



# **BELHELVE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**APPROVED MINUTES of MEETING 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 Teams Call-in.**

**Chair:** David Wallace; **Vice Chair:** Alex McIntyre **Treasurer:** Ewan Phipps  
**Secretary:** John Fletcher **Planning Reporter:** Graham Middleton  
**Communications Coordinator:** Carlyne Wood

**Members Present:** C Wood, J Fletcher, H Foxen, A Brown, D Wallace, M Stuart,  
D McKendrick, J Nicol, E Phipps

**Apologies:** A McIntyre, G Middleton

**Formartine Area Councillors Present:** Cllr A Hassan, Cllr J Gifford, Cllr S Powell,  
Cllr P Johnston

**Apologies:**

**Visitors:** A Neave (Chair Blackdog Residents Association)

**1. Chairmans Opening Remarks**

Chair asked if anyone wants to record the meeting please make a request to do so prior to the meeting starting. No one asked for permission.

We have had the BCC resignation from S Nicol this week

**2. Apologies & Introductions to Visitors**

All attendees were welcomed and asked everyone that all matters be addressed through Carlyne Wood as she will be controlling the meeting. All mics to be muted if not in use, use the hands up button on the menu bar if you wish to speak.

**3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

None

**4. Police Matters & Report Review**

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood sent the current issues list to Sgt T Stables, no reply as yet.

Ward Report, the contents are vague and it doesn't come across that the Police are aware of the serious situation with the Potterton scrapyard fires, it comes across as if only wood is being burnt and that is not the case.

C Wood raised the issue at the Community Council Forum, SEPA are still doing the investigation and going around the houses, she also raised concerns about the 101 service being difficult to get through. It was noted that if the Fire Brigade are called out then the Police are duty bound to turn up, they are now aware of when the fire incidents are happening. AC Councillors are also getting these same reports of fires at Potterton and are monitoring the situation.

08090807060 <https://www2.sepa.org.uk/EnvironmentalEvents>

Police (non emergency) 101 Police /Fire Brigade (Emergency) 999

**5. Planning Report (G Middleton)**

G Middleton not present, November PR will be given at the December Meeting.

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood posted on FB to make people aware of the landfill application.

*The landfill site at Easter Hatton (Balmedie) have applied for planning permission for an extension to the site, links to the application can be found below.*

*APP/2021/2284 - Easter Hatton Landfill Site Balmedie*

*Extension to Landfill for Non-Hazardous Waste, Extension of Operating Life of Waste Management Facility, Associated Offices, Weighbridge, Wash-Bay and Vehicle Maintenance Buildings, Provision for Waste Re-cycling Facility, Civic Amenity Site, Landfill Leachate Treatment Facility, Diversion of Burn and Restoration of Site Planning application APP/2021/2284 (available on the Aberdeenshire Council website) -*

*documents, deadlines and comments*

M. Stuart attended the Blackdog Residents Association (BRA) meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October where they discussed the proposed Landfill application. The general consensus was that given that the request from Taylors is to extend the timeframe of the existing approved plan by 10 years and that there would be no change to the original footprint/capacity it was felt therefore that there would be no additional impact on the nearby communities. The Wester Hatton extension was also discussed by BCC, there have been no comments from the local communities and as such no action towards the planning application was decided.

#### **6. Treasurers Report (E Phipps)aq**

Village Tidy money all cleared

Taxi fare for local immunosuppressed resident to ARI (Covid Resilience Fund)

Coastal Communities Fund, awaiting to see if football pavilion improvements are approved.

#### **7. Comments / Approval from the previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting were slightly modified. They were then proposed for approval by E Phipps and seconded by D Wallace

#### **8. Matters arising from previous meetings**

**ACTION Completed:** Cllr Hassan to ask the roads department to see if they could survey Eigie Road Balmedie with a view to dropping the limit to 20mph.

