

Approved Minutes

Braemar Community Council

Meeting held on Monday 21st December

Attendees – Alasdair Colquhoun, John Torrance, Aimi Blueman, Shaila Daniels, David Sherrard, Jackie Maclean

MSP – Alexander Burnett

Aberdeenshire Councillors – Geva Blackett and Paul Gibb

Brian Wood, Doreen Wood, Angus Mcnicoll, Sara Hubbard

No Apologies

Minutes from October meeting – Proposed – David Sherrard

Seconded – Shaila Daniels

Matters arising from minutes

- Defib pads replaced and anonymous donor has donated money for new battery
- Xmas lights have been handed over to the Tourism group to look after and monies associated with the lights has been transferred to their account.
- Play park dog signs have been replaced.
- Braemar Tourism Group have installed the new visitor hub.
- Greig Keith has submitted a request to the road engineers to carry out a road safety survey and advise on any recommendations for better parking in the village.

Reports

Geva Blackett – Aberdeenshire Council -

- Ambulance, awaiting response from Cabinet Secretary regarding investigation. Meeting held with SAS, Scottish Fire and Rescue, Dr Cruickshank, Braemar Community Council and Doug Anderson. Meeting Chaired by Ian Ramsay, manager of health and social care partnership South Aberdeenshire. SAS to arrange meeting for us with their community resilience officer to look at how the community can become part of the solution working with fire and rescue.
- Invercauld Bridge – no progress as yet.
- Play park signs are up.

Paul Gibb – Aberdeenshire council.

- Nothing extra to report, but will continue to send out relevant information via email.

Geva Blackett – Cairngorm National Park

- Local development plan has gone to ministers for approval
- New bridge at Gairnshiel has been granted planning permission and budget is in place.

- Planning has started for Cairngorms Nature Big weekend 2021, with a strong partner support for an event that incorporates both virtual and distanced outdoor experiences.
- Contractors are making good progress on the peatland restoration work on sites across the National Park with two projects on Balmoral estate above Loch Muick.
- Since lockdown there has been a 100% increase in access issues being registered with CNPA as the Access authority, including paths being locked, locked gates, temporary fences and inappropriate signage.
- The business support programme led by Growbiz is now established and looking to recruit mentors for its one to one mentoring programme.

Simon Blackett – Braemar Community Limited

- Braemar Castle still unable to open, but looking at ways to open safely in 2021 season, work continues on fund raising for the Raising the Standard project and an announcement on the Lottery funding application is expected shortly.
- The Martin Creed neon light display was accidentally damaged by a child, the incident was caught on CCTV and a higher fence has been put up around the display.
- Auchtavan remains available for walkers to visit.
- A watching brief is being maintained over foot bridges and paths.
- BCL are working with National Park and BTG to improve website information for the community.
- Housing project is progressing well, with a 4 day public consultation concluded at St Margaret's Church with nearly 100 people touring the exhibition and making comment. A web site is available to see design material and ideas at www.braemar-eco-homes.co.uk
- Hope to submit planning application for the project in Jan/Feb
- Community woodland is also getting closer to becoming public property, although site boundary not yet agreed with Mar estate.

Angus McNicol – Invercauld Estate

- Braemar Caravan park is currently closed and will remain closed while Scotland is in tier 4, will re open when law and guidance allows.
- Currently looking at undertaking more peatland restoration work in Glen Clunie, and Culardoch to the north east of Braemar.
- Next beating up operation in Creag Clunie plantation is scheduled for spring 2021. Also currently completing deer fencing around the felled area of woodland to the north of Invercauld house with a view of restocking this with Scots pine in spring 2021.
- The initial feasibility study into affordable homes on the site of the wooden shed opposite the fire station was favourable and we are working out a financial plan to enable the next stage of the project.
- Invercauld estate is to object to the planning application for a 3rd telecommunications mast at the Keiloch on the basis that the existing Airwave site could be repurposed to save the need for a 3rd mast.

Sarah Hubbard – Braemar Tourism Group

- Tourist Cabin in the mews has now been installed and finishing touches have been added, this will now host leaflets and relevant tourism information ready to start 2021 season.
- Refresh website is underway with a web design team appointed.

- The web site is financed with funding from the phoenix fund and also internal funding which will deliver a the new portal.

Planning

Previous applications

- Replacement toilet block at Glenshee has been approved.
- Zipwire at Glenshee has been called in by the National park, BCC have submitted a letter of support.
- Erection of new dwelling at the top of chaple brae by Toni Coleman has been approved.
- Bridge at Gairn Sheil has been approved

New Applications

- APP – 2020 – 2294 erection of new mast at the Kieloch, Invercauld estate have said that they are objecting. BCC to look at application and discuss.

Police Report

- Nothing of note for Braemar in the official police report.
- BCC has been made aware of incidents of antisocial behaviour by some youths in the village.
- A report of vandalism to cars has also been reported to the police.

Ambulance Update

- The Community Council has sent a letter to the SAS on behalf of the Anderson family and a response to that letter has now been received.
- Alasdair Colquhoun attended a meeting on Friday 18th with Scottish Ambulance service, Scottish Fire and Rescue, Dr Cruickshank, Doug Anderson, Geva Blackett and Health and Social Care Partnership South Aberdeenshire.
- All Agreed that the current situation is not good enough.
- Further meeting with SAS resilience team to be arranged in January.
- Current model for Braemar needs to be updated as the village is rapidly changing.

Correspondence

- No correspondence to note

AOCB

- Shaila – Has been looking into the Community Super fast Broadband for upper Glen Dee and residents. Application has been sent to BT Openreach with a reply estimating a cost of 1 million to upgrade service for the 36 addresses.

Date of next meeting – 15/02/2021