

BELHELVE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



APPROVED MINUTES of MEETING 21st October 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, G Middleton, D McKendrick, A McIntyre
Members Online: C Wood, E Phipps, H Foxen
Apologies: G Drummond

Formartine Area Councillors: None present
Online: Cllr Hassan
Apologies: Cllr Johnston, Cllr J Nicol, Cllr Ritchie

Visitors: None

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

None

3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None

4. Police Matters & Report Review

Police Scotland no officers present.

Police report, Police still reviewing format and frequency of the report.

No report for September or October during review

Ongoing ACTION: C Wood to send invite for next meeting to Police to discuss new community policing policy, ask if this could be made available 2 weeks ahead of the meeting.

Plodhill (Speed limit change) From Cllr Hassan note, AC Ward meeting on 12th November 2024

ACTION Completed: C Wood requested feedback and their view on the speed limit, 18th October 2024

ACTION Completed: C Wood asked for Police update 7th November 2024

ACTION: C Wood to continue to ask the Police their view the situation, should the speed limit revert to 60mph

ACTION: C Wood to continue to ask Roads Department to join the NCC meetings, check with Cllr Hassan after 12th November 2024

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.

Reports from FB about antisocial behaviour in Balmedie.

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. Resilience Planning Update (A McIntyre)

Community Resilience Conference 2024

Date/time: Thursday 3rd October 9.30-3.30. Location: Holiday Inn, Westhill. Description: Conference - speakers and group exercises. Organiser: Aberdeenshire Council. A McIntyre attended as part of Belhelvie Resilience Group.

Talks on first aid, What if scenario, main one was What if there was a national power cut ? this is viewed as one of the highest risks to security in the country.

- 1) If there was mal function in the electrical system which could take the whole system down, or
- 2) An act of terrorism which could take the system down.

They spoke of how Community Councils would cope with no power.

A Speaker from Aberdeen Council explained how it is important that Community Councils are involved in Resilience because the Insurance policies we have with Zurich will cover the resilience effort.

ACTION: E Phipps to get clarification with Zurich that we have resilience cover in place.



6. Planning Report (G Middleton)

Validated: Extension to the back of Balmedie Leisure Centre, operations internally, to form a Café, gym, storage area and extended play area has been submitted.

Decided and Approved: Change of house types at Blackdog, Persimmons with their house style are taking over from Kirkwood.

A New house and garage at boghead (Orrock)

Merging of schools Foveran and Tipperty, the consultation on this runs from the 14th October to the 13th December 2024, there is a public meeting on the 5th December 2024 in Foveran Village Hall

7. Treasures Report and Funding Update (E Phipps)

E Phipps, transactions, website has been renewed for another year

Balmedie Path Project: E Phipps has a meeting on the 22nd October with M Hutcheon from AC Roads Department looking for the possibility of AC for availability, resource and timeline and completing doing the bills of quantity to do the two paths that were highlighted for upgrading. D Sutherland and E Macleod (Paths for all fund) will also attend the meeting. After speaking with M Hutcheon he said the timeline is tight as he has a backlog of projects until the end of February 2025. The fund itself has a March 2025 deadline so this will be tight. In the meantime there has been a FB survey with a general 6 questions asking people for a local view about the state of the paths and what they would like to see done to them, this will be used as back up for any future funding applications

H Foxen mentioned that she sits on the board of the Formartine Rural Partnership and they have available funding for various projects. E Phipps to send the details of the project after the AC meeting to H Foxen.

ACTION: H Foxen to ask at the next sitting of the FRP if we could apply.

E Phipps has also applied to the Rural Community Lead Local Development Fund for assistance with landscape designing once the decision is made on the upgrade.

E Phipps reported there has been a knock back for funds from W Beatie for the Landfill Tax because a change in management policy by the operator. A decision to move the domestic waste to the incinerator will result in less landfill thus less revenue. This will ultimately impact W Murray at the Balmedie Leisure Centre as he is looking to extend the BLC

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

The Draft Inaugural Meeting minutes were sent to all BCC members to view, no comments received so the MOMs were updated to approved by D Wallace and seconded by H Foxen.

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

9. Matters arising from Previous Meeting (J Fletcher)

Plodhill

ACTION Ongoing: Gary Douglas chasing a response from the roads team to his email of 19th August 2024, still awaiting response.

