

BELHELVE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



APPROVED MINUTES of MEETING 19th August 2024 F2F and Online

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

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

Formartine Area Councillors: Cllr Johnston
Online: Cllr J Nicol, Cllr Hassan
Apologies: Cllr Ritchie

Visitors Online: D Harris (Plodhill discussion) G Douglas (PlodHill discussion)

1. Apologies & Introductions of any Visitors/Attendees

All attendees were welcomed and asked everyone that all matters be addressed through the chair for the F2F meeting. and through C Wood for the Teams Meeting online. Introduction of all attendees

2. Chairmans Opening Remarks

CC Elections

Community Council election process opens for nominations today 19th August 2024. All BCC members have been sent the forms, these may be sent electronically or by post. All details have been posted on FB and Website and are on the local notice boards.

Scott Grove Issue

Asked if Cllr Hassan had made any progress on the issue, Cllr Hassan sent BCC and update email a few days ago. AC Landscape Services said that the area in question was cut on 24th July 2024, but it was not the council who cut the grass, no one knows who has cut the grass. Cllr Hassan said the area is a designated wild flower area and the AC Landscape team will allow it to grow again. We will have to see if the vigilante gardeners cut this again in the future.

3. Approval of 2024 AGM Minutes (J Fletcher)

AGM MOM approved, proposed by J Fletcher, seconded by D Wallace

ACTION: J Fletcher to send Copies of AGM MOM to be sent to A McIntyre plus copy of BCC Constitution and BCC certification.

4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None

5. Police Matters & Report Review

Police Scotland no officers present as they have not got enough resources available

Police report, July report circulated, again no significant incidents to report, one of Indecent Exposure on Balmedie Beach, enquiries are ongoing.

Antisocial behaviour, There were assaults reported in the Formartine Area that took place at residential and public places, these incidents are either detected or have lines of enquiry that are currently being progressed. Police and partners continue to look to the Community for any suggestions in relation to diversionary activities which could be used for those on the periphery of criminality or to provide safe areas/activities for young persons to meet friends and hangout. Our Early Intervention Officer, Amanda Richardson, is looking to engage the local community, businesses and partners to organise activities across Formartine for young people to participate in. If you can offer time, funding or a safe space, or have any other ideas please contact Amanda via northeastearlyintervention@scotland.police.uk.

Community Crime Record open to allow anyone to identify crimes within the area so they may be recorded by BCC then passed to Police and AC Councillor feedback. Antisocial behaviour seems to have calmed in last few weeks.

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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

6. Resilience Planning Update (A McIntyre)

Belhelvie Parish Resilience Group Meeting (A McIntyre)

Monday 29th July 2024 at the Balmedie Leisure Centre.

3 attended the meeting (M Club, B Murray A McIntyre), funds received have enabled the group to buy 2 mobile phones with 2 different providers, these numbers will go onto notice boards around the villages and also FB. The solar powered lights have doubled in price from Amazon so 13 were purchased from TEMU, these have all been distributed, 6 at the BLC, 4 to Potterton, 2 to the Sand Bothy and 1 to the small Balmedie Kirk. Bill Murray received a quote for an emergency generator and an application for £15,000 has been put into SSEN for funding. A reply from the funding group has asked for a second quote, B Murray has sourced a second quote, this along with BCC details and a technical specification to SSEN will be sent by A McIntyre. A McIntyre will also retry funding from the Resilience Fund from the AC which will target the work for the Community Centre at Potterton.

7. Planning Report (G Middleton)

Potterton Development APP/2024/0471 This is still awaiting decision with no updates.

Old Shop Balmedie demolition and new build house APP/2024/1028 as above still awaiting decision however our supporting comment has been posted.

There are no new Planning Applications validated this month.

The following applications have been decided:

Agricultural building Mains of Whitecairns approval not required. Another "Agricultural " building, it appears anything labelled Agricultural can just go ahead!

Extension to Middlemuir Croft Whitecairns Approved

2 new build houses eat Braehead of Muirton Potterton Approved.

In addition to above we have received a letter from Cornerstone regarding a proposed upgrade to existing facilities at Balmedie Farm Belhelvie which involves an increase to the mast height and installation of two small dishes approx 600mm diameter.

I have reviewed this and cannot see an issue with it and would propose we revert saying we do not have a problem with it.

