

Banchory Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11th March at Banchory Academy

Present:

M Lennox (ML), D Conroy (DC), Z Conroy (ZC), A Murison (AM), D Milner (DM), T Tullett (TT), A Law (AL), Cllr. E Durno (ED), John Wills (JW), Cllr. A Ross (AR), Cllr. R Bruce (RB)

Also in attendance, C Milligan, A Marshall, C Luby

Apologies from L McNab and H McNab

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

2. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

AR reported that there was concern over the Doctor's surgery parking, as appointments can run over the 45min free parking time. She has asked for more spaces to be dedicated to surgery parking; however this would mean other spaces on the site would have to be charged for.

AR has been engaging with the Police and Mrs Burr (Head of Hill of Banchory School) regarding the damage of the Youth 2000 shelters and the HoB eco garden. Teenagers have been searched and moved on and letters have been sent home. The point was raised that there is little for teenagers in particular to do within the village.

Concerns over littering and behaviour of Academy pupils during lunchtime (for example playing chicken with cars) has been referred to the Parent Council.

ED brought up the leaflets that have been distributed regarding the new distributor road in Hill of Banchory. Although they list Aberdeenshire Councillors as contacts, these leaflets have nothing to do with the council, and Councillors cannot comment on planning matters. The recent Town Hall event was actually for the Local Development Plan and nothing to do with BANCON but unfortunately it was wrongly advertised by the Press and Journal and taken over by residents with strong feelings about the proposed distributor road.

There were no question for the Councillors.

3. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

No Amendments required. DM reminded the meeting that once approved the minutes are displayed for the public to view in the Library and on the website.

Proposed JW
Seconded AM

No Matters Arising.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

By email, concerns were reported over the removal of a walking path sign from Upper Arbeadie. It had been removed during building work and not replaced. Councillors advised that it would be the responsibility of the contractors to replace this. RB will contact the Paths Department to confirm and will report back. TT mentioned that the sign had been in a dilapidated condition prior to removal.

5. ELECTIONS FOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ML advised that five vacancies have been declared for the community council. ML opined that we should target people with skill sets that could be useful to us, for example experience with planning or environmental concerns. We need more members. Aberdeenshire Council will organise advertising process which should begin in April or May. If we have more than five applications elections will need to be held.

ML also restated her intention to stand down from the Chair position in June so a new Chair will be required.

6. YOUTH CONCERNS

AL is working with Miss Wight, Rector of the Academy, to organise dates for a litter pick, and has a meeting next week to discuss. It is unlikely to take place this term, but hopefully as soon as possible.

ZC has been working on the issue of refreshments at BCC meetings. She presented us with her detailed plan including consideration of funding, clean up, minimising waste and timing of making drinks. Feeling in the room generally positive, although ML pointed out that anyone wanting a drink should arrive 5 minutes early as the meetings tend to run tight as it is. We will trial ZC's idea at the next meeting in May.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of LM, ML presented.

The main account stands at £2939.51. This includes £1500 of wind farm money earmarked for the Parkinson's Dance event. We are still waiting a signed letter from Deeside Dance Studio.

The Y2K treasurer account is sitting at £429.51 and the main account sits at £3003.96
ML reiterated that these funds were the result of Community Council fundraising at th time of the Millennium and for the purpose of building and maintaining the shelters in Bellfield Park. Although the shelters have stood up well so far, there has been an increase in instances of vandalism and damage towards them and the money to repair them will not last forever.

8. YOUTH 2000

JW has contacted the joiner who last repaired the shelters to discuss a quotation but has had nothing back yet.

ML and AR have both been quoted in the Deeside Piper expressing concern at the increase in vandalism in the town.

9. BANCHORY COMMUNITY FUND

ML- No further updates

10. PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING WORKSHOP

ML attended. A small part of Aberdeenshire Council's budget is to be devolved to communities through community councils.

Stonehaven and Mearns Community Councils will represent all Community Councils at this stage and will circulate any updates.

