

BELHELVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



APPROVED MINUTES of MEETING 20th September 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, E Phipps, A McIntyre
J Nicol, A Brown, D Wallace, M Stuart

Apologies: D McKendrick, S Nicol, G Middleton

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

Visitors: None

1. Chairmans Opening Remarks

With the online meetings, there has been instances of a person or persons recording the meetings without asking permission

Chair asked if anyone is recording the meeting please refrain as there has been no permission sought by anyone prior to the meeting starting.

2. Introductions, Apologies & Welcome 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. Co-Opt on Mike Stuart to Belhelvie Community Council

Welcome to our new member M Stuart, Chair will send the BCC constitution and Roles and Responsibilities document to him.

M Stuart Co-Opted to BCC proposer A McIntyre, seconder, J Fletcher

4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest reported

5. Police Matters & Report Review

No attendance by Police

C Woods circulated the report, after feedback from A McIntyre from the CC Forum Meeting, the Chief Inspector giving the speech stated there will be no statistics in the reports now, this is from a higher level.

This month we have the pleasure of welcoming PC Stacy Morrison back to Formartine as our newly appointed Community Beat Officer. PC Morrison will be engaging with communities throughout Formartine and plans to host mobile community surgeries all across the beat, including dates at Oldmeldrum, Rothienorman, Turriff, Fyvie, Ellon and Balmedie.

The dates and locations for these surgeries will be posted on social media as well as advertised in local shops and notice boards. I would encourage you to come say hello to PC Morrison and voice any concerns you have in your community.

Police surgery Thursday 23 September 2021

Balmedie Leisure Centre car park 0930-1100 hours

Publicised through FB and reminder on FB

ATTENDING: D Wallace, J Fletcher and others will try to attend – emphasize the need for Police to attend CC meetings and the change in the reporting of statistics.

ACTION Completed: C Wood added community police officer to meeting invitations/contact list

6. Planning Report (G Middleton)

G Middleton not present, report will be read in October meeting

7. Treasurers Report (E Phipps)

Aug/Sep Bank Account Activity

- Taxi fare for local resident transport to ARI
- Admin Grant and Village Tidy funds received

Village Tidy/Amenity Improvement Funding 21/22

- 21/22 funds have now been receipted - to be distributed in full lump sum payment to our various associations
- Total confirmed available to Belhelvie Parish for 21/22 = £2,500:
Balmedie £1k, Potterton £500
Belhelvie £500, Blackdog £500

8. Comments / Approval from the previous Meeting Minutes

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

9. Matters arising from previous meetings

Resilience Planning (on hold from August)

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.

ACTION Completed: 16th August C Wood sent the Udny plan link to all BCC members

10. Covid Related Support Projects, Actions & Initiatives

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 to TECA for those without transport availability

Action Completed: C Wood Publicised new vaccination centre in Aberdeen (Bon Accord) and community testing.

11. Landfill/ Greenfield/Other Projects

Leisure centre:

- Pavilion Car Park Extension – awaiting estimates in order to finish works.
- Further Planning application to be made via BCC for Gazebo and car charging points
- Soft Play Equipment - BCC to apply to Scottish Gov't 'Scotland Loves Local Programme', this requires to be match funded

BCT Projects:

- Inclusive play equipment – funds raised for an all-inclusive swing, works due to commence early 2022
- Sensory Garden awaiting contractors to complete agreed works, install benches and table.
- Gourdie Burn Potterton project to clear and re-route the burn and also create a new path. Application has been accepted by Scottish Community Landfill Fund. Work to commence Sept/Oct 21.
- Investing In Communities Public Consultation collaboration project between BCT and BCC/Online surveys due to commence Nov time with consultation going out online (survey monkey, facebook)

12. General Projects Update

Chair asked everyone to think of any ideas for projects that the BCC could champion.

13. External Meeting Report Back

Community Council Forum 25th August 2021, (D Wallace, and A McIntosh attended)

Awaiting notes

The Ellon Health Complex topic was mentioned but there has been no progress on this and would seem quite a long way away.

On the Covid subject, there will be no vaccination centre considered for the Formartine area. Chief Inspector Jamie Harrison gave a lengthy presentation about the Police roles within the community for example protecting vulnerable people from E Crime, drug abuse etc. There is drug abuse within the Formartine area, but there are minimal issues with drug dealing. They deal with anti social behaviour, youth disorder, road crime and road safety, inquisitive crime (house break-ins). Any issues that require liaison with the Police should go through the elected councillors as they have regular forum meetings

Each council gave a presentation and discussions took place about CC meetings being online or in person, there was mixed feedback and Ellon are having their next meeting in the Academy, Old Meldrum are moving to live meetings but have not confirmed the date, other CC had no plans to move live meetings.

