

BELHELVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



APPROVED MINUTES of MEETING 15th March 2021 Teams Call-in.

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

Members Present: C Wood, J Fletcher, H Foxen, A McIntyre, G Middleton,
J Nicol, E Phipps

Formartine Area Councillors Present: Cllr A Hassan Cllr J Gifford Cllr P Johnston

Apologies: Cllr K Adams D Wallace

Visitors: M Pirie, G Pirie K Badenoch, S Moore, (All Potterton, waste burning scrap yard) N Burr
(Potterton burn)

1. Introductions, Apologies & Welcome to Visitors

All attendees introduced themselves, all were welcomed and asked everyone that all matters be addressed through Carolyne Wood as she will be controlling the meeting. All mics to be muted if not in use, use the hands button on the menu bar if you wish to speak. A McIntyre chaired the meeting as D Wallace (Chairman) absent due to conflict of meetings, he attended the AC Forum for Scheme of Establishment Initiative. D Wallace tried to join the meeting later but could not log in.

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None

3. Approval of Sabbatical Period for Stephen Nicol

All Members present unanimously agreed to support this.

4. Police Matters & Report

Highlights from the report (Feb 2021):

Report aims: "...to highlight emerging issues in your area, and to provide crime prevention advice..."

- Antisocial behaviour, Violence and Disorder / Acquisitive Crime

Recorded crimes: 13 (increase of 2 compared to the same period in 2020)

Definition: number of recorded crimes that have resulted in some form of investigation.

Trends: fall in number of misuse of drugs in this number (continued this month)

- Road Safety & Road Crime

Operation Illustrious continues into 2021 - dedicated high visibility and intelligence led patrols and speed checks across the Formartine area.

- Covid Policing

No formal enforcement action has been required by Police Scotland and no fines issued within the Ward 8 area.

Action Completed: C Wood has followed up with S Rawlins about Mark Young (Ellon Inspector) waiting on the OK to share his contact details. S Rawlins will contact C Wood when she has more information.

ACTION: C Wood, when we have the contact details to ask about specific incidents in Balmedie (noted in Feb meeting), and who will be our Community Police Officer and attending our meetings.

5. Potterton Burnings

A BCC Councillor and Potterton resident reported that she thinks the whole village is frustrated as they have been following all the instructions to SEPA on how to report things but nothing seems to be happening. The site was supposed to be cleared by January 2021 but the owner is now burning day and night and the Fire Brigade and Police have been called out on numerous occasions.

A Potterton resident reported that this year alone there have been 18 instances reported to AC (G Buchannan). SEPA have been in contact with him to arrange a meet with AC, SEPA, Police and Fire Brigade. He has personally been reporting this for 18 months and would like to know if any Councillors from AC or BCC have had any feedback from the incidents. The village is following all the required procedures eg. a log of the instances of fires are being kept as they asked to do but he feels that nothing is progressing very fast.

Cllr Gifford described how SEPA have been operating under constrained circumstances due to a cyber attack on Christmas eve of which they have not recovered, so they are operating on low capacity for doing anything and this is having an effect on quite a few Council issues because SEPA are the enforcing body on environmental grounds. Cllr Gifford also mentioned the meeting to be arranged between SEPA, AC, Police and Fire Brigade and hoped this could at least advance the situation or end it.

Cllr Hassan reported that a Potterton resident dropped an email to SEPA and AC Environmental Health and once a response is forth coming he will try and further the case, but also reiterated that SEPA are the only body that can handle these incidents.

A second Potterton resident who lives in direct view of the property said he has called out the Fire Brigade at least 6 times, he also reported to the Fire Brigade the night burnings as he could see the flames coming over the top of the site, He emailed SEPA (Angus Mair) and felt as if he was given the brush off, he sent photos of the burnings but SEPA advised him the smoke was light coloured and that the owners were allowed to burn wood, in the photos he provided SEPA there were many with black smoke indicating the burning of tyres. This resident also reported he and his son had been threatened at different times when walking their dog past the site.

A third Potterton resident has also sent numerous emails with photo and video attachments to SEPA and AC showing black smoke due to the burning of tyres, she has personally seen the remnants of wheels after the tyre burning, black smoke flowing across the road as cars drive passed. She has also confronted the one of the persons involved and he was very disrespectful to her. The reports she sent were a year past and SEPA had no cyber-attack then, she expressed her dismay that nothing had been achieved during this time.