11. COMMON GOOD LAND CONSULTATION- SKATE PARK

The community council and locals are broadly in favour of the skate park, although there have been some concerns regarding the location. It will be discussed at Friday's Town meeting.

DM has stated Russell Crighton (his son in law) would be keen to come to a BCC meeting to present to and discuss with us. The location has been chosen for an ease of access point of view, and also taking into account that the rest of the park can be boggy. The path to the stairs will be diverted if necessary, and it will be railed off from the car park. Community Consultation threw up some concerns over the site interfering with Banchory Show, but that should not be the case.

Feeling in the room was generally positive, seeing this as potentially a site worth travelling to. AL and ZC felt it would be great for young people to have something to do in Banchory and this would be a well lit and safe place to hang out.

JW was very keen to point out the benefits to sport in Banchory, the site would be well used by current athletes in the area and it would be a Mecca for sports in the north east.

Aberdeenshire Councillors were of course unable to comment in case of future planning concerns.

BCC Position is unchanged: we are unanimously in favour of the use of common land for this project.

12. Banchory Community Action Plan

I. BUSY BANCHORY

No update. ML to attend meeting at the end of end of March.

II. TOWN CENTRE/Banchory Business Association (BBA)

DC and ML attended last meeting, where it was highlighted that currently 33% of Banchory shop fronts are sitting empty. The High Street is moving toward more service driven business, and has obstacles to overcome such as rates, car parking and competition with the internet. This is not unique to Banchory, as high streets in general are in trouble.

Topic will be discussed on Friday at the Town Team Meeting. What Gateway/Aberdeenshire Council can do to help is on the agenda for the meeting.

Room agreed that BCC's role is to listen to and offer support to BBA.

The discussion was brought to a close and agreed that this should be an agenda point for May's meeting. Point for members to think about: What could be Banchory's Unique Selling Point?

Also, our Youth representatives will take this topic to the Academy Business Studies group to look for ideas.

13. KEITH WHITE YOUNG CITIZEN AWARD

JW and VK had a productive meeting with ZC, where a closing date was set for the 15th June. ZC will take application forms to relevant departments within the academy. AR brought up the Air and Army Cadets as possible sources of applicants.

BCC unanimously agreed to take a stall at the Banchory Show again this year and present the award there.

14. BANCHORY COAT OF ARMS

ML reports that the handover ceremony itself has been booked for the afternoon of 23rd May at Banchory Lodge. Press coverage to be arranged. All three schools are now involved. Paul Anderson will provide the music including a specially commissioned piece for the occasion in the style of Scott Skinner. TT has been unwell but would like to be included again going forward. The subcommittee will meet again next Monday.

15. CC REPRESENTATIVES

(a) PLANNING

A full and frank discussion was held on the topic of the Local Development Plan. ML will finalise BCC's response and when complete it will be placed in the Library, on FB and on the website.

(b)+(c) POLICE LIAISON AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

DM has agreed to do an online Firework safety survey on our behalf. Has asked us to fill out Drugs and Alcohol awareness survey, link to be circulated.

Also brought our attention to the "Message in a Bottle" scheme for ensuring vulnerable people living alone are able to alert people in emergencies to their medication needs. DC to publish details on Facebook.

(d)TRANSPORT

No Updates

(e) BDI

BDI has advertised for a new Town Coordinator; the deadline for applications is approaching.

(f) + (g) GLENDYE AND FETTERESSO WIND FARMS

No Updates

(h) TOWN TERM-MURAL PROJECT

Feeling in the room was broadly positive towards the project, but there is concern that the sensitive topic is handled appropriately. Will be discussed at the Town Team Meeting.

15. AOB

- I. BCC has been approached for suggestions for street names for a new development. There is some confusion over exactly which roads. ML is to ask for clarification. We suggested asking HoB pupils to consider names.
- II. We were also approached for any suggestions in Banchory for sites for Aberdeenshire's Open Doors day, but agreed there wasn't really a suitable building within Banchory that wasn't already available to the public.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

13th May 2019, 7:30PM, Room 4, Banchory Academy