

BANCHORY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Monday 10th April

Banchory Academy Library at 7.30pm.

Present : Mary Lennox (Chair), Eileen Durno (V.Chair), David Conroy, Rebecca Glansbeek (Treasurer), Lynn McNab, Harry McNab, John Wills.

Officials : Cllr.K.Clark, Cllr.L.Clark, Cllr.J.Webster , Jean Henretty, BDI.

Members of the Public : Tony Tulett, Alexander Weir, and Mike Smith of Feughdee West CC.

Apologies : Vivika Kerridge, Louise Cameron, David Milner, and Sgt. Garrow.

1.0 Welcome

M.Lennox welcomed the attendees, opened the meeting and noted the apologies.

2.0 Police Report

M.Lennox read a written report which had been received from Sargeant G. Garrow of Police Scotland.

Three main issues were reported.

1. There had been a series of petty vandalism incidents at Banchory Golf Club.
2. An increase in 'cold calling' reports, particularly with elderly residents being targeted.
3. An adult male had approached a child at Lawson Avenue. The Police were following up all three rigorously.

It was also reported that there had been a meeting between NHS Grampian, Forbes Homes and the Police to discuss the Glen O Dee Site. There had been no call-outs since the fire, but the situation was being monitored. It was emphasised that the responsibility for fencing and security remained with the developer.

3.0 Councillors' Report

Cllr L.Clark spoke briefly about the unfortunate felling of trees at Bell's Wood. At this point Mr Tulett was invited to address the meeting on this issue. He outlined the neighbouring residents' concern at the felling of 3 large, healthy Scots pine trees, without any neighbour notification. He had written to the Aberdeenshire CEO on the matter, but had not had a

reply. He will pursue this himself.

However, the neighbours had met with Mr Hyman of Landscape Services on site, who reported that the contractor was only instructed to trim and lop the trees. As a result of this meeting, 3 replacement trees had been planted, and there was general agreement that, going forward, Landscape Services would co-operate with the neighbouring residents in developing a management plan for this and two adjoining treed areas.

Mr Tulett was unsure whether they could proceed with this arrangement without Community Council sanction. There was uncertainty regarding this, and due to time constraints, it was agreed that this would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting

Cllr Webster reported on the meeting held to discuss the proposed new Health Centre on 14th March. It was well attended, with wide representation, including the local GP Practice. It was confirmed that Banchory was now 3rd in line for new investment. The project will be part of a HUB development (packaged with other NHS projects) going forward for Scottish Gov. funding. A site specific Project Board will lead the development of firstly a 'business case', then the design development, and funding bid. However, the whole process might take up to 5 years.

All councillors felt that this potential timeline reinforced the need for lobbying on the issue.

Cllr. Webster also noted that travellers had established a camp at the Bridge of Feugh carpark. This had the potential to lead to overspill parking, and had been reported to the Council. JW to advise Chair of the relevant officer. Complaints could also be made to the Police.

JW reported that Marr Area had now considered the report on Tree Preservation Order at Roscobie Park. The TPO was to be retained albeit revised.

Cllr. K.Clark drew attention to the upcoming 'litter pick' by Bonnie Banchory and the Men's Shed. It will be on 30th April from 2 – 4pm.

4.0 Guest Speaker (Jean Henretty: Banchory and District Initiatives)

JH spoke to the possibility of a community buy-out of the woodland area at Corsee Woods. This had followed from a discussion with the Forestry Commission (FC) regarding the establishment of a mountain biking trail and improvements to footpaths in the area. The FC had now offered the possibility of a community buy-out of the extensive area covering generally from Upper Arbeadie westwards to the Glassel Road, and from Upper Lochton south to Burnett Park. She explained that it was a substantial undertaking, but funds were potentially available, and there was already a core group interested in assisting with the development of the project.

BCC members felt that given the desire, recognised in the BCAP, to safeguard the green environs of Banchory, it was a project worth exploring further. HM and DC were to liaise with JH on investigating its feasibility.

5.0 Approval of March Minutes and Matters Arising

HM proposed the Minutes be adopted, seconded by JW, subject to two minor corrections.

