



# **BELHELVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **APPROVED MINUTES of MEETING 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 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, A Brown, D Wallace, M Stuart,  
A McIntyre, G Middleton, H Foxen, E Phipps,  
**Apologies:** D McKendrick, J Nicol

**Formartine Area Councillors Present:** Cllr A Hassan, Cllr S Powell,  
Cllr P Johnston, Cllr J Gifford  
**Apologies:** None  
**Visitors:** None

### **1. Chairmans Opening Remarks**

Chair asked if anyone wants to record this meeting please make a request to do so prior to the meeting starting. No one asked for permission.  
Update of the situation of the three complaints against BCC, the first complaint will be heard tomorrow 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022. A meeting was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to discuss the BCC response to the complaint, it was also decided that J Fletcher and C Wood will represent the BCC during the hearing. Regarding complaint number 3, there have been no information from AC, although the complaint was made May 2021.  
Chair asked when emails sent to other BCC members, could all copy the BCC mail address for good practice. ([belhelviecommunitycouncil@hotmail.com](mailto:belhelviecommunitycouncil@hotmail.com))

### **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**

No December report received.  
Chair reported that a number of break-ins have occurred in Balmedie since the beginning of the year, these were reported on the local FB page. A new Balmedie resident posted on the local FB page that they were getting their windows bricked by youths, this was reported to the Police and the culprits have been apprehended.  
Police Surgery at Potterton. Residents from Milton of Potterton raising concerns about road safety, including HGVs mounting the verges. Stacy Morrison (Formartine CPT) took note of evidence including following up on photos/videos of road safety concerns from residents.

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

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

#### **Validated**

Wonderwall Belhelvie - extension to existing house  
Site south of Canada Cottage White Cairns- Agricultural shed and access road

#### **Decided**

Balmedie Leisure centre - Gazebo, play area and charging points – Approved  
**Blackdog Agricultural Building**

After discussion of application 2021 2791 it was agreed by a vote that BCC should raise an objection to the Agricultural Building off Hareburn Road on behalf of Blackdog residents tabled at the last monthly meeting.

There were 16 public objections to this application, Environmental Health and AC Roads Department have also lodged objections.

G Middleton to draft an objection response and send to all members before submitting to the planning office.

#### **Changes to Local Planning Service**

Cllr Gifford explained, that the system is the same as it is now where a planning application goes through and there are no comments from any CC and there are no representations, then the delegated officers deal with it by either approving or refusing it. One of the proposed changes is that any applications up for refusal do not come to the Aberdeenshire Councillors, thus speeding the process up. There is now a difference from 6 to 10 representations to the delegate authority to councillors, at present if there are 1-6 representations it comes to the local members for their deliberation and determination, if they agree with the officers then that is the matter dealt with. At present if its more than 5 representations it goes to Committee, it is now proposing 10 for it go automatically to Committee, everything is as it is at present.

Cllr Hassan noted AC Councillors will still be involved, maybe not as early. But BCC to note that CCs will potentially be under more scrutiny on how CCs deal with planning applications and more pressure to show they are paying attention to planning applications and need to continue to comment on behalf of the community on an application.

**ACTION:** BCC to note the change and ask AC Councillors to note the concerns about the challenge to get 10 objections in rural areas

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

Dec-Jan Bank Account Activity

Taxi fare for local resident transport to ARI at request of AC transport office £45 (\*As part of the ongoing vaccine booster rollout and ongoing Omicron situation we are still offering free taxi transport for those without transport availability and/or are immunosuppressed)

MS Office licence renewal £59.99

ESET Internet Security renewal £39.99

Ellon Men's Shed new notice board for Potterton £200

#### **Funding applications**

ABZ Propeller fund - Application submitted by BCC for £1k funding for fixed benches in communal areas, awaiting outcome

Coastal Communities Fund.

Application submitted by BCC for £6.5k funding for fixed benches in communal areas, awaiting outcome.

Application submitted on behalf of Leisure Centre for £17.5k funding for pavilion landscaping works, awaiting outcome

Seachangers Coastal Fountain Fund 2022, E Phipps will submit an application for this, it is limited to one fountain per applicant £2k, installation and maintenance costs not included, deadline is 13th February 2022.

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

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

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

Resilience Planning (on hold from August 2021)

**ACTION:** Groups to be informed, Forsyth Hall, Brethren Church, First Responders, Potterton Community Group, Blackdog Residents Association, BCT

**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

**ACTION:** C Wood to send feedback on the AC Forum about sharing of experiences from the other Community Councils in our area.

**ACTION:** C Wood to invite the head of the football club (D Duncan) asking for the Potterton asset transfer

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

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

**ACTION:** C Woods to re-publicise the following. As part of the ongoing vaccine rollout across the age groups we are still offering free taxi transport for those without transport availability

**ACTION:** C Wood to publicise any new SG Covid updates on the BCC FB page

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

**Potterton Burn** (J Nicol) BCT have new play park equipment at the Sand Bothy installed earlier than expected so the BCT have some available funding which can be used and R Nicol has suggested that this could go towards a piece of play equipment at Potterton, linking with the burn project. Potterton Nursery are involved in the plans for a nature trail (elf/fairy/gruffalo theme to be confirmed) around the new footpath.

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

Nothing to report.

**12. External Meeting Report Back**

None to report

**13. Nomination for Future External Meetings**

18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 H Foxen to attend the FRP as BCC rep.

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 Community Council Forum, A McIntosh to attend.

