

BELHELVE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



APPROVED MINUTES of MEETING 16th December 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 Drummond, A McIntyre, G Middleton
Members Online: C Wood, H Foxen, E Phipps
Apologies: D McKendrick

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

Visitors J Hendry (Library), B Murray (BLC)
Online: J Corbett (Sand Bothy, BCT),

1. Apologies & Introductions of 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

Community Recognition Awards: D Wallace, A McIntyre and J Fletcher from BCC were present for the Young Person Award at the Sand Bothy where Duncan Mackie received his well deserved award, This evening 16th December 2024 the Adult Person Award was presented to Alan Neave (Blackdog) by D Wallace yet another worthy recipient.

Action Completed: C Wood posted story on BCC Website and FB
No one present would like to record the meeting.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest on any Agenda items, none

Closure of the Balmedie Library (Discussion)

Cllr Hassan attended AC Meeting and said there would be a public consultation on the direction AC will take with Balmedie Library. After consultation people's views will be noted and it will then go before the Communities Committee who will decide on what will happen to all the libraries. Cllr Hassan and Cllr Johnston both said this is because lack of money within Councils and cuts will have to be made, AC do not have sufficient resources therefore they are looking to see how they may be able to get the best use out of these buildings.

J Hendry said she had attended a previous Public Consultation in Newmachar which was labelled as a Community Engagement Exercises which sound less formal and they do not seem to want views of the public expressed. She asked if the BCC had any formal dialogue with AC about the matter and was told they had not.

The plan is that the Engagement Exercise for Balmedie will be on the 17th January 2025 at the Balmedie Library, AC are then planning to write impact assessments on all 13 libraries. Aberdeenshire Council Community Committee Meeting for the outcome will take place on 13th February 2025.

BCC will try and get all groups who may be interested in using the library after its probable closure to meet and discuss the situation. It was stated that the Belhelvie Community Trust and the Balmedie Leisure Centre have both put a notice of interest to AC about the library, both J Corbett (BCT) and B Murray (BLC) confirmed this.

3. Police Matters & Report Review

Police Scotland no officers present, no November report, C Anderson has not received it yet (11th December 2025)

ACTION: C Wood to send to all BCC members

ACTION Ongoing: 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)

ACTION Ongoing: C Wood to forward Police email to the ward councillors and continue to ask Roads Department to join the BCC meetings to discuss the Community Policing Policy Reports from FB about antisocial behaviour, Balmedie.

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

Harassment issue

Update: Police (Sgt Scott Cooper) responded 7th December 2024 as follows, Police aware of the harassment PC Morrison is speaking to local schools to try to identify the people involved. Sgt Cooper is checking for an update with PC Morrison "We will look to get this concluded one way or another before the schools break for Christmas." Sgt Cooper. Sgt Cooper on E Scooters "I am aware we have had previous reports of youth

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annoyance in general in the Balmedie area and where possible, I will look to get officers in the area to carry out some high visibility patrols." We need public to inform the Police of issues.

ACTION: C Wood to repost 101 and online form

Sgt Cooper is asking the Community Based Officers to include Balmedie in the area patrols esp. in afternoons. BCC meeting attendance not possible but Carolynne has supplied the next three meeting dates to Sgt Cooper as requested.

BCC Feedback to the Police E-Scooters

G Drummond e-scooters still being seen in use on roads no lights, no reflectors etc

Joni Corbett reported e-scooter B977 near collision (north of Balmedie between Balmedie and Cock & Bull)

Belhelvie Speeding

I Drummond (Belhelvie) has repeatedly reported and emailed about speeding in Belhelvie, S McDonald PS will ask the Area Inspector (B Stewart) to discuss a plan on the issue and will send BCC an update

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

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2020/december/looking-to-purchase-an-e-scooter-this-christmas/>

4. Resilience Planning Update (A McIntyre)

Community Resilience Conference 2024

Meeting Notes 12th December 2024

Attendees Joni Corbett, Mandy Clubb, Bill Murray, Shuna Jenkins, Hilary Foxen, Alex McIntyre

Apologies Paul McKeown, Andy Cowie

Volunteers All attendees agreed to go to their respective groups to seek a list of volunteers who would be prepared to put their contact details on a list which would be retained alongside the Resilience phones so they could be contacted to see if they can help in a situation where resilience support is needed. They need to be reassured that their details will only be used by the coordinator holding one of the two Resilience Phones.

Potterton Community Centre has an ongoing booking between 9.00am and 3.00pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, which could mean that the Community Centre may not be available for resilience support during this period. This is something to be borne in mind if Resilience support is being considered.

The funding received from SSEN for an Emergency Generator at Balmedie Leisure Centre was a nice surprise and most welcome. Order to be placed with preferred contractor in hope to complete the scope by early March 2025.

The highest priority going forward is to provide a level of Emergency power at the Potterton Leisure Centre.

Potential revenue sources to be pursued. **Action** AM / JC

Resilience Phones were assigned until the next meeting. Primary phone held by Bill Murray; Secondary phone held by M Clubb.

