

Approved

Braemar Community Council

Meeting held via video conference on Monday 20th April

Due to the current Covid 19 situation it was necessary to hold this meeting via video conference and there for it was not possible to hold it as a public meeting.

Attendees – Alastair Colquhoun, Aimi Blueman, Shaila Daniels, David Sherrard, Jackie Maclean, Ian Fowler, Elliot Perkin, John Torrance
Councillors -Geva Blackett and Paul Gibb

Apologies - None

Minutes from February Meeting - Proposed – Ian Fowler, Seconded – Shaila Daniels

Matters Arising from Minutes - Gate on A93 is ongoing,

Update from Braemar Care

System is in place to reduce numbers going to Coop and to support those in self isolation.

CC to carry on spreading the word about the system to help raise awareness

If people are going to Coop for social interaction then BC can provide a befriending service instead of having to go out.

Dave Torrance delivering prescriptions where requested, system working well

High number of volunteers have come forward to offer help.

Caring in Community is continuing as before, although carer number is reduced due to some also working in Coop.

System working well at the moment but may need to be looked at if situations change in the village

Further PPE will be required if the situation in the village escalates, this is currently being sourced.

Reports from Aberdeenshire Councillors

Geva Blackett

Week one of the lock down was manic for Geva, with everyone on a steep learning curve. Week two and there after council is now organised, between them and contact with Scottish government information flowing with regular posts on Facebook.

Council has started paying out the various grants.

GB is helping to raise awareness with Scottish Government about insurance companies trying to back track on making payouts. Provided useful links for anyone with problems making claims but warned that this may take time.

Advised that there are other gaps that people are still falling through wick she is raising with the various agencies.

GB has asked council about grass cutting in community or if local arrangements should be made, will report back when she has an answer, (report back says that there will be no grass cutting at the moment but verge cutting will be carried out for visibility issues).

Raised awareness of the continued diligence of our local bin men who are still working very hard.

Planning for the new Gairnshiel Bridge continues with more planning applications to be submitted to allow the new bridge to be built, a screen shot of the new layout was attached.

All ward 3 councillors are meeting regularly with Janelle Clark (area manager) who has been providing amazing assistance through the past couple of weeks. All meeting with various agencies are still going ahead.

Last weekend lights on Invercauld Bridge had failed, GB managed to contact the contractors in charge of the lights and get them sorted.

Paul Gibb

Sunday Bus service - 18th March Administration approved budget for 2020/21. Following a request for support from Colleagues in the Administration, a Transport and Mobility budget has been added. £119k has been set aside of which £23k is for the continuation of the Sunday Braemar shuttle service.

Also £25k for other work relating to alternative approaches as per MOWG which could include extensions to the Dial a bus service and community hopper services, discussions were under way in late March but officers and Stagecoach now prioritising Covid 19 related issues.

Budget – Uk government is quite likely to review 2020/21 budget, this will result in changes to the settlements with the 32 Scottish councils. Likely there will be another budget this year as given current situation priorities will have changed.

Covid 19 – PG has been sending out regular updates as and when information provided from both council and Scottish Government. Information to be distributed through the wider community as we see fit. All government support requires an online application, where internet access is not possible a paper application process is being developed.

Anyone who requires further information regarding this can contact Paul or Heather Macrae is also a useful contact (01467 533297 or heather.macrae@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

CNPA Update

Geva Blackett

Holds daily meetings with Convener and Chief Executive

Governance group formed consisting of GB, Convener and chairs of the committees, meet on a fortnightly basis.

All CNPA staff are still working albeit from home.

Recovery is uppermost on all minds, with various groups set up to deal with the recovery stge when it arrives.

Feeling is that when restrictions are lifted large numbers of people will be travelling to the Braemar area. Self catering businesses may be first to recover. Questions arising as to quarantine implications if a person staying in an accommodation get the Virus.

