

BANCHORY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING ON 11TH DECEMBER 2017

Held at: Banchory Academy Library at 7.30pm.

Present: M. Lennox (Chair, ML) L. McNab (Treasurer LM) J. Wills (Acting Secretary JW) H. McNab (HM) D. Milner (DM) A. Murison (AM) T. Tulett (TT) A. Ross (AR) V. Kerridge (VK)

Councillors: A. Ross (Cllr AR) E. Durno (ED)

- 1) ML welcomed everybody and intimated apologies were received from, D. Conroy & Cllr R. Bruce.
- 2) **Councillors' Reports;**
 - Cllr ED has received complaints about lack of gritting by Aberdeenshire Council (AC), Cllr AR informed the meeting that AC will give residents grit boxes. It seems the community are being encouraged to help themselves.
 - Also about traffic congestion at Maryculter bridge, as it affects Banchory commuters, it has been confirmed that the traffic lights currently in place, will become permanent.
 - AC would be discussing the Scottish budget on Thursday 14th December. Possible cuts to be expected.
 - Banchory Sports Village is moving forward: ground clearance is expected to commence in December and building works begin in January '18 with projected completion date May 2019. There is concern that pupils will not benefit from the new pool for swimming within school hours due to the logistics of transport.
 - Despite the renewal of Banchory Academy being the No. 1 priority in the Community Action Plan, it is not seen as urgent by AC. Councillors are unanimously in favour of continuing to battle for a new academy.
 - The Scottish Government is to impose a levy from planning applications. **Action: HM to investigate and update BCC**
- 3) **Approval of November minutes**

1. Proposed; DM. Seconded, HM.

3.2 There is an ongoing discussion between the Round Table and the Rotary Club regarding the over 70's annual outing. **Action: HM to report to January meeting**

3.2) ML confirmed Alex Mitchell of Zander Planning as a speaker for January. He will be in attendance at a consultation meeting open to the public at the Banchory Business Centre on Thursday 14th December from 1pm-7pm.

4) Correspondence

- ML informed the meeting of a communication from Janelle Clark re vandalism to Bellfield toilets. The toilets are now repaired and in operation again.
- An invitation from Aberdeenshire Council to join a Short Life Working Group on Police Liaison with Community Councils had been issued to all community councils. DM had volunteered to be our representative but as too many had volunteered, he was not selected. Owing to DM's own initiative we have already initiated our own channel of communication with the Police now that they no longer attend community council meetings.
- Marr Area Committee still has money which can be applied for to fund community projects.
- ML has received a communication from a resident in Banchory about the new Scheme of Establishment and she has replied indicating that we are awaiting guidance from Aberdeenshire Council.

5) Treasurers Report

No change from last month.

6) Banchory Community Fund

Several groups have asked how to acquire application forms. Other applications may be forthcoming.

7) Community Action Plan

- HM will report to January meeting on progress so far.
- AR has been communicating with the Parent Council and has started a Facebook campaign for a replacement Academy.
- New Health Centre: HM awaiting a response from Martin McCrone.
- ML attended a meeting organised by Ed Garrett of Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action on the Access for All action point.

8) Community Resilience Plan

DM advised the group that the resilience team had put together a press report. He will send a copy to all members for comment before sending it to The P & J & The Piper.

9) Keith White Award

VK proposed that BCC meet the cost previously shared between us and the Lion's Club, ie £200.00. This was seconded by AR and agreed unanimously. VK and JW will meet early in the New Year to look at how best to improve the application form.

10) Coat of Arms

The application has been sent to the Lord Lyon and the lodging fee of £350 paid by BCC's mystery benefactor. There have, however, been complications around the promised donation. ML became aware at a meeting of the Town Team that an application for funding to pay for the Coat of Arms had been made to that group by the benefactor's intermediary, Mr Gordon Casely. This had been done without the knowledge of either BCC or Banchory Heritage Society. ML contacted Mr Casely expressing concern and emphasising that BCC had made its decision to apply for the Coat of Arms on the mutually agreed basis that ownership of the Coat of Arms would be vested in the community council and that there would be no cost to BCC. His replies indicated that while the costs would be unwritten, he and the benefactor considered that BCC should nevertheless seek funding. His most recent communication also and for the first time mentioned a second benefactor.

The meeting expressed its unanimous concern at these developments. BCC had agreed to apply for the Coat of Arms on the understanding that it was to be paid for by the benefactor with full rights to its use being vested in BCC. Members felt that, given the costs involved, BCC would otherwise have been unlikely to take the decision to apply for the Coat of Arms. It was agreed that the application would be pursued but only because the cost was underwritten. Members felt that there was no obligation on the community council to seek funding.

To relieve the Chair, AR volunteered to take on responsibility for the project.

11) Banchory Street Audit Planning Workshop

ML and DM had attended this. It looked at access issues within the town and what improvement could be made. A street walk was to look at access difficulties in The High Street on a date yet to be decided in January.

12) Community Council Representatives

1. Planning (HM)

- A public consultation on the proposed retail park is to be held on Thursday 14th December in Banchory Business Centre from 1 – 7 p.m.
- Duncan's application has been approved. Their existing premises will be redeveloped to have a shop on the ground floor and flats above.

2. Banchory First Responders (DM)

There is now a defibrillator at Tesco

3. Police Liaison (DM)

DM advised the meeting that the public should use 101 to call the police with any concerns

4. Community Safety Forum (DM)

- DM also advised that The Community Safety Partnership had money to disburse.
- TT informed the group that he was the co-ordinator for the neighbourhood watch in Upper Lawson Avenue and that they require new signs.
- DM stated tht there will be a Winter exercise delivered by the police at Tesco, date TBC.
- Cllr AR said that there was an incident at Durris bridge where vandals had tried to break in to a container belonging to contractors.

5. Transport inc Marr Area Bus Forum (VK)

The comments submitted by BCC to the survey on alterations to the bus timetable had received an inadequate response. ML had submitted a further statement asking for our comments to be relayed to Stagecoach management. No reply as yet.

6. Banchory Town Team Meeting (ML)

ML reported that the signage project was making good progress.

There is still money to disburse and the group is looking for ideas to benefit the town centre economically. Some suggestions from the meeting were: funding a new Town Co-ordinator if this were eligible; a covered 'pagoda' or roofed structure near the steps where music and community events could take place; free public wifi in central area of the town; supporting BID status.

7. BDI (AR)

AR reported on BDI's AGM, the main thrust of which was that BDI would like people to get involved. They are very keen for people starting new projects to come to them for assistance. Their main focus is maintaining No.1 for which funding is still difficult. They do a lot of work with vulnerable groups. There is a lot of interest in using their meeting rooms. Professor Gordon Walkden gave a presentation on a possible history museum for the town, a location for which is still to be decided. AR said that at the AGM no accounts were handed out. ML proposed to write to Jan Leatham thanking her for her work as Banchory Town Co-ordinator.

8. Glen Dye Windfarm

DC was nominated to be BCC's representative at the meetings in connection with this proposed development. He had previously circulated a report on the issue.

A discussion ensued regarding the benefits of BCC buying a share in the Wind Farm. DC will attend meetings to explore issues without commitment. DC will also check with Janelle Clark to discover if there are any precedents. There was a proposal to accept the recommendations DC put forward by AR, seconded by VK. It will be necessary to ascertain the community's views before any decision is made..

Action : DC

The meeting of BCC was concluded at 9.20pm, the date of next meeting is Monday 8th January, in the Academy Library at 7.30pm