A fourth Potterton resident said she had been stopped on the road at the site because the Police and Fire Brigade were attending, she was approached by a member of the Fire Brigade who explained about. He further described the danger of the gorse bushes at the area becoming ignited and the fire would move towards the village. The Fire Brigade member said they were concerned that the fires were also at night now and that no one would have sight of it. She also reported that several residents of the village have sent letters to her directly saying that they have been threatened over this matter and she herself has also received threats in the village play park, this has been reported to the Police. A second BCC Councillor and Potterton resident reported that a member of the village believes the site is burning asbestos as she has had previous experience of this, she said whatever they are burning is an environmental risk and someone should put a stop to it.

Cllr Johnstone advised that SEPA are answerable to the Scottish Government and it may well help and put pressure on them by residents and BCC writing to the constituency MSP and MP

6. Tree and Bush Pruning Problem (A McIntyre)

This was raised by some residents to A McIntyre about tree cutting at the bottom of Chapelwell, Oliver Deeming and Andrew McIntyre (AC) were contacted and asked if people are able to cut trees out with their own property, the feed-back from Oliver and Andrew was no they cannot do this, but they stressed that AC is so busy they cannot follow up on every tree cutting that takes place. There was also an incident of tree cutting at Tormental with the offcuts being thrown down the bank and eventually landing in the burn, this could lead to blocking the flow of the burn and cause flooding further back. Andrew McIntyre advised that anyone cutting or pruning should get rid of the offcuts sympathetically or they could be charged with a fly tipping prosecution. He added anyone wanting to cut trees in the area should ask AC for permission and they will also give advice how to proceed.

7. Comments / Approval from the previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were slightly modified. They were then proposed for approval by J Nicol and seconded by G Middleton.

8. Matters arising from previous meetings

- **Request to support local power Bill on hold**

ACTION On going: All please report direct to SEPA and let BCC know if you see anything at the site There still seems to be numerous reports of burning off different materials,

ACTION Ongoing: Awaiting for SEPA to visit the site and if they have for a report

ACTION Ongoing: E Phipps to recommence fundraising strategy for 2021 with Alan Still and Bill Murray (Developer Obligations, Vattenfall, AFCCT)

- The road to the Balmedie Country Park passing the sewage plant

ACTION Completed: C Wood has sent send questions to Scottish Water on behalf of BCC awaiting reply

- Web accessibility check, AC happy with what BCC (C Wood) is doing

ACTION Ongoing: C Wood to mail AC Claire Young.

- Rannieshill Quarry Development

ACTION Completed: C Wood sent update from Rannieshill Quarry Developers to all BCC members

ACTION Completed: C Wood has re-publicised taxis on FB, A McIntyre has put info on notice board Actions for referrals for help

ACTION Completed: C Woods received the Aberdeenshire leaflets from S Rawlins, C Wood to forward to S Nicol.

ACTION Completed: E Phipps has sent the Monitoring report to Foundation Scotland.

ACTION Completed: D Wallace placed approval of sabbatical for S Nicol on Agenda

ACTION Completed: D Wallace sent a reply to I Downie about his concern for the school capacity issue, all BCC members copied.

ACTION Completed: J Nicol basketball hoops for the tennis courts in Potterton, received a reply from Landscape Services who stated they would support the project as it promotes healthy and active lifestyles. J Nicol will now start looking at estimates and funding for the project.

ACTION Completed: Request for updated CC Member contact and GDPR consent January 2021 D Wallace sent this to AC

- Gourdie Burn Update (N Burr)

N Burr, Cllrs Hassan and Johnstone had a meeting in the previous week and there was positive feedback from AC on a lot of the matters surrounding the burn. N Burr suggested the best option would be to deal with the matter privately and possibly look towards the BCC and the Landfill Tax to help funding of the project. N Burr has a plan to converge to the two burns and has sent a letter to SEPA to ask if they will give consent, he is awaiting their reply.

Cllr Johnstone reported that AC response was that they have been cleaning out the gullies in the car park next to the football pavilion, they have moved the glass bins and are looking at park fencing and possibly repairing it, thus preventing children falling into the water.

ACTION: N Burr to speak with BCT (R Nicol) to help on the funding of the project

- Potterton Developers Obligation Money (H Foxen and J Nicol)

H Foxen and J Nicol seem to be banging their heads against a brick wall in trying to deal with this matter. The Potterton group have now given the task back to BCC to progress the spending of the £4200.00 development money. H Foxen feels as a community, Potterton have no place for the people in Potterton to meet, and she thinks this should be a priority in today's climate for people's wellbeing. The deadline date for spending the money is May 2021 and this cannot be put off. All proposals put forward by H Foxen and J Nicol seem to get no backing from the user groups of the Community Centre. After a great discussion the two members are going to price a container to see if it comes into their budget.

