

BELHELVE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



APPROVED MINUTES of MEETING 19th June 2023 Online Teams

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

Members Online: D Wallace, H Foxen, C Wood, G Drummond, D McKendrick, J. Fletcher
Apologies: G Middleton, E Phipps, A McIntyre

Formartine Area Councillors Online: Cllr A Hassan, Cllr Nicol
Apologies Cllr Johnstone, Cllr D Ritchie

Visitors Online: A Burr (Potterton) L Dingwall

1. Apologies & Introductions of any Visitors/Attendees

All attendees were welcomed and asked everyone that all matters be addressed through C Wood as she is the Leader of the Teams Meeting.

2. Chairmans Opening Remarks

With great regret I have to report the passing of Allan Jeffries, Allan was a giant of a man for Balmedie, his work for Better Balmedie will never be forgotten as his efforts can be seen all around the village. He was always out walking his dog and would stop and natter to anyone he passed, Christmas will never be the same without our resident Santa, our heart felt sympathies go out to his family at this time.

This meeting is an online Teams Meeting due to limited members able attend in person.

Chair asked if anyone wants to record this meeting, please make a request to do so prior to the meeting starting. No requests made.

Following the comment made in the Chairman's report during the BCC AGM, related to the tangible support from AC, D Wallace wanted to know how the members of the BCC felt in him raising this point at the next Community Council Forum. Cllr Hassan advised D Wallace to speak to the chair of the CCF (D Heklar) prior to the next meeting and explain the concerns as other CCs may think similarly and be better prepared for a discussion.

3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None

4. Police Matters & Report Review.

No Police presence this month.

5th June 2023, May Police report received and forwarded to BCC members

No reported incidents in our area, following trends in May report. Several reports of youth causing issues within the Formartine area. Several reports of assaults. Several camp fires. Esso Garage, Ellon, was broken into.

Fraud continues to have an upward trend. Continuing Police actions to tackle antisocial driving across the region with a number of drivers being dealt with. Actively monitor routes across our area and conduct speed checks. Pop Up Bob has been repaired this will only be out during daylight hours and will move to a new location each 24 hours period. There are no objections to individual community councils purchasing one as long as they discuss the placement of 'Bob' with Police and set locations are identified.

ACTION Completed: Discuss with BCC about the purchase a pop-up Bob?

Result of discussion: high cost, not much enthusiasm to buy one.

Police expected in July meeting

ACTION Completed: C Wood asked members for questions for July meeting and pass on to Police

Police advised to report all incidents even trivial ones to Police so they are being recorded and tell the BCC or BCC members so we can feed it back to the Police.

Report anonymously through the independent charity Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

Contact Police on 101 or using the "Contact Us" form on the Police Scotland website

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/>

Safe Drive Stay Alive Campaign: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjhWWYEdNoc>

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

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

5. Visitors Items

Visitor (A Burr, Potterton)

Aberdeenshire Council Road Consultation buildouts on Panmure Gardens, Potterton.

H Foxen was asked to provide comments on behalf of BBC, the site of the proposed traffic calming plan does not take into account that Panmure Gardens opening remains a drive with both in and out openings, one side also incorporates and entrance to a new home located behind the Manse, the proposed calming measure is not far from the one at the other side of the road for cars travelling in the opposite direction together the calming measures will create a chicane in a short space and no account taken for large farming vehicles that pass along this road as part of their business in neighbouring fields, greater



consideration is required to update the plan and accurately include positions of all property exits / entrances alongside that for new homes and to consider the consequences of the proposed changes.

This was submitted for the committee to discuss it, H Foxen also submitted on behalf of the BCC to the AC Roads team today, the plan does not take into the fact that residents park along the street outside their homes and the road then becomes a single lane, a buildout would create traffic issues.

A Burr's daughter Laura Dingwall who joined the meeting without declaring her identity until asked, said she was not happy with these comments, as they were not fair and did not represent the whole of the community as it was one person's opinion.

