

## Draft Minutes

Braemar Community Council meeting 17/08/2020

Meeting held via video conference so attendance limited to CC and representatives from Aberdeenshire council and local organisations.

### Attendees

**BCC** – Alisdair Colquhoun, Aimi Blueman, Shaila Daniels, David Sherrard, Jackie Maclean, Ian Fowler, John Torrance

Apologies – Elliot Perkins

**Aberdeenshire Councillors** – Paul Gibb

Apologies – Geva Blackett

**Aberdeenshire Council** – Belinda Miller, Martin Hall, Ken Mercer, Craig Matheson

**Local Representatives** – Julian Fennema( BTG), Simon Blackett(BCL), Angus McNicol (Invercauld Estate), David Frew (Mar Lodge Estate NTS)

**Minutes from 16<sup>th</sup> June** - Proposed – Ian Fowler

Seconded – Shaila Daniels

**Matters Arising from Minutes** - No matters arising

### Car Park Proposals from Aberdeenshire Council

Ken Mercer (Aberdeenshire Council) gave a short presentation on the proposals for changes to be made to the car parks on Balnellan Road and next to the Mews.

BCC members discussed Proposals – Due to complexity and time constraint it was decided that the BCC should hold a follow up meeting to further discuss the proposals before giving a response. Plan for car park proposals to be published in September addition of the Braemar Buzzard for public consultation.

Follow up meeting to be held during week commencing – 24/08/2020

**Outcome of follow up meeting** – BCC have decided that they are not in favour of the dedicated coach drop off area at the side of the Mews as they feel that this does not address the direct issue of car parking within the village centre.

BCC voted in favour of option B for the Balnellan Carpark which retains it as a single carpark which will be relined to include more spaces.

### Report from Aberdeenshire Councillors

**Paul Gibb** – No updates to give further than the regular updates and information shared over the previous month.

**Geva Blackett** – No update

## **Reports from other Organisations**

**BCL – Simon Blackett** – Braemar castle - will not open this year due to various operational issues in respect of the current pandemic.

New art installation in the grounds of the Castle in conjunction with the Fife Arms Hotel and artist Martin Creed.

Raising standard Lottery application will be submitted by end of the month.

All being well Castle will reopen in 2021 and then close for 2 seasons.

Auchtevan – is available for self guided tours but no open days.

Hydro Local Fund – funds for year have been partially allocated but funds remain in case of local need.

Watching Brief on several footbridges in local area, repairs will be needed in next few years.

Housing Project - £120000 loan secured to cover costs to start building.

Application to Rural Housing Scotland should be known shortly.

Aiming to appoint solicitor to conclude legal transfer of Land from Mar Estate.

Aiming to Appoint design team next week to start detailed design and planning application.

## **Invercauld Estate, Angus McNicol –**

Thinning works are currently ongoing in Meal Alvie, proposed thinning of Corrie Feragie area postponed until 2021.

Footpath at Lions face quarry has been repaired.

Increased camping along Clunie flats since lockdown lifted has seen issues arising, wooden gate used as fire wood and fire brigade called out in early August.

Estate ranger and Gamekeepers are monitoring situation but members of public encouraged to report irresponsible behaviour to estate office, member of staff or to police.

Estate has had positive response to market research undertaken for small workshop and storage units at Lions Face Quarry, proposed to take this forward to planning application.

Feasibility study currently being undertaken for the creation of around 4 affordable houses on site of old wooden sheds opposite fire station.

Estate has commissioned an appraisal to look at how renewable energy might be utilised in any expansion of the caravan site and or development of the land next to invercauld arms hotel.

## **Mar Lodge Estate – David Frew**

Mar Lodge accommodation is now open and has been very busy.

Almost all events and functions cancelled this year have been reorganised for next year, so year ahead is looking very busy.

Visitor number since easing of Lockdown have caused various issues with wild camping and car parking.

New over flow car park just before the Linn of Dee has been well received by visitors with no complaints about distance from the Linn.

Staff redundancy consultation has finished with an outcome that is as good as it could have been in current circumstances.

David thanked the BCC for the letter of support that was submitted after the June meeting.

**Pop up Pantry – Update submitted by Carole Paterson** - The Pantry now has about 80 members, and is open Monday and Wednesday 2 -3pm. Other open days depending on volunteers. Now looking for new volunteers to join the team.

Have been working with the Braemar Charitable Trusts chef to cook and deliver meals to the elderly in the village, this has been a replacement for the 3<sup>rd</sup> age lunch club.

Pantry is supported by cfine and get deliveries every 3 weeks.

Still looking to convert the old society office into a Community hub, however due to the success of the pantry they are looking at it in a different way.

Carole Patterson has received the Community Spirit award, well done Carole.