8. Treasures Report and Funding Update (E Phipps)

E Phipps not present, no transfers to report

Enhancement Towns and Villages Fund money to be distributed to the villages

ACTION: J Fletcher to acquire cheques from E Phipps and distribute, and inquire if there are any funding updates

9. Visitor Items

Belhelvie Church and Graveyard

ACTION: BCC and AC Councillors present do not think this has been dealt with correctly, Cllr Hassan and Nicol will take this up at their next meeting.

Plodhill (Potterton) Speed Restrictions (AC Councillors)

Gary Douglas attended the BCC Meeting and Derek Harris attended online. Notes were sent out to the AC Roads Department asking for a presence at the BCC meeting, no one from AC Roads attended the meeting.

The background to this discussion arose after this area of Potterton had been plagued with cars going off the road, 22 incidents in a 2 year period. There was then a concerted effort to bring this to the attention of Police and AC Roads Dept and eventually the speed limit was changed from 60mph to



40mph for an 18 month period and since this has been in force there have been no incidents at this area of the road. AC Roads have now stated that they are now going to make minor adjustments to the road and when completed will revert to a 60mph speed limit, this has enraged many people in the area.

G Douglas whose daughter was lucky not to have been killed in one of the incidents and who was one of the main stay along with G Drummond (BCC) in getting the speed limit reduced was shocked as were all members of the BCC including our Ward Councillors to hear this news.

Jonathon Sharp (Principal Roads Management Engineer) replied by email to G Douglas and gave his full written explanation of their decision. G Douglas replied in detail to this email (19th August 2024) and he carefully disputed most of the points. The email was discussed in length during the BCC meeting, the BCC unanimously agreed with his comments. He awaits a response from AC Roads. D Harris a resident in close proximity to the Potterton area explained he had been tabulating these incidents for years, stated that the figures of 22 incidents in 2 years are not the worse statistics, he has been in the area for 34 years and gradually over that period of time. Up to approximately 5 years ago there was an accident of one per week and there was one week where there was 5 accidents with 2 cars on the same day, he approached a Councillor and he helped to get the road retextured, this virtually reduced the accidents to nil for 2 years and then it gradually increased, again when the speed restriction was in place it decreased again so there is a serious problem with the road which gets worse with time to absurd levels and also a problem with speed. This stretch of road is a proven danger and AC Roads have a duty of care to do something about it.

Cllr Hassan said he was very disappointed that AC Roads did not have a representative present so that a discussion could have taken place, rather than him having to relay what has been discussed. he quoted a similar situation in another village. He said that this could be discussed at the next Forum Meeting if AC roads have a representative present.

ACTION: Cllr Hassan to relay the discussion to AC Roads

ACTION: C Wood, to be reported through feedback to the Police to see what their stance on the matter is.

A vote was taken by the BCC members to see if they agreed the speed limit should remain at the present limit of 40mph, unanimous for remaining at 40mph.

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

The minutes from the previous meeting were viewed and slightly altered, they were then proposed for approval by D Wallace and seconded by C Wood.

11. Matters arising from Previous Meeting (J Fletcher)

ACTION: C Wood to continue to chase AC for response and keep W McKenzie informed.

BCC received photographs and also a number of emails from W McKenzie, D Wallace met W McKenzie on the 16th August 2024 to show the gentleman that we are engaged with him and are trying to do our best. W McKenzie said he has been made a number of promises by O Deeming (AC Landscape Services) which have not been fulfilled, so he is still not satisfied with the general condition of the graveyard which is poor. D Wallace reported the graveyard is very uneven and with the extensive rain we have had in the past weeks, some ground shrinkage was noted in the new graves.

D Wallace promised to help as much as the BCC are able to, it will be raised to the Ward Councillors.

ACTION: Cllr Hassan was asked to raise the matter at their next Ward meeting in 10th September 2024 which he has agreed to and also ask for O Deeming in attendance at the said meeting.

ACTION Completed: In response to a letter sent to the BLC (B Murray), D Wallace contacted Taylors Facility at Easter Hatton with a suggestion that SEPA has requested that Taylors Facility is to slow down or end the landfill site. No one at Taylors could answer this and knew nothing about it. A phone call to D Wallace from the boss of Taylors saying he was not aware of this situation either, a bit of confusion here.

ACTION: Ask B Murray to resend the letter to BCC

NB Cllr Johnston stated that all municipal waste is now incinerated

Potterton Road Accident Blackspot

40mph signage now in place, this will be in operation for 18 months, No accidents in the last month.

ACTION Ongoing: G Drummond to continue to monitor.

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ACTION Ongoing: Cllr Ritchie to raise the issue of the broken glass at the glass bottle bank at the side of the local shop in Balmedie. Cllr Ritchie not present.