ACTION Completed: The Ward Councillors to speak to the AC Roads Team for a response or attend one of our meetings, Cllr Hassan to report back after 12th November Ward Meeting.

ACTION Ongoing: C Wood to keep asking the AC Roads Team to the BCC meetings

Belhelvie Church and Graveyard

ACTION Ongoing: 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 Ward Meeting.

ACTION Completed: Resident and Young resident of the year process to be deferred until BCC October meeting, discussed and there was an idea to contact schools for young persons award. Discussed and decision to be taken for the Resident of the year.

ACTION Ongoing: H Foxen to mail G Drummond on the sizes and types of planters required for Potterton

ACTION Ongoing: G Middleton to check with T Sanders (Blackdog) with sizes and types of planters required and detail to G Drummond. (G Middleton awaiting response from T Sanders)

Balmedie Village Green Project, discussed by BCC members

ACTION Completed: D Wallace has tried to arrange a meeting with BCT to discuss all the views of what each group have in mind for the area opposite to the Coop.

Potterton Wooden Shed

ACTION: Cllr Hassan will make enquiries, before any further actions by the BCC.

Belhelvie Bowling Club

ACTION: G Middleton to follow up and discuss with the bowling committee (ref item 10)

ACTION: A McIntyre to head this AC Plants for villages, send emails to all parties from Belhelvie, Blackdog, Potterton, Whitecairns, and Balmedie and explain the plan for distribution.

ACTION: Website, C Wood to add new phone to footer

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ACTION: C Wood to update the bench locations and add upcoming benches and noticeboards (to check with G Drummond for the correct information).

10. General Projects Update

Potterton Community Hall (H Foxen)

Awaiting results of village survey.

Potterton Wooden Shed

H Foxen suggested reparation of the Potterton wooden shed, a previous survey on the shed showed that there was rotting at the bottom due to the grassy area build up. After discussion the view of the BCC is this would be a costly exercise and perhaps the council were liable for the shed. H Foxen reported that the shed is used as a major storage facility by the scouts and brownies.

ACTION: Cllr Hassan will make enquiries, before any further actions by the BCC.

ACTION: Try and get an estimate for the repairs.

Noticeboard Replacement

Belhelvie and Balmedie noticeboards to be installed as a priority.

ACTION: Check with G Drummond and should be installed shortly

Additional Benches

As above

ACTION: Check with G Drummond and should be installed shortly.

Balmedie Village Green Project, discussed by BCC members

ACTION Completed: D Wallace tried to arrange a meeting with BCT. to discuss all the views of what each group have in mind for the area opposite to the Coop. all meeting dates were cancelled due to BCT Group being unavailable.

New Project Development Suggestions

Belhelvie Bowling Club

G Middleton spoke with the Newburgh Golf Club green manager (M Smith) and sent a set of pics for him to view. M Smith put G Middleton in touch with R Patterson a retired head greenkeeper at Royal Aberdeen GC who has a small business looking after bowling greens. G Middleton met R Patterson at Belhelvie Bowling Green and he took some core samples from the green and found the earth underneath was stinking and wet and approximately 2 inches of thatch (dead grass), he reported that it is not beyond saving but there would be quite a lot of work to bring the green to a good state, he estimated £2,500 would possibly fix this with help from the members. G Middleton then spoke with the guy who originally asked him to look into the matter and the Bowling Club cannot fund this.

ACTION: G Middleton to follow up with the Bowling Committee

There was a discussion on the costs for the bowling green and it was asked of Cllr Hassan if there could be any funding available from AC for this type leisure project. Cllr Hassan said as a constituted body we could apply to the area committee fund, but he thought it would be thin on money as we are well on in the year. Chairman said this is the kind of project we should follow up on as the Bowling green is open to all the area villages.

ACTION: E Phipps to check BCC accounts and report if the BCC can fund this, he will also talk with D Sutherland AC when he meets her for the Paths meeting (ref item 7 to see if AC could provide any funding. BCC can also try funding from the Formartine Partnership when their next round of funds open.

ACTION: BCC to commit to this as a project and to paying £800 deposit to get the work started, only after G Middleton gets the go ahead from the Belhelvie Bowling Committee.

Old Tennis Courts Potterton/ Belhelvie (behind the changing rooms at the football pitch, and Bowling green)

This was mentioned in a recent survey for trying to make Potterton better. The court is in a bad state and no one looks after it, AC are the land owners. This is to be put on the back burner for now along with the Belhelvie tennis court.



