

# **BELHELVE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**



## **APPROVED MINUTES of MEETING 18<sup>th</sup> November 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, D McKendrick, G Drummond

**Members Online:** C Wood, H Foxen

**Apologies** A McIntyre, G Middleton, E Phipps

**Formartine Area Councillors:** None present

**Online:** Cllr Hassan, Cllr J Nicol, Cllr Ritchie

**Apologies:** Cllr Johnston

**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**

Let us try and stick to the Agenda so we can move smoothly through the meeting.

No one present would like to record the meeting.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest on any Agenda items, none

#### **Closure of the Balmedie Library**

This was reported by the Press on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024, Chairman asked the Ward Councillors if this was a surprise to them or were they aware of this.

Cllr Hassan said that there is a AC meeting about this tomorrow 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024, he heard about the situation as everyone else did, through the Press. He understands that AC has many buildings that they may make better use of and the cost of running buildings in the present environment, however we have facilities that the communities still use but have had reduced hours over a matter of time. In the case of Balmedie Library we know that the BCT (Balmedie Community Trust) before the decision gets made were looking to have a discussion with the officers about potentially better use and taking on the asset in a similar situation as the Sand Bothy which will be a long process. This discussion is in its early stages and the 4 Ward councillors would support this but would like have more talks before something major comes along and we read it in the press. Cllr Hassan said he would ask serious questions of Officers of AC at the 19<sup>th</sup> November meeting not the least why were the public were informed before the Councillors.

Cllr Nicol said in September 2023 there was a decision made by the Communities Committee, which is where the libraries sit, there were 9 libraries on a list for a discussion, some of those like New Pitligo were trying to change their library into a Community Hub. Balmedie was not on the list and she has not seen them on any list, and the first she heard about this was when she saw the news. Cllr Nicol said there were administration councillors saying they were informed at 5pm on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and the governess on this has all been wrong and her biggest grievance is that they have missed out the community entirely. In terms of the BCT when they were looking for warm hubs and spaces she remembers approaching officers and asking if community organisations could open the library on a closed day and use it as a warm hub, but were told they could not use it as anything other than a library. The 4 Ward Councillors had agreed there were lots of opportunities for the library and the community was desperate to keep it open, was it possible to use volunteers to keep it open, the answer was always no.

The BCT sent an email to BCC saying they have gone ahead and lodged an expression of interest with regards to potential community asset transfer of the library. Cllr Nicol explained this may not come to anything but it stops AC selling the asset at this time. Chairman asked the BCC members if they think we should get involved in trying to keep the asset within the village. After a general discussion it was decided we should be involved and that a meeting with all relevant groups within the village to see what plans or ideas, if any, could be suggested.

**ACTION:** All 3 Councillors present said they would try and get answers to questions posed to them by BCC members when they attend the meeting tomorrow.

**ACTION:** C Wood to get a full list of all potential users and contact details.

**ACTION:** J Fletcher to email all to see if any of the groups would be interested in using the library

#### **Community awards**

**Young Person Award:** Duncan Mackie Sand Bothy

**ACTION:** D Wallace to arrange a time and place to present the award to Duncan

**Adult Person Award:** BCC members discussion resulted in Alan Neave to receive the award for his services to the Blackdog Community.

**ACTION:** G Middleton to arrange that Alan Neave tries to come to the BCC December meeting

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### **3. Police Matters & Report Review**

Police Scotland no officers present.

**Police report**, Police report sent to all BCC members on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

BCC members thought it not perfect but was a better report than previous. Cllr Hassan other CCs probably have similar feelings on the Police report and it should be raised at the forth coming CC Forum Meeting for discussion.

**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 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood requested feedback and their view on the speed limit, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024

BBC received email from Police 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 stating it was not a Police matter but we are raising good points that have seen a massive reduction in accidents.

**ACTION:** C Wood to forward Police email to the ward councillors and continue to ask Roads Department to join the BCC meetings

Reports from FB about antisocial behaviour on Eigie Road, Balmedie.

Cllr Ritchie said he had received several phone calls on cars being egged in Balmedie

There was an email from a young gay man in Balmedie who is being harassed by 2 young persons on electric scooters, shouting homophobic abuse at him, this is causing him a lot of stress. This has been reported to the Police and the school, hopefully the Police can deal with this matter. A couple of reports of 2 persons on electric scooters banging on doors at Chapelwell Wynd and again a couple of persons on electric scooters trying to hassle people going to the Balmedie library.