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 Closure of Banchory Branch of RBS : Agreed this was disappointing, but probably an inevitable trend

6.2 Civil Ceremony Fees : Chair noted that there had been a slight increase in these.

6.3 Across Scotland 2017, request for funding : Agreed to remit this to the Banchory Community Fund sub-comm.

7.0 Treasurers Report

RG reported that there was £4, 578.86 In the account, but cheques for BCAP secretarial expenses (£100), River Dee Radio (£1,530.000 and Lofthus Signs (£1,999.99) had still to be cashed.

Expenses of £18.82 (cost of magnets for noticeboard and photocopying) had also to be paid to RG. This was agreed.

8.0 Youth 2000 Project

RG reported that funds available were £545.82 and £4,228.35

JW reported that, as instructed, he had accepted the lowest tender for repainting the shelters, including for anti-vandal paint. The work would proceed after the Easter holidays.

9.0 Banchory Community Fund

RG reported that 2 applications had been received.

An application from the Skateboard Park group was incomplete, and its consideration was deferred, but will be reviewed as soon as it is re-submitted.

An application by BSV for £10k was approved, bringing the total amount raised by the Banchory community to the target total.

BCC approved both these recommendations. It was suggested that if possible publicity should be arranged for the cheque presentation.

10.0 BCAP

Chair reported that the final consultation event (including with potential delivery partners) had been held on 23rd March. It was well attended, and some forceful views expressed – particularly about the condition of Banchory's schools. The feedback was being collated by

MAP and would be available at the BCAP meeting tomorrow night.

Following consideration of the feedback, the CAP would be finalised and published.

11.0 Community Resilience Plan

DC reported that further good progress had been made. Discussions with Shire Emergency Planning Officer (who liaises with Police, Fire etc.), and with Scouts and West Church had concluded successfully. Plan was now in the 'writing up' stage, and it was hoped to have it available for consideration by BCC in June.

12.0 Keith White Award

JW reported that he had drafted a letter of invitation calling for nominees, and this had been circulated to the uniformed organisations. Despite the school holidays, applications were already coming in. The closing date for applications was 19th May, with the award being made at the River Festival in June. RG reported that she had contacted the Lions, with a view to confirming all the arrangements.

13.0 CC Representatives

13.1 Planning : HM reported that most recent applications had been for minor works and householder improvements. An application by the Co-op for new signage in the High Street would be looked at.

13.2 Community Learning and Development : Nothing to report.

13.3 BDI : RG reported that BDI had held their AGM. Two new directors had been appointed.

Work on the community garden at Bellfield was progressing.

River Dee Radio was doing well, with 3 new shows in production.

HUB No1 was also doing reasonably well, but the Youth café on Friday nights had been stopped, as too many youngsters were attending relative to the number of volunteers, and it had become too difficult to manage safely. It was agreed that there was a clear need for more community workers in Banchory.

Increased footfall in the High Street had been identified on the days when the Farmers' Market was held. Local businesses were welcoming the over-spill spending.

The Pipe Band Competition will be on 14th May this year, and is also expected to bring in more business.

JH also reported that funding for the Town Co-ordinator had been reduced, which resulted in a reduction in hours worked.

13.4 BSV : RG reported that c.£690k had been raised, and with the £10k from the Windfarm fund, the target had been reached. The project will be tendered in April, and the results reported to the Council in June. The 'Coming Soon' sign was expected to be erected

soon.

The chair thanked Rebecca for all her hard work, over an extended period, on the fundraising, and a vote of thanks was unanimously agreed.

13.5 First Responders : Nothing to report.

13.6 Community Safety Forum : Nothing to report.

14.0 AOCB

14.1 DC raised the issue of whether there had been any progress on resolving the potential competing use of the current sports centre by the school and community groups, following the opening of the BSV. Shire Council were reportedly looking at this, but nothing appeared to be finalised. RG to enquire as to progress at the next Academy PC meeting.

14.2 DC raised the issue of the standard of litter bins in the High Street. It was felt this was part of the Council signage' project. HM to check with Lizzy Shepherd.

There was no other business

15.0 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 8th May at Banchory Academy Library.

7.00pm for AGM, and 7.30pm. for the normal meeting.