11. External Meetings Report Back

Formartine Partnership Meeting (H Foxen)

Not many attended the meeting, Partnership could be soon offering grants from £500 up to £5000

Country Park Meeting (A McIntyre)

The following are the key points raised at the meeting on 17th September

Paths

It was confirmed that funds had been identified to carry out the upgrade of path 2A (Between 1st path to Tormentil Crescent and the Country Park. This is going to include creating a path separate from the road to the sewage works.

Path 1 (North Beach Road) will be upgraded with future funds.

A summary of the waste management services at the Country Park was outlined. The big silver bin is emptied on a weekly basis and falls under Oliver Deeming's budget. Litter bins are emptied on a Tuesday and a Friday.

The BCT have obtained 300 trees from the Woodland Trust and 300 from Apache Oil. Locations for these have been agreed with Oliver Deeming. The Leisure Centre was also successful in obtaining plants from the Woodland Trust which will be planted around the football pitches.

Flooding issues around Ice House will be monitored over the winter to see if there has been an improvement on the issue.

The possibility of requesting a police profile in the Country Park over the summer months to deter unauthorised fires is to be considered. This has proven very successful in Deeside.

Sand Bothy lease has been signed until 2041

Concerns raised over Anti-social behaviour in Magic Woods. Fire Brigade have been called out twice over the summer to deal with fires in the woods.

Next Meeting 19th November

Community Councillor training sessions

H Foxen attended the Planning Session, she found this very exhaustive and not much time was given to Planning, more time was taken up with questions from online persons.

Belhelvie Community Trust meeting 28th October 2024 CANCELLED

12. Attending Nomination for Future External Meetings/Training

Community Councillor training sessions

Date/time: 30th October & 6th November 2024

Location: online

Description: Community Councillor training new members and refresher

Organiser: Aberdeenshire Council

ACTION Completed: C Wood circulated to all BCC members and reminded at meeting

Belhelvie Community Trust meeting

Date/time: Monday

Location: TBC

Description: Regular BCT meeting

Organiser: Rosie Nicol / BCT

Community Resilience Group Meeting

Date/time: Thursday 31st October 2024 time TBC

Location: TBC

Organiser: information from BCC Alex McIntyre

Online litter workshop

Date/time: Thursday 7th November 2024 at 2pm

Location: online (Zoom)

Description: workshop for people in Aberdeenshire, book a free space using the Eventbrite link in the email below.

Organiser: Keep Scotland Beautiful

ACTION: C Wood to circulate to BCT (R Nicol) and BRA, post on FB

Monthly Formartine Partnership Meeting, 28th November

Haddo House H Foxen to attend

13. New Correspondence & Communication

Belhelvie Cemetery

ACTION Completed: William McKenzie kept informed, BCC continuing to ask Councillors about situation with the graveyards at our meetings.

ACTION Completed: C Wood posted Mr McKenzie's event on FB and website.

ACTION: BCC to continue to check with Councillors about the situation with graveyard and the issues the resident has reported.

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Community awards

Young person award: A McIntyre, J Fletcher and H Foxen to contact various groups to find an eligible candidate for the award.

Community award adult: BCC members to decide the candidate for this award.

30th September 2024 play park consultation in Potterton, deadline 27th October 2024

ACTION Completed: C Wood publicised through FB and website and informed Potterton Rep H Foxen.

3rd October 2024 Mini-orchards Initiative, Deadline 31 October (for expressions of interest)

ACTION Completed: C Wood circulated to BCC members and Gardening contacts, asked AC to include the BCC on future FB post from Green Spaces

ACTION Completed: Reminder at BCC meeting, possible action for the village green project.

14th October 2024 Notice of Proposal of Merger of Foveran School and Tipperty School

AC online, email and paper consultation will run from 14 October 2024 to 13 December 2024

Public meeting to discuss the proposal will be held on 5 December 2024, at 6.30pm within Foveran Village Hall.

ACTION Completed: D Wallace has circulated to all BCC members ahead of meeting, discussion to be held at meeting. Publicising not required as it will only affect new Menie houses/sites north of the villages.

16th October Bill Murray concerns about funding Landfill Tax fund

ACTION Completed: D Wallace/E Phipps to give update at meeting (ref item 7)

14. AOB

None

Meeting closed 20:35

NB These October 2024 minutes were approved at the 18th November 2024 BCC Meeting.

Next BCC Meeting Monday 16th December 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