**ACTION:** C Wood to escalate this matter on behalf of the BCC to the local community Policing Team and Officer about the harassment and illegal use of E Scooters

**NOTE: Currently, you can buy an E Scooter but cannot ride it on a UK Public Road, Cycle Lane or Pavement. Anyone who does is committing an offence. The only place an E Scooter can be used is on private land with the permission of the land owner.**

**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.

**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

### **4. Resilience Planning Update (A McIntyre)**

#### **Community Resilience Conference 2024**

**ACTION:** Check that the Insurance policies we have with Zurich will cover the resilience effort. (E Phipps)

**ACTION Ongoing:** Refer earlier email sent today, I suspect that a community resilience group that sits as a subgroup of the local community council would by default be covered by the community council liability insurance cover for volunteers. Let's await their response. Back in May Claire Young was drafting up the resilience framework strategy guidance document which was supposed to include an "Insurance FAQ" but we've not seen the final document as far as I'm aware.

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

Middleton Farm Potterton: battery farm for consultation, H Foxen attended the consultation and she reported people living in the adjacent houses to the field are worried about fires, explosions and noise.

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

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

No out goings

### **7. 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 C Wood and seconded by D McKendrick.

# **BELHELVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**



## **8. Matters arising from Previous Meeting** (J Fletcher)

**ACTION Completed:** 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.

### **Belhelvie Bowling Green**

**ACTION Completed:** 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.

### **Online Litter Workshop**

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

### **Belhelvie Church and Graveyard**

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

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

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

**ACTION Completed:** Resident and Young resident of the year nominated

**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)

## **9. General Projects (All) and Funding Update** (E Phipps)

### **Potterton Community Hall** (H Foxen)

Awaiting results of village survey.

### **Potterton Wooden Shed**

Looks like the Aberdeenshire Council own the building

**ACTION:** H Foxen /G Drummond to try and get an estimate for the repairs.

### **Potterton Planters** (H Foxen)

H Foxen to speak with G Drummond on a possible change of plan

**ACTION:** H Foxen to contact G Drummond

### **Noticeboard Replacement**

Belhelvie and Balmedie noticeboards to be installed as a priority.

**ACTION Ongoing:** Check with G Drummond and should be installed shortly

### **Additional Benches**

As above

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

### **Balmedie Village Green Project**, discussed by BCC members

**ACTION Ongoing:** No meetings have taken place with BCT as they have been unavailable.

### **New Project Development Suggestions**

#### **Belhelvie Bowling Green** (G Middleton, E Phipps)

Waiting for Robert Patterson's report for the bowling green before we know the total estimate here. In meantime we will apply to FRP (capped at £500) which will at least cover his fee for compiling the report. When E Phipps gets the report will speak to D Sutherland AC again. Landfill Fund latest round is also open until Jan 2025 so will apply to this as well.

#### **Balmedie Paths Project** (E Phipps)

E Phipps sent details of the Path Project to H Foxen so she could enquire if we were able for funding from the Partnership.

H Foxen has confirmed that FRP applications are capped at £500 however. The total for the paths will be well into the £'000's depending how deep we go with the design. The Paths For All Fund looks to be our best hope, I'm in regular dialogue with Y Macleod on that, due to timing I've agreed with Y Macleod to push any work into the 25/26 period get the design done then can look at tendering early next year. In meantime we're awaiting the outcome of the application to Aberdeenshire Local Action Group for the consultancy / design support with the paths (successful applicants to be notified by 30<sup>th</sup> Nov). E Phipps has also applied to the Nestrans Path Fund (capped at £5k) and in process of drafting a Landfill Fund application for circa £12k, trying to cover as many bases as possible.

## **10. External Meetings Feed Back**

### **Formartine Partnership Meeting** (H Foxen)

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

### **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.



## **11. Attending Nomination for Future External Meetings/Training**

### **Monthly Formartine Partnership Meeting, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Haddo House H Foxen to attend

### **8th Annual Scottish Transport Conference: the funding, priorities and policy challenges**

Date/time: Tuesday 5th November 2024

Location: Online

Description: Half-day conferences coming up that may be of interest to community councils.

Organiser: Mackay Hannah events

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood circulated to all BCC members

### **Schools meeting **CANCELLED****

Date/time: 6<sup>th</sup> November, 5.30pm

Location: online

Description: Officers from the Learning Estates Team wish to discuss an Infographic and survey which will shortly be distributed to all schools within the Ellon, Meldrum and Mintlaw Clusters.

Organiser: AC - Learning Estates Team, Carolyne to attend

### **What's next for Scottish Planning: development, master planning and planning funding consultations**

Date/time: Tuesday 19th November 2024

Location: Online

Description: Half-day conferences coming up that may be of interest to community councils.

