possibility of the Braemar North (H5) site but welcomed development at St Andrews Terrace. Federica suggested as an alternative that the new play-park area could be developed for housing. There was discussion about the need to move the playpark (and its publicly-funded equipment) elsewhere.

David Sherrard noted the move to H5 being a preferred site appeared to have happened very quickly and with little discussion compared to other sites.

Gavin explained if objections were to be made against a proposed site development in the LDP they should be evidenced-based. The Board of the CNPA will see the responses and any change of substance or objections will be reviewed by the reporter appointed by the Scottish Government. The consultation closes on 7th April. BCC would submit some comments to CNPA based on the community feedback we have heard. **Action: DS to draft.**

8. Planning update

David Sherrard updated the community council on the progress of the possible BCL Housing project at Kindrochit Court. A consultant had been appointed to undertake a feasibility study which will include an update of the Housing Needs Assessment for the village. As part of this a community consultation event would take place on 13th March in the village hall.

The planning appeal for 3-4 Castleton Terrace had been refused by the reporter.

The Taste micro brewery planning application had been approved.

Comments had been placed by other consultees on Cranford Guest House's application to rebuild their bothy. Community Councillors had raised concerns about the size of the new build.

Action: Community council to review comments and give their response to David Sherrard in the next week.

The Highland Games centre license application was discussed and agreed.

9. BCL Update:

Two key projects for BCL; David Sherrard had outlined progress with the Housing project.

The Braemar Castle work on 'Raising the Standard Project' (mainly about Castle maintenance and new harling) is progressing with some Heritage Lottery Fund support.

The Princes Foundation held a workshop to gather feedback on visitor experience and future possible design changes at the Castle in November. Findings from this will be fed back at a drop in session on 26th Feb 2-7pm at the Invercauld Hotel to which all are welcome.

10. BCC Correspondence:

The BCC had been contacted by SNH - two rare plants had been identified by the Clunie - Braemar Hawkweed and Alpine Sow Thistle. SNH have proposed an interpretation board be placed by the well, CC agreed.

Following Jayne Watson's move and Sam's resignation; an additional four BCC members should be recruited at the next AGM, it was agreed that the new head teacher should be approached by Alisdair to hopefully take up Jayne's place.

A networking event for Community Councillors will be held on 28th September at Woodhill house.

There would be an AC meeting on 9th March to look at budget planning and improvement.

10. AOCB:

Aimi Blueman had been contacted by Dr Cruickshank re the lack of snow clearing; he had been advised to approach Cllr Blackett who had in turn contacted the Council for explanation. As Ballater has higher priority pavements these are cleared before Braemar's. Alasdair Colquhoun and Cllr Blackett to attend a meeting and will raise the issue along with community training on snow clearing and gritting machinery again.

11. Date of next BCC meeting Monday 1900 15th April 2019

Note this mtg will probably now follow the Community open engagement session on Car Parking with Aberdeen Council at 1700.

Venue for both is different and will be at the Village Hall

ENDS