L Dingwall explained the buildings are part of a planning application that has planning approval with a planning condition on it that supports the proposed buildouts there and there are bigger consequences to saying that the buildouts cause problems.

They are technically capable and have caused no concerns from the development team, road standards group, which is made up of high level road engineers said it would be ok for tractors and HGVs to move through the road. The parking issue she added is that cars only have the right to park in their driveway and not in the street, never the less the buildout does not prevent parking on the street. H Foxen said she was very sorry that they have taken offence at her unbiased opinion, she said she was not making comments on the PA she was talking about the impact on the road and as there are no yellow lines along this road it therefore does not prohibit cars from parking. Discussions on this subject continued and ended with the view that H Foxen had put the comments in a correct manner.

6. Planning Report (G Middleton)

G Middleton not present, BCC an email from Keith And Jo Donaldson about plans to establish a native broadleaf woodland, their land consists of a field adjacent to the B999 at Wester Craigie, which is predominantly covered with rocks and gorse bushes. Our objective is to remove a majority of the gorse and create a native woodland comprising native broadleaf trees.

Additionally, we aim to develop a small pond/wetland in the middle of the field using the existing field drains.

BCC discussed this and were all in agreement of the plan and promote and support such applications

ACTION Completed: BCC note sent being broadly supportive

Blamedie Shop on the Old Aberdeen Road

ACTION: G Middleton will try and find out the owner's name

Actions not answered as Graham not present.

7. Treasurers Report (E Phipps)

No transactions this month

Signed accounts for 2022-23 sent to AC and all BCC members attached to the Draft BCC AGM MOM.

8. Comments / Approval from the previous Meeting Minutes (A McIntyre)

The minutes from the previous meeting were altered by J Fletcher, who asked if all were satisfied with the alterations. They were then proposed for approval by D Wallace and seconded by G Drummond.

9. Matters arising from Previous Meeting

D Wallace to contact O Deeming AC about the Balmedie broken bench at the White Horse Bus stop.

ACTION Completed: O Deeming said he had some spare parts for this bench and would transport them to G Drummonds workplace, this has not been done yet.

Siting of the new notice board at the convenience shop, after discussion it was agreed that the best place was its present location.

The notice boards at Potterton have been refurbished (G Drummonds efforts) and they do not require a new notice board at present.

Potterton Burn and Garden children's play park

ACTION Completed: H Foxen found out the play park equipment is owned by AC, one of the pieces has been made unsafe and is going to get replaced by AC when they have the funding available.

Mario petition

ACTION IN PROGRESS: C Wood to look online tools for petition

UPDATE: Change.org or 38 degrees, appears to be free to set up

Need to decide on platform / agree text / investigate best practice for the petition text

ACTION IN PROGRESS: C Wood to follow up on best practice for petition writing and previously successful campaigns against immigration rulings

ACTION: C Wood get update from Cllr Ritchie on approach to David Duguid (Banff and Buchan MP) to see if this can go to Scottish Secretary

ACTION IN PROGRESS: J Fletcher to speak with Mario to see what immigration status he would like for his family.

10. Landfill/ Greenfield/Other Projects

E Phipps not present

11. General Projects Update

Park Bench Project, Benches will all be in place by Friday 23rd June 2023. G Drummond's Team with help from G Middleton are to be commended for the excellent work and the villages have passed some very appreciative comments.

ACTION IN PROGRESS: Facebook posts to promote the locations of the benches

ACTION Completed: News item on BCC website

New Notice Boards to be delivered to G Drummonds work shop.



12. External Meeting Report Back.

C Wood attended Democracy Matters event organised by the West Lothian CC on 10 June 2023. There were a lot of things we are all worried/annoyed by as Community Councils.

Opening talk, Reflections about the Future of Community Councils and how to get there Dr Oliver Escobar.

