

BELHELVE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



APPROVED MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: 19th July 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: A McIntyre, E Phipps, C Wood, J Nicol, S Nicol,
H Foxen, J Fletcher, D McKendrick

Apologies: D Wallace, G Middleton

Formartine Area Councillors Present: Cllr J Gifford Cllr A Hassan, Cllr P Johnstone

Visitors: A Brown (New BCC member)

1. Opening Address (Retiring Chairman)

The Vice Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting, asked that all matters be addressed through the chair, also all participants to mute their microphone when listening so we can avoid background noises and feedback echo and only have it ON when talking. If a person would like to speak, there is a hands button to press on the small control panel on your screen, failing that put your hand up and Carlyne will monitor who requires to speak.

Thanks was given to Cllr J Gifford for agreeing to chair the proceedings and perform the duties of returning officer.

2. Introduction of All Attendees

All attendees introduced themselves and were present as above.

The previous AGM MOM dated 19th October 2020 were reviewed at the 16th November 2020 CC Meeting they were proposed by G Middleton and seconded by D McKendrick.

3. Matters Arising from Previous AGM Minutes (2019)

No matters arising

4. Chair Person's Report

(Remarks cover the period since our previous AGM which was held on October 19th. 2020)

Since our last AGM 9 months ago we have continued to operate despite the social restrictions of the ongoing COVID pandemic. Our monthly meetings continued on-line as we adapted to the ever-changing lockdown rules but to the credit of our members we stuck with it albeit with numerous technical problems associated with access to the electronic meeting system. We also continued to operate in line with the recently introduced Scottish Government Scheme of Establishment which essentially mandated a uniform way for every Community Council in the country to be run. Following their model, we developed and established our bespoke Constitution which we continued to enhance with the addition of two office bearers to acknowledge the changing operating environment of the times. These changes have since been ratified and accepted by our governing body, the Aberdeenshire Council. In alignment we have also updated our "Roles & Responsibilities" document which lays out the duties of all office bearers and members.

I am pleased to confirm a relatively stable membership period over the past 9 months. We have run with 10 full members (6 being office bearers) alongside the 3 elected AC members who represent our mid-Formartine ward. We welcomed Jenny & Stephen Nicol to the Council but lost Mark Brown due to demanding work pressures. I would like to thank Mark for all his good work and for representing the Whitecairns area.

Attendance at our meetings has been good and for that I would like to thank each and every member for giving up your precious free time and engaging in the effort to improve the living conditions and services within our Communities.

I would also like to thank the Office Bearers for their hard work and dedication over the period since our last AGM namely; Alex McIntyre (Vice Chair), John Fletcher (Secretary & Minute-taker), Ewan Phipps (Treasurer) and Graham Middleton (Planning Reporter) and Carlyne Wood (our recently established Communications Co-ordinator). **THANK YOU ALL !**

I would also like to stress the importance of having some of our Formartine Area Councillors attend our meetings. Your guidance and counsel is key to us improving and becoming a more effective and efficient Community Council. We fully understand you are all extremely busy people and have a number of Community Councils to support but we need your help, knowledge and your experience at our meetings. So once again I thank you for your engagement and respectfully request that you all continue to make every effort to get along to our monthly meetings as your involvement is valued and respected. We also have been encouraged by the attendance at some of our recent meetings by officials from the Area Office in Ellon, please continue to get along when you can as you can provide great feedback around what the other community councils are doing in our region.

Special thanks also to Dan Wood for his technical support which has improved our ability to electronically communicate with the communities we serve.

We continued with our interaction and support to all the other local groups and committee's in the area which has improved the standing and reputation of the Community Council so I would like to thank all the Council members who have given up their time to attend these other meetings. We have also been ever present at the quarterly Formartine Area Community Council Forums where we get our chance to interface with all the other CC's in our locality. We continued to engage with all the proposed housing developments during this period following the development of the AC Planning Department's 5-year Local Development Plan. This plan highlighted a number of proposed developments in and around all our settlement areas. Special mention to Graham Middleton for his excellent work in this regard.

We have continued to co-ordinate the Village Tidy scheme which has demonstrated its success with the general appearance of our living spaces. Thanks to John for his work on that one along with the timely generation of our meeting minutes, a significant task indeed !.

We continue to work hard on making our communities safer, especially for our children, through our continued efforts to erect speed dampening signage in and around our villages, thanks to Dave McKendrick on that one as things are definitely improving.

We have also provided input to the Belhelvie Banter magazine, thanks to Carlyne Wood for that, and to Ewan Phipps for keeping our financial accounts in good shape .

In closing I just want to thank each and every one of you who have contributed to these successes, for giving up your free time to attend meetings and chase things down in an effort to make our communities a better place to live within.

None of these successes would have been possible without you all.

5. Treasurers Report (E Phipps)

- E Phipps to submit signed 20/21 accounts to AC w/c 9th Aug, see spreadsheet attached

6. Address by Returning Officer: J Gifford (Aberdeenshire Councillor)

Cllr Gifford started with thanks for the invitation as returning Officer for the BCC AGM. He congratulated BCC on keeping things moving despite the year that everyone has had to endure. The BCC online meetings were at first technologically challenging but are now running very well after the initial start up period and gave BCC great credit for that. He advised that all meetings especially the Community Council Forums have had a really good response since moving to online, one of the good points to be taken out of the pandemic. He thanked all BCC Office Bearers and Community Councillors for their efforts in supporting the differing projects that they have been involved in.

Documentation from the area office after receiving nomination forms for election are as follows, John Fletcher, Adam Brown, Jenny Nicol, Stephen Nicol. Two members Ewan Phipps and David McKendrick's forms were received after the deadline date so these two will have to be Co-Opted now and put on the August Agenda to be ratified the next full meeting of the BCC

Co-Opted Members

Ewan Phipps, Proposed by A McIntyre, seconded by C Wood

David McKendrick, proposed by J Fletcher, seconded by J Nicol

All present were happy with this co-option.

Moving on we have now got to elect the Office Bearers of the Belhelvie Community Council for the coming year.

Chairman – David Wallace, proposed by A McIntyre and seconded by E Phipps
Nomination accepted.

Vice-Chairman – A McIntyre proposed by D McKendrick and seconded by H Foxen
Nomination accepted.

Treasurer – E Phipps proposed by A McIntyre and seconded by J Nicol
Nomination accepted.

Secretary and Minute Taker– J Fletcher proposed by C Wood and seconded by D McKendrick
Nomination accepted.

Planning Reporter:- G Middleton proposed by J Fletcher and seconded by S Nicol.
Nomination accepted.

Communications Coordinator:- C Woods proposed by J Fletcher and seconded by J Nicol
Nomination accepted.

The Returning Officer thanked all members present and wished the committee well.
He declared the 2021 Annual General Meeting closed.

DATE FOR 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20th June 2022 @ 7pm

VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED

e-mail address: belhelviecommunitycouncil@hotmail.com