Next meeting 10th November 2021

SEPA Meeting 10th September 2021 (J Nicol)

J Nicol was asked for statements in connection with the scrapyards fires, she asked D Wallace if she could report what the BCC had discussed about the issue. J Nicol found it very difficult to understand what is going on about these numerous incidents, Police appear to now advise to contact SEPA if any incidents arise, SEPA countered by advising it is a Police matter and to contact the Police. Everyone are now getting frustrated at no action being forthcoming.

During the discussion, it was stated that SEPA does not recognise any instances described as 'controlled burning'. SEPA advised that guidance continues to be, report all issues with burning/fires/environmental concerns directly to SEPA and Police. J Nicol asked if the AC Councillors could give an update

Cllr Hassan, this is getting awkward as previously stated SEPA say report to Police and Police say report to SEPA. He advised to still report to the Police as this will put the incidents on record and if criminality can be established they have something to work on. Cllr Hassan reported that he and fellow Councillors had a private meeting with SEPA (no Police presence) , but he does not think that SEPA and the Police are working in collaboration with each other as they should be. On the back of this unsuccessful meeting, he took it on himself to write to all who had sent incident reports about the site to him and asked if he could use the information and form a package with all the evidence gained, this he did and sent it to the Police, hopefully this will be discussed at a forthcoming private meeting with the Police.

Cllr Johnston reported that the meeting left everyone angry, his advice about reporting would be to Police, SEPA and Aberdeenshire Council also, if all three have the report then they cannot ignore it, then it go through the processes as previously described.

Cllr Gifford also reiterated his shock that nothing was being done about these incidents and he also advised as per Cllr Johnston.

Cllr Powell reported that she was stopped by her neighbour who told her about the scrapyards fires and she went to look for herself and she was shocked by the amount of fridge freezers that were being set fire to, brown smoke was issuing from the site and the air was foul smelling.

Cllr Powell tried to report to the Police 101 but no one answered her calls

A McIntyre asked because SEPA and the Police come under the Scottish Government, could we get the MSPs involved? Cllr Gifford replied that the local MSPs have been copied in the reports and photos.

Cllr Hassan advised we could invite our local MSPs to our next meeting and have a discussion on these incidents. Cllr Johnstone advised to contact the Justice Ministers, one responsible for Police and the other for the environment (SEPA).

BCC decision after further discussion was to draft a letter to Gillian Martin basically telling her that nothing has progressed since our last communication to her in June 2021

SEPA Hotline Number: 08090807060 <https://www2.sepa.org.uk/EnvironmentalEvents> Police (non emergency) 101 Police /Fire Brigade (Emergency) 999

Formartine Community Planning Group 1st September, (H Foxen and C Woods attended)

- S Rawlins (AC) writing a new leaflet for **money worries** – S Rawlins awaiting feedback at the moment as it's being reviewed/prepared.
- Poverty S Rawlins seeing lots of **requests for foodbanks** etc some CCs need work to help people move away from foodbanks dependency. S Rawlins suggesting sub group to work on how best to support CCs with the demand. Tarves, Daviot, Udney CC's have done a lot around food supplies during lockdown and continuing now to tackle food poverty.
Do CCs want to get involved in S Rawlins subgroup on poverty?
- LOIP - Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Themes moving about teams and plans
2 main themes in the LOIP:
Healthy eating / active lives - team could ask to speak at CC meetings in future
Mental health and well-being, Clear your head campaign, Mind your mind 30th Sept event by Aberdeenshire Council – S Rawlins will send details.
- **Empowering communities** S Rawlins update
S Rawlins is updating Community Action Plans and next set of community engagement (The BCT/BCC consultation is independent engagement but we are keeping S Rawlins informed of progress)
- Update from Inspector Young available on the AC Teams space
- **Community Beat Officer** recently appointed, Insp Young has a plan for community work. Police are working on recruiting Police youth and community Police officers.
- **Connected communities**
Cycle strategy being developed
- **Secure Communities**
If you see it, report it campaign
ACTION:C Wood to check on the campaign and promote it.
Turrieff has example of the see it report it campaign that can be adapted for other CCs
ACTION:C Wood to contact Turrieff CC for details
- **Vaccinations** - boosters coming in the autumn
- **Partner updates** – S Rawlins will circulate these to the group
- **Next meeting in November** – S Rawlins reviewing membership and will let CCs know how many reps required to attend and from which C

14. Attendance Nomination for Future External Meetings

- Police surgery Thursday 23 September 2021 Balmedie Leisure Centre car park 0930 -1100 hours
ACTION Completed: C Wood publicised on FB and website
- Induction/refresher training, AC need to know if you want to attend by 22nd September 2021.
Training dates:
Wednesday, 29th September 2021 General training, meetings, code of conduct etc
Wednesday, 6th October 2021 Planning training
ACTION Completed: C Wood sent the list of BCC members who want to attend: to AC
- Public Health - Invite to Community Leaders Meeting on Community Testing & Vaccinations - Can You Help Us?
Tuesday 28th September 4.30-5.30pm Microsoft Teams meeting OR
Wednesday 29th September 6.30-7.30pm Microsoft Teams meeting
ACTION Completed: C Wood Circulated on 13th Sept to BCC and check at meeting
- Joint Meeting 9th November Hold the Date -
Tue 09/11/2021 09:00-13:50
- Country park meeting 3rd Nov
- CC Forum 10th Nov

15. New Correspondence & Communication

REMINDER - email protocol / process improvement - all outgoing BCC emails to public to go out from BCC email account. Remember all members to note and report back on face to face conversations around the village.