Organiser: Mackay Hannah events

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood circulated to BCC members

### **Second Community Engagement Event - Development of Solar Farm, Battery Energy Storage System etc (Kingseat)**

Date/time: Tuesday 19 November 2024, 3.00 pm until 7.00 pm

Location: Axis Centre, 9 School Road, Aberdeenshire, AB21 0WD

Description: Second Community Engagement Event for the - Pre-Application Engagement – Prospective Application for Land at Dams of Craigie, Kingseat, Aberdeenshire – Development of Solar Farm, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and Substation, Associated Infrastructure, and Landscaping.

Organiser: Blackhall & Powis Ltd (representing the Developers, Lower 48 Energy Limited)

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood circulated to BCC members

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood posted on Facebook G Middleton to attend

### **Balmedie Country Park Group**

Date/time: Tuesday 19 November, 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Location: Online (Teams)

Description: Regular meeting of the group

Organiser: Aberdeenshire Council (Donna Sutherland)

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood circulated to BCC members

**ACTION Completed:** D Wallace and A McIntyre if back in time to attend

### **Formartine Community Council Forum**

Date/time: Wednesday 20 November 2024, 6.30pm - 8pm

Location: Ellon Community Campus and online

Description: Regular meeting of the Forum

Organiser: Aberdeenshire Council (Claire Young / Louise Muirhead)

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood circulated to BCC members

**ACTION Completed:** D Wallace /A McIntyre sent through an update AC (Louise)

**ACTION Completed:** D Wallace /A McIntyre to attend.

### **Belhelvie Church Cemeteries meeting & discussion **CANCELLED****

Date/time: Saturday 23 November 2024, 12.30pm

Location: Forsyth Hall, Belhelvie

Description: This is an opportunity for people who have family / friends in the Belhelvie Church cemeteries (upper cemetery and the lower extension) to discuss the current state of the cemeteries and how to take things forward. The meeting will include a display of photographs and information about the cemeteries.

Organiser: Local resident (William McKenzie)

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood circulated to BCC members - Gavin to attend on behalf of the BCC

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood posted on Facebook G Drummond to attend



## **Free Changing Places seminar**

Date/time: 27 November 11.00am - 12.30pm

Location: online

Description: Sales / product pitch?

Organiser: RISE Adaptations in association with Jane Cooper at Access and Inclusion

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood circulated to BCC members / circulated to BCT, Sand Bothy and Belhelvie Church

## **How do we fix Scotland's housing system?**

Date/time: Tuesday 26th November 2024

Location: Online

Description: Half-day conferences coming up that may be of interest to community councils.

Organiser: Mackay Hannah events

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood circulated to BCC members

## **Community ownership in villages**

Date/time: Wednesday 4th December from 11.00am to 3.30pm

Location: Findhorn, Moray

Description: one-day learning event "opportunity to walk around Findhorn village and hear from the Findhorn Village Conservation Company on the trials, tribulations and joys of taking ownership of village assets."

Organiser: Scottish Rural Action is partnering with Community Land Scotland

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood circulated to BCC members

**ACTION Completed:** raised at meeting relating to the Balmedie library and asset transfer debate

**ACTION:** C Wood to post on Facebook

## **12. New Correspondence & Communication**

30<sup>th</sup> October 2024 AC budget survey

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood shared post through BCC FB page

5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 Ellon School Cluster Infographic and survey

Deadline for responses 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood shared on BCC FB and sent to all BCC members

7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 Agenda for Formartine Area Committee on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood circulated to all BCC members

11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 Community Council Agendas and Minutes (Claire Young)

Request for agenda and minutes to be sent to Formartine Area Office

([formartineareaoffice@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:formartineareaoffice@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)) rather than individual officers

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood sent to J Fletcher

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood in progress in checking to see if AC Councillors should also be removed.

**UPDATE:** Do not remove AC Councillors only simplify Area Office contacts to the team's email address instead of individual officers for agendas, added team email to the BCC video call list.

18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 Library closure message from R Nicol

BCT intent to look into asset transfer of Balmedie Library

Note - there is an Aberdeenshire wide petition about the Library closures

**ACTION Completed:** Discussed at BCC meeting.

18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 Community Council Induction Training Recordings.

**ACTION Completed:** C Wood circulated to all BCC members

## **13. AOB**

Meeting closed 20:35

**NB These November 2024 minutes were approved at the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024 BCC Meeting.**

**Next BCC Meeting Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 6:30pm F2F at Balmedie Leisure Centre and Online Teams (resources permitting)**

**Visitors welcome.**

**Belhelvie Community Council**

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

**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)