- Very interesting talk especially as he highlighted the comparative powerlessness of elected members in Scottish Councils when compared to European councillors. BCC have seen and felt this with local issues such as roads where Officers appear able to overrule CCs and AC Councillor concerns.
- He noted that power is very centralised, and no political party has really backed CCs. There is a lack of incentive for elected members to push for CC reform / increased power.
- Community Councils tend to be very variable resources, membership, abilities so coverage and activities inconsistent.

Questions from Community Councils at the meeting included the reliance on volunteers, especially in light of the issues the speaker raised about community work budgets being cut by Councils, and Council work ending up with volunteer groups with little or no Council support

Concerns from West Lothian CC about local grants being given without CC knowledge. BCC have seen similar worries raised by Mearns CC about CCs not being aware of local consultations in the participatory budgeting discussions.

Proposal for a new Scottish wide CC association Scottish Forum of Community Councils

BCT 29/05/2023 (J Fletcher) MOM available later from BCT

Few points, BCT to receive £9000 funding from Kelos Midstream, BCC Chairman (D Wallace) the instigator of this. A fund raising concert will be held on the 23rd September 2023 at Belhelvie Church. Rosie Nicol's book has sold quite a few copies, the profit of which will go to the BCT. The BCT are waiting to see if they are exempt from paying the SG new legislation on business rates for the Sand Bothy. Sand Bothy had a good few school visits, the Easter Event went well. Warm Hub at the small church in Balmedie. Wheelchairs are Looking for volunteers to help.

ACTION: Ask A McIntyre to explain what is required to be a volunteer

Balmedie Library BCT trying to get an action plan in place involving Elaine Brown as it only opens for 5hours per week, Tuesday and Thursday restricted hours and its a case of use it or lose it. Sensory Garden have purchased a ride on mower and shed. Plant sale went well.

Good update from Dr Forbes, the Practice is having difficulties getting staff, the doctors in the practice are having to cope with a heavy work load.

Transport Bus Forum (A McIntyre)

ACTION Completed: Forwarded report on to BCC members

NB Route 64 Blackdog to Union Square is to be withdrawn.

Bus company ongoing issues with training and retention of staff

Buses in Potterton are not going close enough to the raised kerb at one stop making it difficult for a disabled customer to access the bus

13. Nomination for Future External Meetings

13th June 2023 Scotland's infrastructure and capital investment in challenging times: what happens next?

Date: Tuesday 13th June 2023, 9am 1.30/2pm Venue: Online

ACTION Completed: C Wood sent to BCC members

3rd July 2023 (new date) Balmedie Country Park meeting

NB moved from 14th June 2023 to Monday 3rd July 2023 (starting at 6pm, online).

ACTION Completed: C Wood sent J Fletcher and A McIntyre new date and link

ACTION Completed: C Wood forwarded on request for agenda items and meeting link

14. New Correspondence & Communication

16th May 2023 HGVs through Belhelvie AC are investigating, passed on details of Planning Application (APP/2021/2640) to AC to investigate as this may be the cause

Let the resident know (Facebook messenger) AC are looking into it and asked for her email so we can update her from there

28th May 2023 Update AC have replied that the road has no restrictions on HGVs. CSW has reminded them of the additional request to check the planning application sent on 18th May 2023

ACTION: waiting response from AC

ACTION: email update to resident

24th May 2023 Request from P McKeown for supporting text for improvements to car park at Forsyth Hall Annexe

28th May 2023 draft text sent to D Wallace, J Fletcher, & A McIntyre for approval note deadline for P McKeown 30 May

ACTION Completed: 29th May 2023 Sent P McKeown BCC supporting statement for his applications.

25th May 2023 Aberdeenshire Council consultation buildouts on Panmure Gardens, Potterton.

ACTION Completed: let the residents who got in touch about the traffic calming measures know the consultation will run in June

ACTION Completed: FB post once consultation on AC website or 1 June (advertising)

ACTION Completed: H Foxen to approve re-submission of her comments

ACTION Completed: (19th June 2023) C Wood to resubmit comments and additional comment from H Foxen.

30th May 2023 Area Committee meeting 6th June 2023.

