

## Approved Minutes

### Braemar Community Council

Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February at Braemar Primary school

1. Attendees – Community councillors – Alasdair Colquhoun, John Torrance Shaila Daniels, Ian Fowler  
Aberdeenshire councillor – Paul Gibb  
And 4 members of the public  
Apologies – Community Councillors – David Sherrard, Aimi Blueman, Elliot Perkins, Jackie Maclean  
Aberdeenshire Councillors – Geva Blackett
2. Minutes from BCC meeting held on December 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 – Proposed – Alasdair Colquhoun  
Seconded – Shaila Daniels
3. Matters Arising from previous minutes.
  - Gate at A93 opposite golf course confirmed, the gate has arrived and is awaiting installation.
  - Squirrel signage on Linn of Dee road – proposed that if someone else were to finance the signs then Aberdeenshire council would erect them. NTS asked if they would finance the signs as they would be on Mar Lodge Estate land. NTS will monitor the section of road to see if the Squirrel fatalities are as high as reported and get back to us with their findings at the end of the season.
  - VE75 – emails sent to Simon Blackett, Carole Paterson and Highland games Centre to ask if they would be willing to organise event to mark the occasion. All have replied positively, they have been requested to co-ordinate between themselves but to keep the BCC informed of progress.
  - Flag Poll – the poll that was damaged during December has now been moved for storage to the Games park, it has been decided that at this point the poll is not to be reinstated.
4. Police Report-
  - There has been no Police report provided for this months meeting.
  - It has been noted that there has been some issue with the way that the A93 over Glenshee has been looked after in recent weeks.
5. Report from Aberdeenshire Councillors
  - Councillor Geva Blackett –
    - **Budget:** Last week was Budget week at the council but unlike every other year the General Election has held up the UK budget and in turn the Scottish one so we set the council tax and the Housing Revenue Budget and then coming back in March for the rest to be decided at a special meeting - although with the Chancellor's resignation who knows, anything could happen.
    - **Flooding:** I received some concern about the Clunie water levels at the weekend from Balnellan residents (yes I was alerted in London). The flood team will be out tomorrow to have a look. In the future if there are concerns, residents should call 101 and the police will notify the council's flood team and they will get out as soon as they can... Perhaps we should keep sandbags somewhere?
    - **Buses:** Stagecoach consultation on their new timetable has ended. Still awaiting information on the Sunday 201 but I have reported the confusion passengers are experiencing with the Stagecoach website still saying it's a free service

- **Road signs:** the 20MPH signs on the A93 should both be working again this week – one is so badly broken it is being replaced. The Road Closed signs at the foot of the B976 should also start working if required from this week
- **Speed limits and Crossing policies** are coming to us at Marr tomorrow (Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb). I have asked officers to put Braemar high on the list for a crossing on the A93 should the new policies be agreed at infrastructure Services Committee
- Councillor Paul Gibb
- Sunday Bus service – Route is still to be reviewed, until the review is held the funding for the Sunday service will still be in place.
- Policy 15 – speed limits and crossing points, meeting to be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss reducing 30mph limits to 20mph limit through all built up areas. Report questions the effectiveness of this approach with an average reduction in speed of only 0.8mph.
- Also to look at crossing points.
- CNPA Update
- **Community Housing** - 2020 has started positively for Braemar’s community housing project at Kindrochit Court, and Braemar Community Ltd are delighted to announce that Rural Housing Scotland, who carried out the 2019 feasibility study with Sam Foster Architects, will continue to work with BCL to develop the project - which will include monthly 'surgeries' starting in April to allow the community to feed into the process. Financial support has been received from CNPA to assist with the next steps.
- Rural Housing Scotland will be working closely with BCL over the next twelve months to negotiate acquisition of the site, identify funding for the housing and develop the technical designs for the project.
- One slight fly in the ointment may be the flooding that affected the proposed new entrance road off golf course road so we will await thoughts from partners - hopefully drainage will be a solution
- **Werritty:** The long awaited report by the Grouse Moor Management Review Group (chaired by Professor Alan Werritty) (GMMRG) was finally released by Scottish Government on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019. We will be considering our position at the CNPA Board on 6<sup>th</sup> March and I would invite BCC to send me any comments ASAP relating to how the recommendations are likely to impact on your ability to help deliver the Partnership plan – if any. The link to the recommendations can be found here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/grouse-moor-management-group-report-scottish-government/>
- **Scottish Land Commission:** The first Good Practice Protocol ‘Community Engagement in Decisions Relating to Land’, sets out practical advice on how landowners, land managers and communities can work together to make better – and fairer – decisions about land use.
- The [Protocol](#) supports the Guidance on Engaging Communities in decisions relating to land, which was published by the Scottish Government and can be downloaded from this link [https://landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/5dde68446594\\_GOOD%20PRACTICE%20PROTOCOL\\_web%2019.11.19.pdf](https://landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/5dde68446594_GOOD%20PRACTICE%20PROTOCOL_web%2019.11.19.pdf)
- **Next Partnership Plan:** work is about to start on the next CNPA Partnership Plan and I will make sure you are aware of relevant consultations and progress

