

Boat of Garten & Vicinity Community Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17 October 2022

In Boat of Garten Community Hall

1. Record of Attendees and Apologies Received:

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

Police Scotland: Neil MacIver

Members of the Public: Malcolm Clark

Apologies: Muriel Cockburn

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13 June 2022:

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

3. Matters Arising:

- a. Item 6: Alan Bennet suggested we ask Highland Council Planning Department to monitor Scottish Water's modifications to the Waste-water Treatment Works and check compliance with the conditions that have been applied. The Secretary was asked to write to the Planning Manager South, David Mudie.
- b. Item 10a: Alan Bennet observed that with the sawmill having closed, there will not now be a donation of a living Christmas Tree, as a result he proposed reverting to the Seafeld Estate to request the donation of a cut tree. Alison Morris suggested that a living tree might be available from the Revak Estate. We also need to decide whether to proceed with the Christmas Lights, this was proposed by Valerie Fairweather and seconded by Kathryn Gillings.
- c. Item 10d: Alan Bennet commented that while we haven't heard officially it would seem the A95 realignment was still some years off, at a recent meeting it appears that the prospects of a new path from Drumullie to Boat of Garten are more optimistic.

4. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Finance:

Alan Bennet presented the Treasurer's Report.

With expenditure of £610 and income of £359, the balance in the account has reduced to £979. However, income is due of around £350 from advertisers in the Spring BoG Standard, £630 from advertisers in the Autumn BoG Standard and the Highland Council grant of £400.

Malcolm Clark asked if a copy of the financial report could be made routinely available. The Secretary agreed to append the report to the minutes of the meeting. Mr Clark also asked about funding for the Ranger. Alan Bennet replied that the Ranger may have originally been

funded by the Community Company, not by the Community Council.

Mr Clark also asked about the leaflets providing information on the walks around the village which are out of date and need to be redone. Alan Bennet replied that these were the responsibility of the National Park (CNPA).

6. Planning Matters:

- a. Malcolm Clark asked whether planning had been granted for the four houses proposed for the Old Goatfield site. It was pointed out that Highland Council (HC) does not give the Community Council notice when planning is granted. Interested parties should refer to the planning website.
- b. John Dickson suggested that the Community Council should ask Highland Council to explain their intentions for the saw-mill site. Alan Bennet commented that this should also be referred to the CNPA. The meeting agreed that it was disappointing that no representatives of either body were attending.

7. Reports:

a. Police:

Neil MacIver presented the Police Report. 14 calls had been recorded from 1 August up to the present broken down as follows:

Concern for person:	3
Drink driving:	1
Lost/found property:	1
Sudden deaths:	1
Drunk persons:	1
Abandoned 999 calls:	3
Abandoned vehicles:	1
Misc matters:	1
Civil advice:	1
Housebreaking/theft:	1
Road Traffic matters:	1

The high number of recent road fatalities was discussed. Neil MacIver reported that accident investigations have so far failed to identify any common cause of the spate of accidents.

Malcolm Clark asked whether there were complaints about noisy parties. Neil MacIver said there hadn't been any recently.

It was pointed out that a distinctive blue car has been frequently seen speeding through the village, Neil MacIver said if he was supplied with the registration number he will trace and have a word with the offender.

Kathryn Gillings asked if the speed control sign could be moved further out towards the edge of the speed limit zone.

b. NHS:

No report had been received from the NHS

c. CNPA:

No report had been received from the Cairngorm National Park Authority.

8. Report from the Badenoch & Strathspey Community Councils Forum

Valerie Fairweather and Alison Morris attended the forum to represent the Community Council. The forum was well attended by community council representatives and other bodies but it was noted that there was no representative from the CNPA, and also that the Highland Council Ward Manager failed to turn up.

There was a particularly good report from the Police; a new Area Inspector has been appointed covering from Nairn to the Isle of Skye.

The subject of Emergency Planning was much discussed. Carrbridge have finalised their Emergency Plan and offer it as a template to other villages. It was suggested that we should invite Karen Derrick to a future meeting, along with Alan Gristwood of the Community Hall, to talk about an Emergency Plan for Boat of Garten.

9. Other Competent Business:

- a. The Editor of the BoG standard had requested information regarding the status of the Community Council following the brief period in abeyance. Alan Bennet volunteered to provide a response.
- b. Alan Bennet had received an email from the Seafeld Estate referring to planned thinning of the woodland around Boat of Garten. The text of the email will be appended to these minutes

10. There were no other questions or comments from members of the public.

11. Date of Next Meeting:

The next ordinary meeting of the Boat of Garten Community Council will be held on Monday 14 November at 7.00pm in the Boat of Garten Community Hall.

The following are proposed as dates for future meetings:

Monday 12 December 2022

Monday 13 February 2023

Monday 13 March 2023

Monday 10 April 2023

Monday 15 May 2023

Monday 12 June 2023: AGM with ordinary meeting to follow

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Boat of Garten and Vicinity Community Council

Treasurers Report for meeting 17/10/2022

Treasurers Account	£	
Balance at 02/05/22	1230.60	
Balance at 17/10/22	979.17	
Credits this Period	285.00	BoG Standard advertising
	74.45.	Tea Party donation
	359.45	
Debits this Period	478.00	Printing BoG Standard
	54.00.	Hall hire x 3
	43.88	Flower bed materials
	35.00	Data protection register
	610.88	
Environmental Account		
Balance at 02/05/22	3829.82	
Balance at 17/10/22	3829.82	
Credits this Period	0.00	
Debits this Period	0.00	

Alan Bennet, Treasurer

Boat of Garten & Vicinity Community Council 17/10/22

Text of email from Seafield Estate:

Dear Community Members,

Seafield Estate last thinned the woodland just to the south of the village in 2012/13 and it is now time for it to be thinned again. The work will take place over autumn and winter 2022/23 with the start date depending on availability of contractors. Woodland thinning is an important silvicultural practice which involves removing a percentage of the trees to improve the quality and form of the remainder, as well as providing employment and timber income for the estate. It also improves the woodland habitat which is important for species including Red Squirrel and Capercaillie.

To ensure safe working during the thinning operation it will be necessary to close or limit access on sections of the paths while machinery is working. Every effort will be taken to prevent damage to the trails and they will be reinstated and re-opened once the operation has finished and the site is safe.

Warning and no entry signs will be placed at the boundary of the active part of the harvesting site. These signs are in place for everyone's safety and we would ask you to follow all instructions on them. Ignoring the signs means the operators have to stop working and this makes the operation take longer with more inconvenience for the users of the paths in the woodland.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the planned operation then please do not hesitate to get in touch with the forest manager, Caitlin Erskine via email: caitlin.erskin@seafield-estate.co.uk.