

BANCHORY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 6 July 2017

Meeting Room, Number One, Scott Skinner Square

7pm

Present: Mary Lennox (Chair); David Conroy (Vice Chair); Lynn McNab (Treasurer); Louise Cameron (Secretary); John Wills (Assistant Secretary); Vivika Kerridge; David Milner; Harry McNab

Officials: Cllr Ann Ross

Apologies: Cllr Rosemary Bruce

1. Welcome

Mary Lennox opened the meeting and noted the apologies.

2. Consideration and Adoption of the Community Resilience Plan

David Conroy outlined the next steps if the Community Resilience Plan were to be adopted by the Community Council.

The West Church, Banchory Scouts and Aberdeenshire Environmental Protection Officer (EPO), Colin Gray, would be informed of the decision. The Banchory Community Resilience subcommittee of David Conroy; David Milner; John Wills and Vivika Kerridge would then go through the details with the aforementioned partners. It was noted that for the Plan to be viable a minimum of 3 Community Councillors must participate in the subcommittee.

Once the plan has been granted approval by the Aberdeenshire Council Environmental Protection Officer, the insurance cover can then be initiated. In order for the Banchory Community Council insurance to cover the Plan, it must not only be approved by the Community Council but its execution must involve a minimum of one Community Councillor whose role would be to register and monitor the movement of other volunteers.

A table top exercise would then take place, hopefully late summer / early autumn, involving the emergency services and the Banchory Community Resilience subcommittee. It is expected that changes will be required to be made to the Plan following this rehearsal.

In addition to the Banchory Community Resilience subcommittee, volunteers to execute the Plan are to be sourced from the West Church and Banchory Scouts.

A discussion took place concerning the availability and acquisition of electricity generators to be included as part of the Plan. At present only the local Tesco generator has the capacity to run more than its immediate needs in the event of a power shortage.

The meeting was informed that a grant application could be submitted to the Scotland Resilience Fund to cover the cost of a generator for Banchory Community Resilience project. This could then be installed at the primary refuge, the West Church. Grants for this purpose have been made to both Aboyne and Ballater resilience plan projects.

It was agreed that further discussion on the acquisition of an electricity generator should wait until the Plan was more advanced.

The meeting debated the advantages and disadvantages of a flexible, as written into the current draft, and rigid hierarchy structure of assigned volunteer roles. It was agreed that the table top exercise should be run based on the current flexible structure but that the subcommittee consider the concerns highlighted and amend accordingly if the table top exercise suggests a rigid hierarchy be more advantageous.

David Conroy explained that from sharing best practice with other Community Council resilience plans, the aim is for emergency lockers to be acquired for the storage of equipment required such as hi-vis jackets, checklists etc. Although not yet concluded, recent communications indicate the West Church would house these lockers.

The funding for the equipment would first be sought from the Scottish Resilience Fund. Further research is required but it is assumed an application for funding would be submitted by the treasurer on behalf of the Banchory Community Council. It was agreed the subcommittee would investigate this further and present to the Community Council for approval.

Following extensive discussion the following suggested amendments were agreed to be considered by the Community Resilience Plan subcommittee during the next revision of the Plan:

Suggested amendments to be taken into consideration by subcommittee

1. For clarification, include an introductory paragraph on page 5 'Key Locations – Temporary Refuge(s) and Reception Centre' to outline the role of the EPO and to state that the aim of the Banchory Community Resilience Plan is to establish a temporary, stop gap, refuge while the Aberdeenshire Council refuge is set up at Banchory Academy. The time lag is conservatively estimated to be 8 hours and transport between the refuges would be organised by Aberdeenshire Council.
2. Provide Janelle Clark, Marr Area Manager, with a copy of the Plan and the Community Council's ratification decision at the same time as the West Church, Banchory Scouts and EPO are notified.
3. Consider liaising with adjoining Community Councils and keep them informed of the plan.

Following the table top exercise, consider whether a rigid hierarchy of assigned roles would