

Minutes of the Braemar Community Council meeting Monday 17th June 2019

1. Attendees/Apologies

Attendees: A Colquhoun, T Garlick, J Maclean, J Torrance, A Blueman
Also in Attendance Cllr Paul Gibb and eight members of the community

Apologies: S Daniels, D Sherrard, E Perkins, Cllr G Blackett

2. Minutes from the April 2019 BCC meeting

It was agreed that minutes would go both on the notice board and on Visit Braemar. There had been some amendments requested by Dave Sherrard and Cllr Geva Blackett - these had been made and approved. Aimi Blueman proposed the minutes and Alisdair Colquhoun seconded them.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Roads - to be covered by Cllr Gibb in his report.

4. BCC Election result

Following the recent Braemar Community Council elections John Torrance is the new Community Councillor with Headteacher Jackie Maclean co-opted onto the Community Council.

5. Police Report

The key messages were acquisitive crime and wildlife crime continued to remain at low levels. Anti-social behaviour mainly in Aboyne was being tackled. There was a reminder for the public not to give out personal/bank details by phone or email after a number of people had been targeted in the area.

6. Report from Aberdeenshire Councillors

Cllr Gibb reported meeting with the Mar Area Roads and Safety Unit regarding Traffic issues in Aboyne which were very similar to those in Braemar, from this 12 action point items had been raised. He suggested a similar meeting should be held in Braemar. He noted that road markings were only allowed on safety grounds in certain circumstances, but the only reason for this was cost and this was something he would like to see overturned.

Action: Co-ordination for a date for roads to meet at Braemar.

Co-ordinate with Belinda Miller re roads and parking.

Cllr Gibb said whilst Mark Skilling had agreed for the village to have Twenty's Plenty, Martin Hall had not taken this forward.

David Geddes said that the chukkie in the Games Park had been part funded by Aberdeenshire Council via Belinda Miller.

Cllr Blacketts report was read to the Community Council. There was currently an average of three people per service using the Sunday bus service and there had been problems with coordinating the 201 and 901 services. Stagecoach were to make their drivers aware of the connecting service. There is a risk that Braemar will lose this service if it is not used.

On the 2nd July Braemar Primary Schools' film will be one of those included at the Doric Film Festival.

Councillors would be taking their annual recess between 8th July and 19th August.

Alasdair Colquhoun noted that Stagecoach had still not printed a timetable for the Sunday bus service.

7. CNPA update

Cllr Blackett's report was read to the Community Council by Simon Blackett. There was confidence that the BCL Community Housing Project for Braemar was viable, if funding could be raised and BCL could identify a Project leader.

The CNPA board had met with local estates apart of the East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership to discuss their priorities and issues including land management, housing and charitable constraints.

The CNPA Access Forum felt that there were a lot of messages being given about litter and littering but these were seemingly not effective, it was hoped the development of one consistent message would have more success.

8. BCL update

Simon Blackett (BCL Chair) gave an update on the Castle, income was up on last year although the numbers were not vastly different. Two students would be joining the Castle for the Summer season.

The Raising of the Standard project was the main project at 1.6 million - looking to repair the harling, but would also have an educational and volunteer element and would also look at the collection and grounds. There will be a drop-in event at the end of July (30 or 31) for the community.

Braemar school children had a very successful day as guides for the Castle.

Auchtavan has held two open days this year and a further two are upcoming.

Housing

Plans for the proposed BCL Community Housing behind Kindrochit Court were passed round. A feasibility study including an updated housing needs assessment had been undertaken and the project was felt to be financially viable but would need long term site management.

The current plan shows 15 units plus potentially some self-build plot allocation; one of the units could potentially be linked to Kindrochit Court for a level of supported housing.

A new access road is proposed (from the gold course road) which SEPA had said was viable.

Financially the project is viable with anticipated grants from the Rural Housing fund and commercial loans.

A project officer to oversee the build will be required as would management of the site once built via an existing social housing provider or the Council.

9. Planning Update

Downies Cottage planning was agreed in 2012 when the cottage was renovated.

3-4 Castleton terrace - The five non-conflicted Councillors looked at the plans and could find no justifiable grounds for objection. Aberdeenshire Council Planning had recommended approval, the Aberdeenshire Councillors had rejected the application.

The Log Cabin - change of garage into a dwelling - no objections

Mast - EE at Mar Lodge, it was hoped this may improve network services.

4 School Road - retrospective planning permission to turn former ancillary building into a dwelling house. A letter of objection was handed out (and objections raised referencing the impact on parking on School Road and Castleton Terrace. A general discussion was held with members of the local community.

Cllr Gibb noted that the 3/4 Castleton planning objection has not been due to parking concerns.

The Community Council decided to raise no objection although noting that the opinions of residents differ.

Chair Alasdair Colquhoun made clear the difficulties in dealing with retrospective planning permissions and urged for these to cease or be scrutinised carefully by the AC.

10. BCC Correspondence / Recent complaints

A circular from Marr Area noted a key message (as part of their Waste Management Strategy) - they want to ensure all businesses pay for their rubbish to be taken away rather than using domestic recycling.

A letter had been received re. sewage waste being emptied from motor-homes in the Invercauld Car Park and this has been passed to Highlands Hospitality for their Action.

Alasdair Colquhoun said that should there be a complaint against the Community Council this should first be brought to the attention of the Community Council to deal with and would then be escalated to Mar Area if appropriate.

He said the Community Council would try to be fair and listen to all views. He reminded folk that Community Councillors were volunteers !

11. A.O.C.B

A request had been made for the community Council to purchase a pump to water plants at around £20. **This was agreed.**

John Torrance said the gate into the Creag Choinnach woods was broken.

Action: Trevor to write to Invercauld

Alasdair said that the community council could put in a participation request to be involved in discussions around the 201/901 service and Cllr Gibb suggested this would be worthwhile.

12 Date of next meeting Monday August 19th