All members of the BCC and Cllrs from AC thanked H Foxen and J Nicol for their tireless work in trying to achieve something in a difficult situation for the Potterton Community in trying to spend this money before the deadline.

9. Covid Related Community Support Projects, Actions & Initiatives

- C Wood to contact R Nicol and P McKeown and S Nicol about the AC leaflets from S Rawlins so that they may be dropped off to the correct persons so that they may be distributed in key points around the settlements.
- Funds being administered by BCC, resilience team includes Ewan Phipps BCC, Rosie Nicol BCT and Paul McKeown BCT
- Total available Covid resilience funding £3k, total spent to date £240 (coop vouchers and taxi referrals)
- £1k from AC requires to be spent by 31st Mar 2021 or returned to AC

- £1k from SSE no specific conditions attached, award letter refers to “covid resilience”
- £1k Big Lottery no conditions attached, award letter refers to “covid resilience”
Resilience team has not received any referrals to date
- The ongoing vaccine roll-out we have started an initiative offering free taxi transport to TECA for those without transport availability

10. Treasurers Report (E Phipps)

- One transaction, reimbursement of D Wallace with the Microsoft Licence for th BCC laptop
- All Village tidy cheques were distributed.

11. Planning Report (G Middleton)

Nothing to report

12. Landfill Tax Projects

Leisure centre:

- Awaiting estimates to finish the car park extension then submit an application via BCC to Landfill Fund (cut-off 26th Feb)

ACTION Ongoing: Ewan Phipps to coordinate meeting to discuss future funding strategy and knowledge, sharing (LC, BCC and Alan Still)

Investing in Communities Public Consultation:

Collaboration project between BCT and BCC

To be commenced online during 1Q (survey monkey, facebook),

13. Greenfield Projects Update

None

14. External Meeting Report Back

Balmedie Country Park Meeting 17th February 2021, (A McIntyre)

- AC to mark the ground of the car park for the horse boxes parking
- Changing Places (Toilets), work started February 2021 and progressing.
- New roundabout in the play park fully commissioned and in play
- O Deeming said the boardwalk to the south of the Sand Bothy there are parts of it damaged beyond repair and these areas will be removed as it constitutes a danger as it is.
- AC are looking for some funding to do some stone based pathing in that area.
- The decking and stairs on the east side of the Sand Bothy is to be replaced, funded by the SC recovery fund.
- The storage compound for the football pitches has begun.
- J Nicol and H Foxen attended the Understanding Planning by Aberdeen Climate Action, with Paul Davison (Kintore Community Council), Cllr Martin Ford (Aberdeenshire Council) and Clare Symonds (Planning Democracy).
- J Nicol attended Community Development Webinar - Hints, Tips and Funding by Aberdeenshire Council, webinar led by Cllr Peter Argyle (Aberdeenshire Council)
- J Nicol attended Circular Economy and the Planning System: Event for Aberdeenshire Community Councils and Community Groups. Discussion was led by David Wood, from Planning Aid Scotland and Stephen Boyle, from Zero Waste Scotland with input from Paul Macari from Aberdeenshire Council.

15. Attendance Nomination For Future External Meetings

Scheme of Establishment Review (D Wallace) 15th March 2021

16. New Correspondence & Communication

ACTION: D Wallace to send sheet for signature for office bearers

- 15th March Local resident asked for the minute taker to get in touch with her,
Action Completed: J Fletcher has emailed the resident twice with no reply
- 17th Feb - Scheme of Establishment review - next phase, Circulate to BCC members and arrange an additional BCC meeting to discuss
- 20th Feb - planning training for 2nd March 2021, circulated to BCC members
- 2nd March Community resilience planning
Sam Rawlins asked if BCC have a resilience plan for our area?

Would the CC or others want to get involved with putting one together?
If we do then Sam can help us/or another group develop the plan.

ACTION: C Wood to send info to BCC members and add to April meeting agenda

- 5th March AC requesting feedback on Village Tidy
ACTION Completed: J Fletcher sent report for all 4 villages
- 8th March AC requesting confirmation of member numbers pre-election
ACTION Completed: D Wallace replied on behalf of BCC
- 9th March Housing event open to members on Monday 15th March 2021 09:25 - 13:10
ACTION Completed: C Wood circulated all BCC members

17. Any Other Business

none

Meeting closed 21:23

DUE TO ONGOING CORONA VIRUS ISSUES

NB These March 2021 minutes were approved at the 19th April 2021 BCC Meeting, next BCC Meeting will be on Monday 17th May 2021 at 7:00pm using Teams Phone-in, Visitors welcome,

email : belhelviecommunitycouncil@hotmail.com for the phone-in number

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