

BELHELVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



APPROVED-MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: 17th June 2024 F2F and 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: H. Foxen, J. Fletcher, D McKendrick, D. Wallace, G. Drummond
Members Online: C Wood
Apologies: A McIntyre, E Phipps, G Middleton

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

Visitors: J Bruce (Potterton), W McKenzie (re Belhelvie graveyard)

1. Opening Address (Retiring Chairman)

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting, asked that all matters be addressed through the chair, only one participant (C Wood) was online.

No requests were made to record the meeting.

Thanks was given to Cllr Andrew Hassan from Mid Formartine for agreeing to chair the proceedings and perform the duties of returning officer

Cllr A Hassan started with thanks for the invitation as returning Officer for the BCC AGM. He thanked all BCC Office Bearers and Community Councillors for their efforts during 2023-24, they have had a lot of meetings and lots of discussions, it was good that we posted all Minutes of Meetings on our village notice boards, as some villages do not have notice boards

2. Introduction of All Attendees

Cllr A Hassan noted that all attendees introduced themselves and were present as above.

3. Matters Arising from Previous AGM Minutes (2022-23)

No matters arising from previous MOM

The Draft AGM MOM for 19th June 2023 were reviewed at the 17th June 2024 CC Meeting then proposed for approval by D McKendrick and seconded by D Wallace

4. Retiring Chairman's Report

(Remarks cover the period since our previous AGM which was held on June 19th 2023)

Since our last AGM we have continued to conduct our monthly meetings F2F and also online when the MS Teams portal is available. We also continued to operate in alignment to our Constitution which was modelled around the Scottish Government's Scheme of Establishment. Membership during the past year was stable with our 9 Members remaining on-board, but we are presently looking to welcome Steven Kerr to our ranks following his attendance at one of our meetings to voice his concerns on the anti-social behaviour problems we have recently experienced. Sadly our on-going attempts to attract more members from our communities have fallen on deaf ears with no other self-nominations received. We were also joined by our locally elected Formartine Ward councillors namely, Cllrs Nicol, Hassan, Johnston and Ritchie and I would like to acknowledge their valued participation in our meetings along with their guidance and counsel. I would also like to thank our Office Bearers Alex McIntyre (Vice Chair), John Fletcher (Secretary & Minute taker), Ewan Phipps (Treasurer) Graham Middleton (Planning Reporter) and Carlyne Wood (Communications Co-ordinator) and our Council Members, Hilary Foxen, David McKendrick and Gavin Drummond for all their your hard work, dedication and the willingness to give up their time to enhance and improve the living conditions in our community. We continued our interaction and support to all the other local Resident groups and Committees in our area. I would like to thank all the Council members who have also given up their time to attend these

BELHELVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



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 Aberdeenshire and our representation at the Balmedie Country Park meetings. We continued to review all the proposed housing developments through the review of their associated Planning Applications and where agreed, provided comment to the AC Planning Authority. Special mention to our Planning Reporter Graham Middleton for his excellent work in co-ordinating this very sensitive activity. We have continued to co-ordinate the Village Tidy scheme which has demonstrated its success with the improved appearance of all our living spaces. Thanks to our Secretary John Fletcher for his work on that one along with the timely generation of all our meeting minutes. We continue to work hard on making our communities safer, especially for our children, through our continued efforts promote speed dampening initiatives in and around all our villages. Thanks to Gavin Drummond, Dave McKendrick and Cllr. Hassan for their persistence on these issues which continues to be one of our major challenges. Getting project funding has always been a tough task but given the prevailing cost of living crisis our Treasurer Ewan Phipps has once again recorded a number of credible successes in this area over the past year. His efforts related to the Balmedie Leisure Centre Projects have already been acknowledged by the BLC and the success with funding applications have facilitated the purchase of 10 rest seats and 6 replacement notice boards over the past couple of years. We continued to provide BCC input to the Belhelvie Banter magazine. Thanks to our Communications Co-ordinator Carlyne Wood for her sterling work with that and for all her communicational efforts around maintaining contact with all our statutory interfaces and community groups. I would also like to make special mention to Gavin Drummond, who along with his team installed all the benches and the replacement notice boards. They also remediated the bridge over the Potterton Burn which was in poor condition before he fixed it up. Sadly there continues to be little appreciation of our efforts from within our communities with plenty of people having lots to say and complain about but little willingness to do anything about it themselves. Many of them believe we work for them and should do exactly what they want personally. They also believe we receive payment for what we do. These views, whilst not universal, continue to be the biggest frustration for us all in serving on the Community Council. Is it any wonder we find it difficult to attract new members. I continue to be concerned with the amount of tangible support we receive from the Aberdeenshire Council who also appear to want to load up our community council with initiatives and work that they, quite frankly, are paid to deliver themselves. I would like to take this opportunity to raise our total dis-satisfaction with the AC Parks & Recreation Dept. for their continued practice of non-engagement with us. The problems encountered with the remedial work at the Scott Grove, Belhelvie being a demonstration of this. I also note the recent lodging of yet another complaint against the BCC by another disgruntled Potterton resident (following the 3 earlier un-founded complaints received 2 years ago from Potterton residents over our handling of the proposed housing development there) and we will be looking closely at how AC manage this complaint as we go forward into the new CC election process. In closing I just want to thank each and every one of you who have contributed to the successes I have mentioned and for giving up your free time to attend meetings and for chasing things down in an effort to make our communities a better place to live within.

5. Retiring Treasurers Report (E Phipps)

E Phipps submitted signed 23/24 accounts to AC w/c June. The accounts were proposed by J Fletcher and seconded by D Wallace

6. Address by Returning Officer: Cllr A Hassan (Aberdeenshire Councillor)

Cllr A Hassan stated there were no new members applying for election to the BCC. Moving on we have now to elect the Office Bearers of the Belhelvie Community Council for the coming year.

Chairman David Wallace, proposed by D McKendrick and seconded by H Foxen
Nomination accepted.

Vice-Chairman A McIntyre proposed by G Drummond and seconded by D McKendrick

BELHELVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Nomination accepted.

Treasurer E Phipps proposed by J Fletcher and seconded by G Drummond

Nomination accepted.

Secretary and Minute Taker J Fletcher proposed by D Wallace and seconded by D McKendrick

Nomination accepted.

Planning Reporter G Middleton proposed by D Wallace and seconded by J Fletcher

Nomination accepted.

Communications Coordinator C Woods proposed by D McKendrick and seconded by G Drummond

Nomination accepted.

The Returning Officer thanked all members present and wished the committee well.

Cllr Hassan declared the 2023-24 Annual General Meeting closed 19:24

NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 16th June 2025

VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED

e-mail address: belhelviecommunitycouncil@hotmail.com