Communications - statement / disclaimer - person emails are the view of individual not the BCC agreed view, and add to constitution that BCC members must use this statement.

ACTION: A Brown to write disclaimer

ACTION: All Community Councillors to check code of conduct -

<https://www.standardscommissionscotland.org.uk/codes-of-conduct/councillors-code-of-conduct>

ACTION: Guidance development, get support if approached and/or feel uncomfortable with public approaches, how to get support from the group

Use CC to copy in BCC for the record

30th Aug Sam Rawlins checked on new session for social media training

CSW replied to S Nicol, H Foxen, C Wood interested

31st Aug request to take part in review of customer experience at household recycling centres circulated to BCC members, H Foxen has been put in touch with requester.

20th Sept Local Development Plan (LDP) newsletter you are required to re-subscribe to continue to receive the newsletter, BCC is re-subscribed but reminder to everyone

J Nicol Correspondence

- Fly-tipping on the B999 near scrapyard and is mainly tyres (pic attached)
- Knit and natter approached the PCC to use the community centre as previous but were refused access upstairs on the grounds that it is unsafe. J Nicol thought that two groups could use the Community Centre, she will email the CC and copy Aberdeenshire Councillors.
- Concern from F Thomson related to the burn at Old Croft Place, signage and trash-screens removed, what could be done to improve the water flow up stream, and wants to know who is responsible for maintaining the embankment, as there is erosion at a part of it since the work was completed in 2018.
Cllr Johnston said the AC altered the signs and removed the trash-screens after inspection, this was after a flood had over topped the road and culvert, and caused damage in some properties but not the living parts. AC is responsible for the culvert, the banks of the burn are the responsibility of the landowners or the houses themselves. If a problem which has not manifested itself yet of the over topping of the water happens, AC are aware there may be a need for some water retention further up the hillside, but they are reluctant to spend money on something that hasn't happened or come closed to happening, but they have a resolution in mind.
- Scouts Community Centre had a Christmas tree put on site in 2018 but was put in the wrong place and they cannot instal their tents.it was supposed to be removed to another area, but nothing has happened to it. They would like to know when this tree will be moved or not.
Cllr Johnston said landscape services (AC) can move the tree to another site if the people involved could get together and find an agreed site. After everyone involved have agreed on the site, the tree will be moved.

16. Any Other Business

- Belhelvie Community Consultation being postponed to February/March 2022
- No winter planting supplies from AC
- **ACTION Completed:** C Wood email Olly Deeming about the state of the boardwalks/paths in Balmedie Country Park - what is happening with the paths?
Update work to replace paths /boards going on into the Autumn O Deeming has replied, email circulated to BCC members (24 Sept 2021)
- Notice board in Balmedie at the Coop being used by various people putting business cards in, obviously someone has a spare key to the notice board, we may have to change keys at some point.
- H Foxen the notice board on the road side is not in good repair, something is wrong with the hinges in the door do not allow the door top open properly and also the swelling of the wood requires a screw driver to open it. The inside is not water tight and notices are getting wet.
D Wallace advised we should get a new notice board, aluminium with weather seals.
ACTION: H Foxen to get some quotes for the notice board
- M Stuart, Aberdeenshire Councillors are trying encourage villages to do these Local Development Plans (LDP) but nothing seems to get completed. The Blackdog master plan was compiled in 2009, first approved in 2012, reapproved in 2017, and we are now approaching 2022 and only phase 1 is being implemented, is this worthwhile.

- A McIntyre, School provision, leaflet sent out to all the settlements by Alan Hendry, the leaflet does not say where the offer of a site to Aberdeenshire Council is for a proposed new school. A McIntyre had some correspondence with A Hendry and he asked where the school would be situated if not at the West of Balmedie, no reply was given. An email was also put out by the Head teacher of Balmedie Primary School to alleviate any fears parents might have.
ACTION: BCC to mail Aberdeenshire Council to seek clarification where the offer to AC of the land to build a school was, and BCC to discuss at a later meeting.

ATTENTION: Anyone wishing to offer their support to POTTERTON GREEN FINGERS GROUP to help with work on enhancing the garden area and seating.

Text Hilary Foxten on 07918665114 Thanks In Advance

Meeting closed 22.14

DUE TO ONGOING CORONA VIRUS ISSUES

NB These September 2021 minutes were approved at the 18th October 2021 BCC Meeting, next BCC Meeting will be on Monday 15th November 2021 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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