**BTG – Julian Fennema** - Two core projects, the replacement of the VS VIC with a log cabin to house leaflets, maps and other information and an update of the visitor-facing website, Braemar Scotland. Successful funding applications to CNPA, MAC and Community Hydro Fund have meant that the kit could be ordered from Deeside Log Cabins mid-July. Lead time is slightly uncertain, expected maximum of 12 weeks. Should be in place for the winter and fully functional for the next season.

Website update to be funded by an application to Aberdeenshire Council's Phoenix Fund. Representative working group formed to draft specification, shared with business members for feedback, and revised specification document now with selected developers. More detailed communication now happening, hope to have quotes for consideration early September for a mid-month submission

## **Planning Update**

App/2020/1212 – The Old Bakery, change of use and extension to form 3 additional commercial units.

Roads Dept. have requested further information on delivery and parking arrangements .

BCC have raised concerns about Parking and the lack of second exits in case of fire from the units.

App/2020/1223 – Tominotul Steading – Extension and formation of new access track

BCC have noted concerns with the design of the new living space on the roof regarding appearance and character.

App/2020/1433 – Braemar Castle – New pedestrian gate from car park.

BCC had no comment.

Comments for planning applications made via email were ratified at the meeting,

Proposed – Alasdair Colquhoun

Seconded – David Sherrard

### **Village Matters**

**Clunie Water Bridge** – Damage to the bridge has been repaired, thanks to whoever carried out the repairs. There is a continued conversation over ownership of the bridge.

**Ballater Waste Lorry** - This service currently has not been reinstated, The service is to be reviewed by the Adaptive Services Board, Paul Gibb will try and find out when it will be reviewed.

**Wild Campers** – There has been a massive increase in numbers of wild campers in the area since the lifting of lockdown.

Some Campers have been less than respectful to the local area leaving considerable waste, human mess and damage behind them.

CNPA rangers have been engaging with some campers, but with only 3 rangers covering Deeside they are doing the best they can under difficult circumstances.

Belinda Miller pointed out that the problem off wild campers has been causing significant problems to Land owners who have been struggling to manage the waste left behind.

Also pointed out that instances of anti social behaviour and litter need to be reported officially to the council so they can be added to statistics which can be used for better management in future years.

**General Mess and Waste Bins** - Waste operators are now supposed to be working over the weekend to ease the build up of waste in public bins, Simon Blackett reported that the bins were not be emptied on a Sunday. Paul Gibb said he would take up the issue.

Extra waste and recycling bins in Ballater have been funded via the community oil scheme in conjunction with Johnston Oils, the bins are currently emptied by the council.

BCC agreed to put in an application for funding to the Community Hydro fund to roll out a similar scheme in Braemar

**Games Park Car Park** – This facility is to remain closed this year as BRHS do not have the staff to maintain and run the site at present. There is also issues with the toilet facilities, over night campers and potential waste from campers.

It was asked if there was a way that the village could assist with getting the carpark opened as it would help to alleviate some of the current parking issues in the village.

**BT Phone box consultation** – BT are again carrying out consultation for the removal of phoneboxes in the area. The boxes at Inverey and Glenshee are again ear marked for removal. BCC has decided to object against their removal again on safety grounds.

**Police Report** – Nothing of significance to report for the local area.

**Correspondance –**

**Gareth Guy** – wrote letter regarding the issues at the main junction coming into the village with car parking and motor cycle parking in particular outside the Horn shop where he reports that at times the shop entrance has been completely blocked.

He also asks if a study of by the councils roads engineers would be possible to look at parking and congestion throughout the village.

**Fiona Lawrence** – Asked if the BCC could raise the question of cleaning staff for the Braemar public toilets, stating that the council are desperate for more staff.

She asked if the BCC had any ideas on how to attract people to these positions at the Toilets and Kindrochit court.

**David Farquharson Glenshee** – Replied to a question about implementing speed restrictions at the ski centre during the ski season and about the phone box consultation at Glenshee.

**AOCB –**

**David Sherrard** – Neil Bain had applied to the Hydro fund for £1000 for the cost of new planters for the village. Working with the CC the £1000 would be routed via the CC with their approval.

BCC approved the application for £1000 to the Hydro fund.

**Shaila Daniels** – Asked about the possibility of a community led scheme or support from BCL to get fiber broadband laid further out the glen towards Mar Lodge and Inverey.

BCL said they would listen to the question and could help look into it.

**Alasdair Colquhoun –**

LairghGrhu hill race – organisers sent email seeking the BCCs opinions about holding the event on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September, BCC all voted in favour of the event going ahead with no issues raised.

Defib Pads – these have now been replaced and should last another 2 years.

Invercauld Bridge Traffic Lights – Aberdeenshire council are now back in the design stage of permanent lights at the bridge, Paul Gibb to follow up.

**John Torrance** – sent email to Alison McLeod requesting advice on how to set up a better meeting platform for the CC to use before Octobers AGM. She has advised that we may be able to cover the cost of subscription to Zoom or other platforms via the councils Community Resilience Fund.

**Date of next Meeting – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October** (this will also be the AGM)