Emotions running high all over the park with 2nd homes being occupied and some people still coming to the area to visit despite the restrictions on movement.

Update from BCL

Simon Blackett

Braemar Castle is closed for the foreseeable future, will open when circumstances permit.

Work is continuing on the reharling project, fundraising remains very challenging with a large number of plans and reports required. Work will not start in 2021 so castle should open as normal next season.

Auchtavan – is still there if anyone wishes a walk or cycle, a key can be obtained by request from Simon Blackett. May open day is cancelled.

Housing Project – this continues with applications for funding to various organisations, with success from the Scottish Land Fund. There is great support for the project from both Aberdeenshire council and the CNPA.

The opportunity for a community woodland is also being pursued alongside the housing project.

BCL website – this has been created and will hopefully go live soon, membership to BCL is open to all Braemar residents and anyone interested should contact Simon Blackett, Doreen Wood or Aimi Blueman.

BCL is working with Community Hydro Scheme to offer a community grant targeted at those adversely affected by the Covid 19 lockdown. Further details to follow.

Deeside Way – the extension from the Auld Brig o Dee to Braemar has been granted planning permission. BCL continues to lobby CNPA for funding of project.

Local History Books – These are now on sale and will be available to buy in shops once they re open, history walks will also begin as soon as there is demand.

Planning Update

2 planning applications.

[APP/2020/0433 Erection of wooden cabin visitor info point in the mews. BCC is the applicant.](#)

No objections or comment raised by BCC

[APP/2020/0705 Gowanlea; listed building application for erection of fence.](#)

Noted that the new fence does not allow for vehicle access to the garages and hard standing in rear garden. This to be looked into.

Village Plant tubs

Aberdeenshire council will not be providing any plants for the village tubs this year due to the current Covid19 crisis.

Geva Blackett approached both Invercauld estate and Mar Estate to request a donation for plants for the village. Both estates have donated £100 each to a total of £200, letters of thanks to be written to both parties for their donations.

Alastair Colquhoun is looking into where best to get plants from.

Neil Bain has once again offered to take charge of the watering of the plant tubs throughout the season, our thanks to him again for providing this service.

Guidance for Community Councils

Guidance has been given for CCs during the lockdown period

CC Meetings – It is to the discretion of each CC whether or not they wish to hold meetings during this lockdown period and if they do it is at their discretion how these meetings will be held. They will not be held accountable for the decision under the terms of the Scheme of Establishments.

BCC will hold virtual meetings for the time being, due to the restrictions on this method meetings will not be open to the public.

CC Elections and AGMs – AGMs and elections will be postponed until October.

Correspondance

Letter from Clair Gaskin – Clair sent a letter regarding the lack of speed control on the A93 at Glenshee during the winter months, as she feels there is a massive safety concern with the volume and speed of traffic going along the A93 adjacent to the main car parking area with pedestrians on the side of the road.

She has been advised to copy her letter to Glenshee Ski Centre, as it was felt that any request for speed restrictions in the area of the ski centre should first come from them as opposed to the CC.

AOCB

David Sherrard – Local Energy Act – BCC has previously said that it would support this act by writing a letter of endorsement to parliament. This is due to come up in Parliament during the next session, David to write a letter of support for the act on behalf of the BCC.

Geva Blackett – Reported that the Web Cam is not working – she will see John Macpherson about how to reboot it and see Angus about accessing it.

John Torrance – Raised the fact that it had not been minuted at the last meeting that the complaint against a member of the CC in November had now been investigated and the the Complaint had not been upheld by the review panel so no further action was to be taken and the member of the CC has now been fully reinstated.

Also raise the question about the lack of an active admin on the Braemar Community Facebook page in light of some recent posts which have not shed the local community in the best regard. To look into who currently has the admin on the page and see about setting up an admin group to try and gain some control over the content of posts to the group.

Next Meeting to be held on Monday 15th June – Location and time to be confirmed