J Corbett has done a lot of work on the Resilience Plan. It is to be issued to all members of the Resilience Group for their review and return comments by time of next meeting. **Action** JC / ALL Members

Regarding communication a suggestion was the potential use of megaphones. This is to be put to the council to see if this could be covered in a communications budget. **Action** JC / AM

Bill Murray said he would like to thank J Corbett and A McIntyre and E Phipps for the outstanding work they have done for the Belhelvie Parish Resilience Group especially with the funding of a generator for the BLC.

Next Meeting Tuesday 11th February at 6.00pm at Balmedie Leisure Centre. Existing and potential new members are welcome to attend.

ACTION Ongoing: (E Phipps) Zurich Insurance cover for the Resilience Group, ie which activities were covered for during an emergency, BCC received feedback from Zurich with HSE guidelines and any activity you would expect in an emergency response situation would be likely covered, after all have been risk assessed, all volunteers should be trained and after the Resilient Plan has been passed any specific activities to cater for would be submitted to Zurich. A McIntyre said the next phase of the Resilience Group would be to continue with risk assessments, A McIntyre was happy after reading the document that the Zurich document would cover all the resilience tasks.



5. Planning Report (G Middleton)

November nothing validated and one change of condition from agriculture to domestic dwelling for a house in Belhelvie

December nothing decided, one validated, Longdrum Farm Whitecairns, demolition of agricultural buildings and erection of three houses

6. Treasures Update and Funding Updates (E Phipps)

Treasury stuff, letter received from the Bank of Scotland saying they are starting to levy all manual transactions. The volume of direct debits and automatic payments being tidied up to try and save on the cost of transactions. A debit card has been ordered as these can set up direct debits to hopefully limit the manual transactions.

Paths Project Update: The intention is still to apply to the Paths for all Fund, E Phipps has had a meeting with O Deeming and C Young (AC) about procurement etc, although the 2024-25 deadline is probably too tight to secure that so will apply to the 2025-26 fund. At present a landscape designer is required to plan out exactly what is required. E Phipps has recently applied to the Aberdeenshire Local Action Community Path Development Program unfortunately we were unsuccessful, he may try and fund through the BCC and respectively recover these landscape designer fees at a later date. E Phipps has also applied to EB Scotland and the deadline is January 2025 and they have said they will consider the application at the February Meeting.

Belhelvie Bowling Green: R Patterson at Turf Solutions has given a more detailed outlay of the cost breakdown and this will be approximately £5000-£6000 for the total works over a two year period. E Phipps spoke with C Young regarding the Formartine Area Committee budgets for funding but the 2024-25 budget is now closed and she will consider the application for the 2025-26 budget, this is set at the February Meeting and allocations from March 2025 onwards.

E Phipps has also applied to the Formartine Rural Partnership and the funding for this round is capped at £500 which may go towards the original Bowling Green survey of £800.

H Foxen (FRP) said there are bigger grants of up to £5000 will be released shortly, she will check what details are required for funding and pass to E Phipps.

G Middleton reported that the bowling green had been hollow tined and had chemicals and seaweed spread on it, the grass has been cut and the holes left open, it will be hollow tined again in March 2025, sand will then be spread to fill the holes.

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 G Drummond and seconded by H Foxen.

8. Matters arising from Previous Meeting (J Fletcher)

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.

Plodhill Speeding

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

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

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)

No advancement

Potterton Wooden Shed and Concrete Building

H Foxen received an update from S Jenkins who spoke with R Ironside who is a Aberdeenshire Council Supervisor, R Ironside is aware that the shed is nothing to do with the council and its up to the owner to maintain, however AC store purple fabric seating chairs in the shed. Bowlers use the shed and it is regularly used. There is a problem with the steps which require replacement urgently as they are broken and dangerous. There are spaces blocked off on the walls due to gaps to stop mice entering. The concrete building opposite the shed which was previously a toilet is the responsibility of AC and requires its roof repaired or replaced but have been advised that this is out of the scope of AC contract. R Ironside said he is happy for groups to get together and get work done but he has to know who will do the work and that risk assessments have been completed. Equipment left by the nursery has not been taken away yet, it has been moved to the front of the building for AC to remove.

ACTION Ongoing: 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

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ACTION Ongoing: H Foxen to contact G Drummond (shed and planters)

ACTION: H Foxen to send G Drummond a date for above

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)

Ref Item 6

Balmedie Paths Project (E Phipps)

Ref item 6

10. External Meetings Feed Back

Formartine Partnership Meeting (H Foxen)

Balmedie Country Park Meeting (D Wallace/ A McIntyre)

Online meeting and seemed that there was a lot of subjects that were not discussed although they were on the agenda. The Action Log had a lot of details, but there are things happening in the Country Park and are not discussed, there seems to be a lot of tree planting going on in and around the village. Previously AC engaged with BCC when planting trees, there is no consultation with BCC now. J Corbett said that there are a couple of volunteers in the community who are governed by AC Landscape Gardening on where to plant the trees, these trees came from Woodland trust and Apache, J Corbett said the CP siting of trees had been discussed at the last three CP Meetings but she did not know about the other planting of trees in the village behind the shop and across from the Coop.

