

## **Boat of Garten & Vicinity Community Council**

### **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13 June 2022**

#### **In Boat of Garten Community Hall**

**1. Record of Attendees and Apologies Received:**

**Community Council Members:** Kathryn Gillings, John Dickson, Alan Bennet, Valerie Fairweather, Alison Morris.

**Ex Officio:** Muriel Cockburn

**Members of the Public:** Kirsty McLaughlan (Scottish Water), Gavin Steel (Scottish Water), Harriet von Einsiedel, Maureen Hendry, Gordon Bullock

**Apologies:** Willie Mckenna (CNPA)

**2. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9 May 2021:**

The minutes were proposed as an accurate record of the meeting by Alan Bennet and seconded by Kathryn Gillings.

**3. Police Report:**

The meeting was joined by Neil Maciver and colleague from the Police Service and therefore interrupted the agenda to take the Police report in person.

There have been 18 incidents in the village since 1 April:

- Miscellaneous matters	1
- False call good intent	2
- Alarm activations	2
- Road traffic speeding	1
- Thefts	1
- Fires	1
- Noise disturbance	1
- Abandoned 999 calls	2
- Frauds	1
- Animals on road	1
- Fly tipping	1
- Road accidents	1
- Abandoned vehicles	2
- Concern for person	1

PC Maciver and colleagues were keeping an eye on the double yellow lines during the day, though he commented that only Traffic Wardens can issue parking tickets. Muriel Cockburn commented that she would request the deployment of Traffic Wardens on occasions in the village. Valerie Fairweather added that she had seen people abusing the single yellow line. Alison Morris raised the issue of an individual in the village who appeared to be vulnerable. PC Maciver reassured the meeting that, if there were concerns, they should be reported to the Police who will follow up with a sensitive visit.

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

There were none to report.

**5. Declarations of Interest:**

There were none to report.

**6. Visit of Mr Gavin Steel and Ms Kirsty McLaughlan of Scottish Water:**

Mr Steel & Ms McLaughlan gave a short presentation covering Scottish Water generally, the Boat of Garten Waste-water Treatment Works (WwTW), wider environmental issues and provided contact details.

The discussion then opened up: the main concern of the community with the current planning application is the visual impact. It was recognised that the plant has had a lot of problems since its inception, but the response to these problems has created an incremental impact on the visual environment. Ms McLaughlan responded that the problem was the structure below ground which limited the options for remedial actions.

Gordon Bullock suggested that, in view of the money already spent on the plant, it wouldn't cost much more to move the pumping equipment to the far end of the site away from the road. Ms McLaughlan repeated that the issue is the underground structures. Mr Steel added that they would get clarification on the engineering and that Scottish Water does not wish to be at war with the community and will listen.

Ms McLaughlan commented that in recent years, the focus has been on odour management and not really on the visual impact of the works.

Alan Bennet asked that Scottish Water should look at the steps to mitigate the visual impact and that in the meantime the planning application could be held pending. Mr Steel replied that the Scottish Water will proceed with the planning application but they may not proceed with all the works included in the scheme.

Following a question, Muriel Cockburn suggested that the secretary send an email to David Moody, the South Planning Manager, to thank the Scottish Water personnel for visiting the Community Council to consult over the planning application and to record the concern of the Community Council over the visual impact of the proposed changes.

Finally, Gordon Bullock pointed out that, as far as he was aware, there was a requirement for a recorded risk assessment whenever works were proposed close to the River Spey, and that there was no sign of such a risk assessment within the planning application. Ms McLaughlan responded that they would check that requirement.

The meeting thanked Mr Steel & Ms McLaughlan for taking the time to visit the site earlier in the afternoon and attend the Community Council Meeting, and most of all for listening to the views of the community.

Mr Steel, Ms McLaughlan, Ms Hendry and Mr Bullock all left the meeting.

**7. Finance Report:**

Alan Bennet delivered the finance report which was essentially the same as delivered at the AGM previously. There were no questions.

**8. Planning Matters:**

There have been no matters of relevance to the Council in recent weeks.

**9. Reports:**

**a. NHS:**

Muriel Cockburn reported that the regular care unit is 9 months behind schedule and that Grantown Healthcare Practise has struggled to recruit sufficient staff.

**b. CNPA:**

The meeting acknowledged the apologies of Willie McKenna who was unavailable to deliver a report.

**10. Other Competent Business:**

- a. Christmas Tree:** Alan Bennet informed the meeting that David Mills at the Sawmill has sourced an appropriate tree, a Norway Spruce in a nursery in Whitchurch. It will be delivered and planted in the autumn. The meeting thanked Mr Mills for his generous support.
- b. Publicity:** Valerie Fairweather asked whether Muriel Cockburn and/or the other newly elected councillors could write something for the “Strathie” to explain and advertise the work of Community Councils as a way to raise awareness and perhaps encourage more volunteers to come forward.
- c. Constitution:** Alan Bennet pointed out to the meeting that, in accordance with the constitution, with only 3 elected members (Alan, Valerie and Kathryn), as a council we are allowed no more than two co-opted members (John and Alison). We are therefore not able to co-opt more members until after the “Interim Elections” in September, when co-opted members will become elected members. In view of this, we should keep in contact with those who have expressed interest in joining the Council and specifically invite them to engage in September. Muriel Cockburn added that it would be a good opportunity to invite the new ward manager, Lewis Hannah, to attend a meeting.
- d. A95 Trunk Road Realignment:** Following enquiries from members of the community, Alan Bennet reported that he had written to Bear in support of the realignment and to ask for an extension of the cycle and foot-path through Drumullie to connect with the back pathway into the village.
- e. Emergency Plan:** Alan Bennet reported that the Chair of the Community Hall has been in touch with Highland Council regarding the preparation of an Emergency Plan for the village and had asked whether the Community Council want to participate in its preparation. Alan volunteered to engage with the process.
- f. Flower Beds:** Alan Bennet proposed a vote of thanks for Ali Trinder and neighbours in Grampian Crescent who have so carefully looked after the flower bed at the entrance to the village for the last four years or so.
- g. Painting of Benches:** Kathryn Gillings reported that the benches on the green are now looking as though they need a coat of paint and asked the question, “Whose responsibility are they?” Alan Bennet pointed out that those specific benches are the responsibility of Highland Council and Cllr Cockburn suggested this could be covered by the Community payback scheme.

**11. Date of Next Meeting:**

The Chair advised that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 12 September at 7.00pm

in the Boat of Garten Community Hall.

The Chair thanked all attendants for their participation in what had been an lengthy meeting, and brought the meeting to a close.