Item 6 Member Promoted Issue: Milton of Potterton Measures to Address Local Roads Network Concerns. From the agenda paper this "relates to the volume and speed of HGV traffic on the Milton of Potterton road network post-AWPR construction, and related issues of road safety."

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ACTION Completed: discuss at BCC meeting get feedback from AC Councillors especially in relations to same issues
HGVS numbers in Belhelvie
Feedback AWPR link to this road is causing the increase in HGVS road, this is going to be reviewed with aim of reducing
HGVS use of the road.

5th June 2023 request from AC for reports on Formartine Coastal Communities Fund feedback and FAC budget award.
Formartine Area Committee Award?

ACTION: Forwarded on the D Wallace, J Fletcher, E Phipps for action deadlines 30th June 2023

7th June 2023 Native Woodland on Land at Wester Craigie

Asked Graham for feedback, his response cannot see any objections -

"it's solely about enhancing the area with the introduction of native trees."

Response required by: Friday 23 June

ACTION Completed: discuss at BCC meeting and send BCC response

G Drummond has emailed in support of the application and request BCC to submit letter of support

ACTION Completed: supportive email sent and acknowledgement received

15. Any Other Business

Allan Jeffrey

Formal note on Allan Jeffrey passing and appreciation of all his work in the Community over many years in the meeting.

ACTION Completed: Discussed how the BCC could contribute towards the costs of what the BCT would like to do to
remember Allan, BCC supportive and would like to dedicate one of the new BCC benches to Allan

ACTION Completed: Carolynne checked with Rosie and Allan's daughter Lyn about plaque/dedication on bench in the village

UPDATE: Rosie has spoken to Allan's daughter who would like the plaque on the bench near Mario's where Allan helped keep
the paths clear.

UPDATE: We have had a quote for the plaque from Ellon business

ACTION: Discuss bench, contributions, plaque at next meeting

Bedding plants from AC were successfully collected by G Drummonds Team and distributed to the villages at the Leisure
Centre at the start of June. Thanks to the Leisure Centre for storing the plants, G Drummond's Team for collecting, G
Drummond, H Foxen and our local gardening groups for all their work on this and planting all the plants once collected.

ACTION: Question for AC will there be plants next year? Groups need time to plan if no plants will be available.

Inspiring Aberdeenshire Awards Mario has been confirmed as a finalist in the Local Hero Courage award category of the
Inspiring Aberdeenshire Awards winner to be announced 27th September 2023.

Village Enhancement, email reply to AC for the money for 2023-24 (J Fletcher).

Resident from Belhelvie spoke with G Drummond on the state of the planters in Belhelvie and was looking for some funding for
new ones, G Drummond suggested he contact the BCC directly to see if there was anything we could help with.

H Foxen spoke about the bridge over the burn at Potterton, a previous AC person after viewing it stated the bridge was fine, but
part of the structure is rotten and one of the top bars has gone. Cllr Hassan is going to come and look at the bridge on 20th
June. G Drummond's will meet Cllr Hassan and discuss perhaps a patch up in the meantime.

H Foxen asked if the Councillors knew why the road between the Milton of Potterton junction and the pub was sign posted to be
closed, but wasn't closed. Cllr Hassan said it was supposed to be closed for 5 days to allow safe access manhole for BT
openreach, it may have been delayed but he has received no notification to say why.

14th June Consultation Transport Strategy Reviews

Respond by 23 June extended to end of July

ACTION: D Wallace to pass this on to J Fletcher to respond on behalf of the BCC

Meeting closed 21.53

NB These June 2023 minutes were approved at the 17th July 2023 BCC Meeting.

Next BCC Meeting Monday 21st August 2023 at 7:00pm Online Teams

Visitors welcome.

Belhelvie Community Council

Email: belhelviecommunitycouncil@hotmail.com for the phone-in number or Teams Link

Web: www.belhelviecc.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BelhelvieCommunityCouncil

Meetings: belhelviecc.org.uk/meetings.html