

BANCHORY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING ON MONDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2017

Held at : Banchory Academy Library at 7.30pm.

Present : M. Lennox (chair ML), L. McNab (Treasurer LM), H. McNab (Acting Secretary HM), D. Milner (DM), A. Murison (AM)

Councillors : E. Durno

Members of Public : A. Ross, and T. Tulett (both potential CC members)

1 Welcome and Apologies

ML noted apologies from Councillors Ross, and Bruce, as well as from CC members D. Conroy, V. Kerridge, and J. Wills. She also welcomed the members of the public who were attending as potential CC members.

2 Co-option of New Member

ML explained that A.Ross CV had been circulated to all CC members, and there was a general consensus that AR was an excellent candidate, and should be co-opted. This was agreed.

ML advised that if T. Tulett remained keen on joining the CC, a similar process would be undertaken, hopefully leading to co-option at the next meeting.

3 Councillor's Report

A)Cllr. Durno reported that she had not had feedback yet from VK on the incident where a disabled group had not been able to access the A- B bus service. However she reported that initial feedback was that the service was generally working well, with circa 400 person trips in the first month. A public survey on the operation of the service will be carried out in the new year.

B) Cllr. Durno reported on the visit by all 3 Banchory councillors to the Crow's Nest Recycling Centre, noting that the recent changes to the layout had been generated by H+S concerns. However, further adjustments were being considered, and a revised layout is to be developed for Councillors review. Therefore there will be no further review for approval, and nor will there be a public consultation.

C) Cllr. Durno noted that AC were carrying out a parking survey, which was available on-line. She encouraged all CC Members to complete the survey.

D) Cllr. Durno further reported that a ward-wide visit was planned with the AC CEO in

January / February 2018. Potential topics for discussion / sites to see, were to be forwarded to all 3 councillors.

4 Guest Speaker

Lizzie Shepherd, the Area Project Officer for South Marr, outlined her job profile, which included acting as liaison between BCC and the Area Manager.

She then discussed the Banchory Signage Project, which was now being implemented, and which it was hoped to complete in early November. The project included – new finger posts, an information hub in Bellfield Carpark, along with the replacement of information panels, litter bins, and some benches.

She also provided information on : a) the parking survey, b) the meeting held with the Area Manager to discuss how AC could help deliver BCAP, as well as c) advising that the Marr Area management team were preparing a Banchory Strategy. Its formulation will be informed by BCAP, and will be reported to the Area Committee for Councillors input.

ML noted that the new Scheme of Establishment for CCs had now been agreed by AC, and asked whether any further guidance would be forthcoming. LS felt this might depend on feedback from CCs, as they moved towards adjusting their constitutions in compliance with the new Scheme.

5 Approval of September Minutes

ML noted that the draft Minutes gave the DONM as 9th rather than 16th October. With this adjustment, the Minutes were approved on motion by DM seconded by AM.

There were no Matters Arising which were not on the agenda.

6 Correspondence

6.1 Proposed LDP Workshop : ML noted that this had now been arranged for 7th November, and encouraged all to attend.

Also noted conflict with Glen Dye Windfarm meeting, which DC and HM were also due to attend. DC and HM to resolve.

6.2 Review of AC Licensing Policy : ML noted that no comments had been received

6.3 ML reported that BDI had informed her that the Town Co-ordinators hours had been reduced, due to a cut in funding from AC.

6.4 LM reported a letter drawing attention to graffiti near Morrison's supermarket. AM noted that this had also appeared in various other areas of town. Agreed the matter should be reported to the Police. DM to raise At his next meeting with them.

7 Treasurer's Report

LM reported current balances as :

Youth 2000 Fund £3,000.56,

Youth 2000 Current Account £429.51,
BCC Account £1,764.54 (with all outstanding bills settled).

8 Banchory Community Fund

LM reported that BCC had a current credit of £15,353.00 in the account held on our behalf by the Windfarm. The next payment from the windfarm will be mid 2018. The account receives circa £5k per year, but the amount varies depending on wind power generated.