Formartine Community Council Forum (D Wallace)

J Chalmers is the new Chairperson from the Meldrum CC group, the new BCC Police reporting initiative was complemented on by M Mitchell AC and other CCs. Fly tipping problems at Fovea and Newburgh were spoken about. BCC raised all their issues ie. Bowling Club, Cemetery issue (other CCs were not experiencing the same issues). Speeding problem on the B999 was raised and also our concerns if the speeding restriction was taken off. Community Resilience was also mentioned as was antisocial behaviour which seemed to be across the shire and not just Balmedie.

Middleton Of Potterton Solar Project Meeting (G Middleton / A McIntyre)

The proposed storage facility is at the other side of the B999 up past the old garage and opposite the access road to Middleton Farm, which is a fair distance from any habitation round about. The proposal put together was good and well explained.

H Foxen seemed to think that the position of the project is closer to the B99 and opposite the houses on Redmoss, the developer said they would landscape and disguise the area and that sounded very positive. A few of those who attended expressed concern about the project.

Kingseat Solar Project Meeting (D Wallace)

Not many attended, Nothing new to report.

11. Attending Nomination for Future External Meetings/Training

Belhelvie Church Cemeteries meeting & discussion

Date/time: TBC

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)

Library discussion event(s) (G Middleton /D Wallace)

Date/time: Friday 17th January 2025, 1:00pm-3:00pm (**NEW DATE**)

Location: Balmedie Library

Description: "During the events, LLA will outline options that are currently being explored and invite customers and residents to share additional ideas for consideration." Source: Live Life Aberdeenshire (LLA)

Organiser: Live Life Aberdeenshire

ACTION Completed: Circulated to all BCC members, posted on FB /noticeboards, republicise in January 2025

Democracy Matters Community Councils update

Date/time: Wed 29 January, 18.00 - 19.30

Location: online

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Sign up here: https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/1c6d5c93-d3a2-4b16-b94e-bad5f17a8511@7bbe2037-c3dc-4e87-b17b-6bd2d2271f47?utm_source=Community+Councils&utm_campaign=753403f078-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_06_05_02_26_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fa1b078e21-753403f078-339246533

Description: latest update on the Scottish Government's Democracy Matters consultation at this special event for Community Councils

Organiser: Scottish Community Councils

ACTION Completed: C Wood circulated to all BCC members 16th December 2024

Milton Of Potterton Stage 3 (H Foxen for BCC)

Date 17th December 2024 Councillor interviewing

12. New Correspondence & Communication

22nd November 2024 Formartine Area Committee - Milton of Potterton - Stage 3 Investigation

AC working group want to speak to external witnesses, possibly H Foxen to represent BCC.

ACTION Completed: C Wood emailed H Foxen to see if she can do this and let C Young AC know BCC have picked this up.

29th November 2024 Ian Drummond speed issues in Belhelvie

Ian Drummond following up on request for Cllr Hassan to contact Police about the speeding in Belhelvie, see also email from Cllr Hassan on 1st December 2025 Steve McDonald (Police Scotland) asking for Police to speak to Ian Drummond directly about his concerns (speeding in Belhelvie) or update the BCC

UPDATE 2nd December 2024 Police (Steven McDonald) have asked for Inspector Barry Stewart to discuss a plan and send an update to BCC

ACTION Completed: C Wood to update at BCC January meeting

5th December 2025 Formartine Rural Partnership Small Grants Scheme

ACTION Completed: C Wood publicised on FB

6th December 2024 Library discussion events notification and media release

ACTION Completed: C Wood placed on website, FB and notice boards

9th December 2024 letter from AC Operations (Alan Wood - Director of Environment & Infrastructure Services) no bedding plants to be supplied in 2025

ACTION Completed: C Wood circulated to all BCC members and informed gardening groups

ACTION Ongoing: try and promote other gardening funding FRP (completed)

Monitor the following page on gardening updates in 2025 on gardening funding and publicise

<https://www.communitycouncils.scot/news/2024/action-earth-grants-available-for-environmental-projects>

11th December 2024 action log, action plan and meeting note from the Country Park meeting in November.

ACTION Completed: C Wood circulated to all BCC members

16th December 2024 Scottish Community Council newsletter

ACTION Completed: C Wood circulated to all BCC members

16th December 2024 Inspiring Aberdeenshire 2025

Deadline for nominations 7 February 2025

ACTION: C Wood to share on FB

13. AOB

Young Person of the Year Award

J Corbett thanked the BCC for the award given to Duncan Mackay one of her fellow Sand Bothy colleagues, she said the follow on from this has been great and she thinks it has been a good confidence booster for him.

BCC agreed to give a Christmas present as a thank you to one of our Balmedie volunteers Athol Lipp, who litter picks and helps with the clean-up around the village.

Meeting closed 21:42

NB These December 2024 minutes were approved at the 20th January 2025 BCC Meeting.

Next BCC Meeting Monday 17th February 2025 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