## 6. Planning Update

- **Reharl of Castle and Curtain wall, External Repairs and Works, Installation of Temporary Modular Building and Drainage** 

Braemar Castle Braemar Aberdeenshire AB35 5XR

Ref. No: APP/2020/0021 | Received: Thu 09 Jan 2020 | Validated: Tue 28 Jan 2020 | Status: Awaiting decision

- **Installation of Signage**

Invercauld Arms Braemar Aberdeenshire AB35 5YR

Ref. No: APP/2020/0057 | Received: Tue 14 Jan 2020 | Validated: Wed 15 Jan 2020 | Status: Awaiting decision

- **Installation of Wood Burning Stove, Ramp and Satellite Dish (Part Retrospective)** 

Invercauld Arms Hotel (Public House) Braemar Aberdeenshire AB35 5YR

Ref. No: APP/2020/0092 | Received: Tue 21 Jan 2020 | Validated: Tue 21 Jan 2020 | Status: Awaiting decision

- **Alterations to Dwellinghouse (Roof)** 

6 Castleton Terrace Braemar Aberdeenshire AB35 5ZR

Ref. No: APP/2020/0265 | Received: Fri 07 Feb 2020 | Validated: Fri 07 Feb 2020 | Status: Awaiting decision

- BCC has no comments to make on any of the above planning applications

## 7. Report from Angus McNicole Invercauld Estate

- The short section of the walk at the Lion's Face impacted by recent forestry operations will be scraped when there is drier weather.
- A pedestrian gate has been acquired by the Estate to be fitted at the road crossing to the path at the north end of the golf course.
- Old deer fencing has been removed along the A93 between the west end of the Inver Wood and the Lion's Face quarry. This fencing was no longer deer proof, was in danger of encroaching onto the road at several points and was no longer required for tree protection.
- A replacement deer fence is about to be erected between the Garage and Toll house and down to the River Dee. This fence is needed to keep deer out of the woodland zone to the east of Braemar.
- The Estate are currently undertaking a number of studies into the capacity of services for any future development to the north of the Invercauld Arms Hotel pending completion of the Local Development Plan process.
- A feasibility study is being undertaken currently into the provision of additional glamping accommodation next to the Caravan Park.
- The Estate is considering the potential for a public car park in the field with the helicopter refuelling container. This would be located in the corner of this field nearest the garage. The intention would be to help alleviate the parking issues in the centre of the village. The Estate asked for the views of the Community Council on this concept.

## 8. BCC Correspondance

- Brian Wood on behalf of the Braemar History group sent letter asking if the BCC would be able to use the money within their account designated for the guide book fund to pay for the printing of the new History Guide Booklet which has been produced by the History Group.  
BCC have decided that they will pay the full amount of the printing costs for the guide book.
- Sarah Hubbard on behalf of the Braemar Tourism Group asked if they would be able to use the BCC name on Planning Application for the new visitor information hut which they are hoping to erect in the Mews. By using the BCC for the planning application they can gain 50% off the cost of the planning fee. BCC agreed that this was appropriate.
- BT Phone box Consultation – Three telephone boxes in the mar area are up for review, one in Alford, Aboyne and the box at Glenshee have been earmarked for removal. The Box at Glenshee has had 20 calls made from it in the past year. BCC have raised an objection to the removal of the box at Glenshee on safety grounds due to the remoteness of the site.

- Angus MicNicole asked if the BCC would agree to the erection of Access only signs at either end of Balnellan lane due to complaints from residents that the lane is frequently being used by campervans following sat navs to get to the main carpark.  
BCC had no issue with the signs being erected.
- Proposed new Stagecoach Timetable from 6<sup>th</sup> April – we received the proposed timetable from Stagecoach which is now out for consultation, they propose to keep 7 buses on the Sunday service to Braemar. This is awaiting approval from Aberdeenshire Council and may be subject to change.
- Belinda Miller – we received an update from Belinda regarding the application for funding from Visit Scotland to upgrade the car parking facility in the village. They are waiting to see if there is an underspend from the earlier rounds of application from before Christmas, if not then they have submitted an expression of interest for the next round which has an application date in June.  
She also states that Aberdeenshire council have submitted an expression of interest to upgrade to public toilet facility at Glenshee Ski Centre.
- Carole Paterson – due to illness Carole was not able to attend the meeting so sent an update on the progress made with the Pop up Pantry and the Community Hub.  
Due to the low attendance at this months meetings copies of both letters have been sent to all relevant parties.

#### 9. AOCB

- John Torrance – Noted that there is a growing issue with pot holes in the village, a post is to be put onto the Community Facebook page with a link to the councils online reporting for potholes so that anyone who has an issue knows how to report it.

#### 10. Date of next meeting

- April 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 to be held at Braemar Primary school at 1900 hours