16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 Country Park Meeting A McIntyre and D Wallace to attend.

17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 10am Formartine Community Planning Group Meeting (FCPG)  
C Wood and H Foxen to attend.

**14. New Correspondence & Communication**

6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Sea Changers Coastal Fountain Fund 2022. (Case Ref: RI4739)

Forwarded to members to consider where water fountain(s) could be positioned locally - Country Park? Football pitches? Blackdog beach?

**ACTION:** E Phipps to submit application

8<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Delegated powers increase proposal - Aberdeenshire Council Planning Service.

**ACTION Completed:** Circulated emails to members (ref Planning)

9<sup>th</sup> January 2022 planting by AC being changed to perennials, forwarded the email to relevant contacts in villages and asked them to let me know if they are still the correct contacts.

**ACTION:** C Wood to update her list of plant contacts and create a new list in the BCC email account (In progress)

- Potterton H Foxen responded she will get back to AC for Potterton
- Whitecairns M Brown is still the plants contact and can help with noticeboards, agendas etc, would like to keep getting meeting emails

12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 D Wallace reported to O Deeming AC and R Nicol (BCT) a dangerous overhanging tree from Care Home land to the North Beach Road.

O Deeming update saying the AC Roads Dept and care home aware of it

But not resolved yet, Church of Scotland estate/care home, Oliver Deeming has reported it to the care home.

**ACTION:** Check with O Deeming on progress with resolving this

17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 Aberdeenshire Council Roads Policy Review - Consultation

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood, Circulated to members and publicised through FB

16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 M Brown to continue updating the Whitecairns noticeboards

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood to set up and revise BCC contact lists for, BCC noticeboards (agenda and minutes (approved)) BCC members (+ M Brown) AC Councillors, Area Office, Police contacts, AC community rep when appointed, Elaine Brown

BCC draft minutes to be sent BCC members and AC Councillors and Area Office

17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Mrs M Brown about possible illegal parking on the side of the road and laybys in Whitecairns.

Cllr Hassan will give feedback directly to the resident and BCC he is checking if he is authorised to send the Police (Sgt Stables) response to the resident.

Cllr Johnstone reported that the AC roads department are only just aware of this.

#### **15. Any Other Business**

A McIntyre BBC Vice Chair) had a discussion with a Balmedie resident who would like to see an all year, all weather, flood-lit facility for children on a free to use basis which she feels would be of great benefit to the community. She also mentioned discussing the crossing at Eigie Road, unfortunately the lady could not attend this evening's meeting, hopefully she will be available to join us in the near future.

Cllr Hassan said he did not think there were any of these facilities in Aberdeenshire, just Aberdeen and they are used for numerous activities, he said he would check with colleagues but does not think there are any funds ie Development Obligation Fund available for this in Balmedie.

Cllr Hassan also spoke about the crossing at Eigie Road that was brought to the attention of himself and ex Cllr Adam at the Community Surgery right before lockdown, this has not been forgotten and they still have to discuss with the Aberdeenshire Roads Dept. where a safe and proper crossing could be situated. Cllr Johnstone attended a School Council Meeting and advised the Parent Council to seek a joint approach with the school and safer routes to school officer in order to have a reassessment completed on the crossing criteria, this is in the pipeline but has not been particularly chased because of Covid backlog

Cllr Hassan sent J Nicol the link to Aberdeenshire Council video related to community resilience efforts during Storm Arwen. Community hub at Potterton received a mention for their sterling efforts and a special mention to Mrs J Nicol for her leadership throughout.

[https://youtu.be/4F\\_oCwGHN8w](https://youtu.be/4F_oCwGHN8w)

J Nicol reported Mr Campbell delighted with his Christmas gift (a card of thanks, shortbread and single malt) from BCC

J Nicol reported Following discussion at November meeting, new grit bin been installed on corner of Church Road and Denhead Crescent, Potterton.

M.Stuart asked Cllr Johnstone for an update on the flats at Blackdog, he reported that it is on the program and all consents should be in place, it is just a case of getting it completed, but it is not high up in the list of urgent needs for the service and construction.

Cllr Johnstone was asked for an update on the establishment of the bike path from Balmedie to Aberdeen. He reported that is entirely in the hands of Aberdeen City Council as the issue is the connection beyond Blackdog burn into the Aberdeen where the connection needs to be made, Aberdeen City Council have to acquire a small section of land to allow the project to go ahead. He also said that there are plans for the cycle path from Ellon to Aberdeen eventually, but because of Covid, lack of capital, lack of contractors it is on hold. Cllr Johnstone was asked about signage on the route to Blackdog from Balmedie, where cyclists and walkers may encounter cars and transport vehicles, this was agreed but with Covid nothing has progressed yet, he will check on the status.

Notice that the Potterton Shop will be closed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 after 65 years of operation, this effort deserves a special mention The shop will be missed as apart from providing convenience goods and post office it was a village collection point for prescriptions from doctor surgeries.

Meeting closed 21:03

#### **DUE TO ONGOING CORONA VIRUS ISSUES**

**NB These January 2022 minutes were approved at the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 BCC Meeting. Next BCC Meeting Monday 21<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7:00pm using Teams Phone-in, Visitors welcome.**

**Belhelvie Community Council**

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

**Web:** [www.belhelviecc.org.uk](http://www.belhelviecc.org.uk)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/BelhelvieCommunityCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/BelhelvieCommunityCouncil)

**Meetings:** [belhelviecc.org.uk/meetings.html](http://belhelviecc.org.uk/meetings.html)