Cllr Hassan advised that the AC will implement a new roads policy but it is currently delayed due to Covid, there will be no changes in the speed limits until the process has been completed. Cllr Powell attended the Community Council Forum Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and the subject of the 20mph speed limits on Eigie Road and Panmure Gds was discussed with Inspector Young and he is not able to alter anything until the SG legislation is in place, in the meantime the AC Councillors will keep pushing for this to be implemented. Cllr Johnstone explained the roads policy and proposed changes, he added that Eigie Road should be a 20mph road but at the moment the policy would unlikely change and the speed limit, and it will remain at 30mph.

**ACTION Completed:** H Foxen has ordered a notice board from the Men Shed in Ellon.

Cllr Powell advised that the Knit and Natter group were using the Potterton Community Centre, she said their numbers are dwindling and they have started to meet in one of their members houses, this leaves a slot open for any other group who requires it.

The upper level of the Potterton Community Centre cannot be used at present as the external stairway has been declared unsafe by AC. If user /group interest is shown for the upstairs, then AC will look at repairing the stairway.

Resilience Planning (on hold from August 2021)

**ACTION:** Other groups to be informed, Forsyth Hall, Brethren Church, First Responders, Potterton Community Centre.

**ACTION:** C Wood to arrange a meeting with the groups after D Wallace has spoken to them to see if any group or groups want to take this forward.

#### **Secure Communities (Formartine Community Planning Group Meeting)**

If you see it, report it campaign

#### **9. Covid Related Support Projects, Actions & Initiatives**

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 there was request from the Community Team for community groups who can hold testing kits for distribution, forwarded to all BCC members.

9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 moving of Kit collection points raised at AC joint meeting, C Wood suggested Blackdog and Potterton should be included on the schedule of collection sites.

Funds being administered by BCC, resilience team includes Ewan Phipps BCC, Rosie Nicol BCT and Paul Mckeown BCT

As part of the ongoing vaccine rollout across the age groups we are still offering free taxi transport for those without transport availability

#### **10. Landfill/ Greenfield/Other Projects**

**Potterton Burn Update**, Cllr Johnstone the project is coming to a kind of conclusion and the layout including the Path has been kind of agreed on, this gives it a circular root with seats and seems to have worked much better than expected, this area although boggy before will dry out due to the work on the burn. Cllr Johnstone has sourced some apple trees for the area to

and  
out

replace any dead or dying trees within the orchard avenue, volunteers are required to help plant the trees. Note if anyone else is looking apple trees for an orchard project, there is a local source available called Social Juice.

and H Foxen said there is 400 plants available for this area, she has put an advert in the Banter asked the Potterton group for volunteers to plant these. The Path has been decided on and is the original path that H Foxen and R Nicol walked around approximately a year ago, this was then swamped with water but will now be nice, this goes around the flower bed. H Foxen is suggesting that families or small groups take responsibility for the seating areas in keeping the stinging nettles down as AC will not do this. Bird nest boxes are also going to put up to make the a nice village area that the community, nursery, brownies and scouts may use. Potterton Green Fingers have only 4 members now so the more volunteers they can muster the better.

J Nicol and A Brown are trying to get a litter picking group going, parents and kids for this community project and will try to get the school children involved. R Nicol has done this in Balmedie and has proved very successful.

#### **Leisure Centre Developments** (E Phipps)

All the funding required for the outdoor play area and the coffee shop extension is in place, there will be a mix of contractors and volunteers.

### **11. General Projects Update- Coastal Communities Fund**

The football pavilion improvements, contractors are in place and are waiting for the Coastal Community Fund, if this is not successful, they will try the Landfill Tax Fund.

