

BANCHORY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of meeting held in Banchory Academy on 9th April at 7.30pm

Present; D. Conroy (DC) Vice Chair D. Milner (DM) H. McNab (HM) L. McNab (LM) A. Ross (AR)

Apologies; V. Kerridge, M. Lennox. L. Cameron.

Councillors in Attendance; R. Bruce (Cllr RB) E. Durno (Cllr ED)

- 1) Welcome & Apologies;** In the absence of our chairperson, Mary Lennox, David Conroy chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone, apologies were given as above.
- 2) Councillors Reports;** Cllr RB spoke of the speeding issue, the portable LED sign is in place at the Upper Lochton junction for a period. She then went on to speak of the soggy playing fields, there is a review going on in relation to these and a report will be forthcoming. Cllr ED said parking on the High Street was considered for decriminalisation but this is off the agenda for now. Aberdeenshire Council Infrastructure Services Committee will set up a working group to assess further options. AR asked if the parking bays could be considered Council car parks, HM said they could not. DC asked about Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) in Bellswood and other woods, Cllr ED has had e-mails regarding these and has encouraged all who write to object to the Council. 3 TPO'S have been renewed and 2 cancelled, Lower Bellswood was in private ownership prior to 1990 when the Council took over and they have no intention of developing the site. Any objectors to TPO;s, should complete an objection form and submit it to the Council. Trees are tagged and every tree numbered if they have a TPO. Stagecoach issues, a bus forum meeting will take place in Huntly on 18th April.
- 3) Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising;** Proposed; AR, seconded; DM.
 - a) Over 70's outing;** HM has written to Banchory and District Round Table and they have indicated they may assist with finance but not with manpower, perhaps alternative years.
 - b) Community Resilience Plan;** DM has received permission from Banchory Ternan West Church to store some small items of kit there. An application to SSE Resilience Fund for the funding of kit is being considered, deadline date for applications is 15th May 2018.
 - c) Minor Injuries Unit;** A consultation meeting was held and was well attended.
 - d)Football Pitches;** previously discussed.
 - e) Coat of Arms;** There has been correspondence from the Lord Lyon advising that the official writ has been approved, BCC are entitled to a coat of arms from the Lord Lyon office, that we should pay the costs of this. AR followed up with the benefactor with regard to fees for this. The benefactor is now exploring funding from other areas. Our position is unchanged re: costs for the coat of arms, we will not pay for it.
 - f) ML forwarded an e-mail** for discussion in her absence, this was from the organisers of the pipe band World Championships, held in KGV park, asking if we would sponsor a Quaich at a cost of £50.00, this was agreed. The organisers are also looking for some help at the event on 13th May.
- 4) Correspondence;** a)Parking Issues, already dealt with. B) Street names for the Oaklands housing development , BCC are allowed to name two streets for this development, it was proposed

by HM and agreed that they be; Provost Webster Road and Clark Road in acknowledgement of our retiree councillors.

5) Treasurers Report; a) Main Account £1879.54. Y2K Account £429.51. Savings Account £3001.19. b) Insurance, LM phoned Zurich Insurance Company and was told that Highland Council paid for our insurance, it is now in effect, public/employer liability to 10m

6) Banchory Community Fund; In a previous meeting BCC approved a grant for Hill of Banchory Neighbourhood Watch to erect signs but we have not been able to pay it so far due to lack of details. There is in excess of £18k in the Community Fund, held in London by The Fred Olsen Company. Application forms for this fund are on the Marr Area Partnership website in a Word Document.

7) Banchory Community Action Plan; ML & DC met with a group of people interested in being of help to the Community Council, they were asked to consider improvement works to the Town Hall as a project, for instance, repainting. The Woodend Barn are also on the lookout for some help. ML reported via e-mail that a steering group for adult learning was set up and meet on 24th April. AR spoke of the R3 site for a proposed new academy saying that the Council are committed to retaining it for this purpose for the time being. ML attended the Banchory Heritage Society meeting held in the Banchory Lodge Hotel, it was very well attended.

8) Keith White Award; VK and JW are dealing with this, application form is ready, covering letter is ready, Banchory Show will allow BCC to announce the winners at around 1pm at the Show this year.

9) Amendments to constitution; There have been no comments received so far. Special General Meeting will be held on 23rd April in the Academy library at 7.30pm.

10) Coat of Arms; dealt with under 3e

11) CC Representatives;

a) Planning, HM said there are 5 TPO's, at Roscobie Park (Improvement TPO) Mount St. Ternan & The Lythe. There are 2 revocations, 2, 4 & 6 Ramsay Road. The Bellswood area is covered by a TPO, it is Council owned. There is 1 planning application, for a house at the Brathens Road, BCC is "concerned" about this.

b) Police Liaison; DM advised the group that a 16 year old had been apprehended for the vandalism to windows at Banchory Primary School. Re: The 30 mph LED sign, we can ask for it to be set up in the approaches to Banchory, it records data also. DM asked what can be done about the potholes around Banchory and was told to report them to the Council online to Roads & Maintenance. Police advised there were no major problems in Banchory.

c) Community Safety Forum; At their meeting DM asked if they would help to fund a purchase of a 30mph LED sign ??? Cllr RB will inquire if the Council will allow it to be sited.

d) Transport inc' Marr Area Bus Forum; In her absence, VK had e-mailed the vice chair DC with the following, there have been more complaints from bus users, these are logged. The timetable on bus stops is still wrong, users should be encouraged to go to the bus forum meeting held in Huntly on 18th April. LM proposed a bus watch page on Facebook.

e) BDI; AR advised that he had received the following update; Bike trails – planning application for the bike trail in Corsee Woods is pending. The group are recipients of a co-op grant this year.

Bellfield Community Garden – the project is almost complete. The new seating should be in place soon. Local guides and scout groups will be involved in the maintenance.

Farmers Market – now the biggest market in Aberdeenshire. Stats from the car park machines indicate an increase in visitors to the town on market days as more people are parking.

The North of Scotland Pipe Band Competition – 3rd event takes place on May 13th. The Business Association now organise this event.

Number One – more groups are using the Learning Spaces now that the rooms have been refurbished. There are regular bookings with adult classes and community group meetings. Health & Social Care providers are using the facility during the day with support and advice groups. There is now a Recovery Cafe on Monday evenings and drop-in alcohol and drug advisors present on Tuesday from 11-4pm. The No 1 team are seeking funding to employ a job coach to support volunteers. The cafe is ideal to support people who have been long term unemployed due to ill health by providing work placement. However, there is a need for someone to provide a supported programme so that they get a greater benefit.

f) Glendye Windfarm ; DC informed the group that there had been no progress with this since Feughdee West CC ceased operating. DC suggests approaching the operators to ask if they would deal with BCC. The Mearns CC is very much against the windfarm. DC advised that there is to be another windfarm at Fetteresso and is an extension to the Mid Hill Windfarm. It would seem that there will be no visual impact on Banchory from this one and consequently no money forthcoming either. DC has invited a speaker from Natural Power (the operators) to our May meeting to inform us of the developments.

12) AOCB; DM proposed a vote of thanks to DC for chairing the meeting.

13) Date/Place of next meeting; Monday 14th May 2018 in Banchory Academy Library, 7.30pm.