LM reported that 2 applications for assistance had been received, and a further application was pending. These were :

a) HoB Neighbourhood Watch, requesting funding of £155 to pay for Neighbourhood Watch signs. This was agreed subject to confirmation that signs were not available FOC from Police Scotland.

b) BDI, requesting £5k contribution towards their annual running costs of c.£26k, in particular to meet rent of c.£19k. Assistance was also being sought from other sources. Agreed to defer consideration, to enable LM to obtain a fuller picture of position reached after seeking alternative sources.

c) Skateboard Park renewal group, were seeking funding of c. £10k to undertake a feasibility study on viability of new skateboard park. LM reported that some elements of the application had still to be completed, so it was agreed to await finalisation of all application details.

9 BCAP

9.1 ML reported on a meeting held with the Marr Area Manager, Janelle Clark, to clarify how AC could assist with the delivery of BCAP. LS had produced a minute of the meeting which had still to be reviewed. HM and ML to meet, and review the Minute.

9.2 ML reported that a meeting had been held with AC officials to discuss the condition of Banchory's schools, with a particular focus on the refurbishment and replacement of Banchory Academy. Craig Clements explained current position with AC School Estate, and described improvements planned for BA, when pool is closed and that area is released for redevelopment. A new 'learning plaza' is to be formed, which BA head indicated was much needed, and would help with curriculum development.

However, the consensus was that a new academy was still needed, and a lobbying group was formed to drive that project towards inclusion in the AC development programme.

A.Ross had been elected to lead that group. Although this was initially as a parent, further to his co-option, he will now also represent BCC.

Cllr. Durno reported that she had raised the matter with her own party, and was assembling background information on how other such campaigns (as in Fraserburgh and Peterhead) had been successful.

10 Community Resilience Plan

DM reported that they were nearing the end of the process of plan adoption. Meetings had been held with the Scouts and West Church, and both bodies were 'on-board'. A meeting will now be held, next Tuesday, with AC Emergency Planning Officer (EPO) to work through the plan.

Although the EPO would normally decide whether a full 'table top' exercise was necessary, it was generally felt that this would be desirable, and that as many of the CC members as possible should be involved.

11 Keith White Award

As neither VK or JW were present, it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

12 Coat of Arms

ML reported that she and DC had met with G.Walkden, and it was agreed that the CC would retain the absolute right to decide on its use. Also agreed there would be no cost to BCC in adoption of Arms. There is to be a further meeting with G.Casely this month to discuss design details.

13 BCC Representatives

13.1 Planning : HM reported on the following recent planning applications -

Duncan's of Banchory. Following the discussion at the last BCC meeting no member had expressed objections to the relocation of the shop to the office building on the A93. So no objections had been lodged. There was now an application to convert the upper floor of the existing Dee Street shop to residential use. It was agreed that this was a sensible use.

AC had applied to provide disabled access ramp and other facilities at the Town Hall. This application was supported.

AC had also applied to provide staff welfare facilities at the Crow's Nest recycling centre. Some bunkers were also being relocated. The work did not affect the public area discussed under the Councillors Report above. Following discussion about the scale of the operation at the centre, it was agreed there were no objection to the application, but Cllr. Durno to enquire about long term plans for the centre at the next meeting with officers.

13.2 First Responders : DM reported that the next meeting of the group had still to be fixed, but (as previously agreed) he had arranged for a defibrillator / CPR demonstration by the group at the next CC meeting.

13.3 Police Liaison : DM had been in touch with Inspector Smith, who was happy for his team to have regular CC liaison meetings. DM to now meet regularly with Sgt. G. Garrow, and report back to CC.

13.4 Community Safety Forum : DM had been in touch with N. Makin, and reported that the first meeting of the group would be this Thursday at Aboyne.

13.5 Marr Area Bus Forum : ML noted that the group had met at Aboyne when VK was on leave, and had not managed to attend.

14 AOCB

14.1 : DM reported on developments at the Bells Wood area. A 'watching brief' arrangement was now in place, with T.Tullet in regular contact with AC officials. The arrangements appeared to be working well, although the historic issues (of how the initial situation had transpired) had still to be resolved.

15 Date of Next Meeting

DONM be Monday 13th November, at Academy Library, with a start time of 7pm for the First Responders demonstration, and the CC meeting thereafter at 7.30pm.