### **12. External Meeting Report Back**

#### **Aberdeenshire Community Council Forum Meeting** (C Wood, A McIntyre)

that The meeting was very short and disappointing in that the attendees from the various Community Councils were not allowed to discuss the drawn-up list of the projects they had been working on, the Chair of the meeting explained that all had been circulated, it seems it is a bit pointless drawing up this list and have it ignored as it was on the agenda (Item 5).

resources Inspector M Young gave a brief on what is happening with the police. Despite COP 26 there were no appreciable drops in man power in our area. He was very keen that incidents are reported, if they do not get reported, no data will be gathered and they cannot focus to the areas required.

He touched on the fires at Potterton and the difficulties with the 101 service.

Next meeting the AC Paths Team will present.

**ACTION:** C Wood to agree feedback on AC Forum with A McIntyre before sending to AC.

#### **Country Park Meeting** (D Wallace, A McIntyre)

Action Note sent to all BCC members, it talks about the boardwalks, notice boards, location signs, playpark, the public toilets, new bins ordered, additional work for the horse box only car park.

Suggested Issue raised about the continual vandalism, pot holes and general state of the road. another Christmas tree in front of the Sand Bothy during the Fair, if it goes ahead.

#### **AC Joint Meeting** (C Wood)

Meeting purpose, current community challenges and potential actions bringing together Council and community partners and agencies

Main presentation AC survey on covid response/impact:

- Overall positive about AC work, but still difficult to reach everyone
- Report will be issued on results
- People reluctant to take covid tests, worried about accuracy of tests
- Lots of concerns (still) around health issues, school, access to exercise, worried about access to education and employment, missed opportunities
- Personal finances, less worry in 2021 compared to 2020, but most worried about fuel and heating
- Neighbour support, higher in Formartine than elsewhere in Aberdeenshire
- People are feeling safer in the community (less worry about mask wearing now, feeling safer to go out)
- Change in behaviours, using public transport less, working from home more, but more willing to go to public spaces (but not back to pre-covid levels)
- Discussion included access to test kits - Balmedie has a Pharmacy, test kits pop-ups redundant, C Wood recommends change of locations to Potterton and Blackdog

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood to ask for pop-up sites to be in other settlements

**Update:** Cllr Hassan has arranged for a move of site to Potterton for the pop-up testing kit collection site

**13. Nomination for Future External Meetings**

17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (2-4pm) Formartine Community Planning Group

**ACTION Completed:** Sent H Foxen invite and draft comments on BCC work

**14. New Correspondence & Communication**

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 Winter Planning from Roads Department, publicised on FB

8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 Note from Country Park Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 forwarded to all BCC members, next meeting will be on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 S Nicol resignation

**ACTION Completed:** Removed S Nicol from all distribution lists.

12<sup>th</sup> November 2021 Meeting guidance from AC, forwarded to all BCC members.

12<sup>th</sup> November 2021 Guidance from AC on Christmas lighting, forwarded onto Christmas Lights Group.

**ACTION Completed:** Check if there are any other groups that require this information.

J Nicol, Theft of Halloween decorations on 24-25<sup>th</sup> October 2021, the culprits were caught on a door bell camera.

Resident of Denview Road Potterton asking about a tree that Barratts are going to cut down, it is still standing, will just be cut back

**15. Any Other Business**

- H Foxen would like to apply for a grit bin, A Brown explained the process of applying is easy but the criteria in getting one requires to be looked at on AC website.
- Potterton resident B Campbell to be given a Christmas card and gift for his tidying efforts from White Cairns to the Murcur Roundabout
- Amendment of BCC constitution, discussed and no objections, email sent to Elaine Brown (AC) informing her of the amendment to our constitution, awaiting response.

Meeting closed 20:30

**DUE TO ONGOING CORONA VIRUS ISSUES**

**NB These November 2021 minutes were approved at the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021 BCC Meeting, next BCC Meeting will be on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7:00pm using Teams Phone-in, visitors welcome,**

**Email:** [belhelviecommunitycouncil@hotmail.com](mailto:belhelviecommunitycouncil@hotmail.com) for the phone-in number

**Belhelvie Community Council**

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