ACTION: J Fletcher to email Cllr Ritchie if he has any details on above

ACTION: C Wood to invite Roads Dept representative to the next BCC Meeting

ACTION: Resident and Young resident of the year process to be deferred until BCC September meeting

12. General Projects Update

ACTION Ongoing: for all members to put some thought on this for discussion at next meeting.

Planters for Blackdog

ACTION: G Middleton and T Sanders to advise type and where to be situated.

Planters for Potterton

ACTION: H Foxen to send G Drummond the type of planters required and where to be situated.

ACTION Completed: A McIntyre has sent the updated bus timetables to all members.

S Kerr said that some of the school buses that pick-up Ellon children have been arriving late and drivers not knowing the correct routes. Phoning in complaints does not seem to help. A McIntyre suggested that all complaints of late timing, wrong routing or other complaints should be logged so that when the Next Bus Forum Meeting is in progress this information may be relayed.

Potterton Action Plans and progress (H Foxen)

Still waiting to speak to the supervisor of the Community Centre, also need to speak with O Deeming on the matter of a tree/shrub that H Foxen wants to cut down as it was damaged by a resident.

Unfortunately no progress with the Community Centre at present. There seems to be a conflict over communication issues between Keep Potterton Green Group and the Action Plan. Jackie Niven is trying to resolve this issue.

Belhelvie notice board has not been installed as yet, this is a priority.

ACTION: Check with G Drummond.

Balmedie Village Green Project

BCC has had several discussions to look at the prospect of putting a village Green across from the COOP shop at the area where the Arts and Tarts was previously. This was raised with the ward Councillors asking what BCC needs to do going forward as BCC is willing to make it a project and get funding for this. BCC were waiting for AC to approve this as a project. BCT (Belhelvie Community Trust) has cut a path through this area and also planted trees. Cllr Johnston advised that the BCT had been in discussion from years ago about the availability of this area and if they could plant trees, he said that BCT had permission through AC Landscape Services. The land is owned by the AC and is on the for-sale list and has been since the NHS said it was no longer interested in the site. Cllr Johnston advised that BCC should work alongside BCT and Better Balmedie to help take the project forward.

ACTION: BCC to ask the head of the BCT if they could add this item to their agenda for their October Meeting. If the BCT can accommodate this, some BCC Members will attend BCT meeting and hopefully have a preliminary discussion and see if there is any interest in trying to get this project started together.

Defibrillators

A McIntyre attended a first aid course and was in discussion with a guy from Cruden Bay and they have significantly more defibrillators than the 7 we have in the Belhelvie Villages, this may be a potential project for BCC to pursue.

13. External Meetings Report Back

None

14. Attending Nomination for Future External Meetings/Training

Community Council Forum 21st August 2024

Teams meeting and F2F at Ellon Community Campus 18:30-20:00

A McIntyre to attend

ACTION Completed: C Wood sent details to all BCC members

BCT (meetings now quarterly 2024)

Monday 28th October 2024 location TBC

Attending: D Wallace, A McIntyre, J Fletcher



ACTION: C Wood to send details when available
Balmedie Country Park Meeting 17th September 2024
A McIntyre, D Wallace to attend

ACTION: C Wood to send details to all BCC members

Just Transition Participatory Budget Fund

"The Just Transition PB Fund aims to empower the residents of Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen and Moray by giving you a crucial role in shaping our just transition to a net zero future in the North East of Scotland. During the first two years of the fund, £2.5million was distributed to 99 eco-friendly projects across the region which are currently making a positive difference within our local communities."

ACTION Completed: C Wood sent details to all BCC members

Community Resilience Conference

Action Completed: A McIntyre sent details to all BCC members and other interested bodies

First Aid Courses Ellon 24th August. 09:30-16:30

Monthly Formartine Partnership Meeting

Haddo House H Foxen to attend

15. New Correspondence & Communication

1st August 2024 SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration are currently open for applications.

16. AOB

H Foxen reported that the Formartine Rural Partnership are offering small grants of £500 which will shortly be coming to an end. Further grants from September for projects up to £5000, the grants are for projects within communities which will benefit the community. Applications forms are on line. The Country Park Group have successfully received funding of £5000 to progress a feasibility study to work at potential ways of the Park making income, the study should be completed by March 2025.

Meeting closed 20:50

NB These August 2024 minutes were approved at the 23rd September 2024 BCC Meeting.

Next BCC Meeting Monday 21st October 2024 at 6:30pm F2F at Balmedie Leisure Centre and Online Teams (resources permitting)

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