

BOAT OF GARTEN AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13th February 2023 at 7.00pm in Boat of Garten Community Hall

1. Record of Attendees and Apologies Received:

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

Ex Officio: Muriel Cockburn (Member, Highland Council)

Members of the Public: None Present

Apologies: Neil Maciver (Police Scotland)

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 28th November 2022:

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

3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda.

4. Declarations of Interest:

4.a Concerns arising regarding Drug Dependency

Muriel Cockburn advised that in a recent report, the demographic in the Highlands appears not to be the younger generation, but to be older peoples dependency on prescription medications.

5. Finance:

Alan Bennett presented the Treasurer's Report.

5.a Questions regarding funds put aside for the living Christmas Tree

Kathryn Gillings asked what happened regarding the living Christmas tree with rootball. Alan Bennet responded that with the closure of the sawmill, provision of the tree did not happen. However, he looked into an alternative source, but the cost was problematic at over £900.

5.b Remembrance Day wreaths

Kathryn Gillings asked about a repeat order for a Remembrance Day wreath, but Alan Bennet responded that it is only once a year and would not be economical as there is no saving.

5.c Christmas Lights

Alan Bennet spoke about previous unsuccessful attempts to improve the village Christmas Lights by fundraising.

Kathryn Gillings asked, since the Community Council pays for the Christmas Lights, do we know why they had been taken down so late in the evening, after 11pm. No answer was available.

6. Planning Matters:

6.a Short Term Lets

Multiple questions were raised regarding Short Term Holiday Lets in the village, in the light of recent applications, many of which are understood to be repeats. Why has the Highland Council allowed so many through? As yet there has been no formal explanation from HC.

7. Reports:

7.a Police:

Report attached. Neil Maciver was unable to attend.

7.b NHS:

Muriel Cockburn reported regarding possible opening of a new Hospital in Inverness in March 2023.

NHS Highlands Care at Home service is struggling.

7.c CNPA:

Applications for the forthcoming National Park Authority elections were due in by Friday 17th February 2023.

Colin Simpson (Head of Visitor Services and Active Travel) sent an email regarding the broken brown sign at the entrance to the village. Responsibility for the sign has been difficult to establish. Colin is attempting to deal with this matter.

7.d Schools:

Local schools are at near capacity, with only a few places remaining.

8. Any Other Competent Business

8.a Complaint to Strathspey Steam Railway

Valerie Fairweather raised concerns regarding the broken curb on the opposite side of the road to the Boat Hotel, resulting from railway stock movements by the Strathspey Steam Railway. Dave at the Post Office uploaded photos of the damage to Facebook. Responsibility has apparently now been accepted by the railway, but Muriel Cockburn will be checking the veracity of this.

8.b Request from Highland Council for copies of meeting minutes and accounts for year 2021-22

Email received 6th February 2023 from Lorraine Farquharson at Community Council Support. Approved to be sent, to release funding. [Sent on 15th February 2023]

8.c Badenoch and Strathspey Community Councils Forum

This is due to take place on 16th March 2023. Alan Bennet will be attending.

8.d Community Map Scotland

No interest from the community council regarding this online event.

8.e Play Area Signage

Alison Morris raised a question regarding the lack of signage on the main road through the village, for the children's play area at the community hall. Visitors are unaware about where this facility is located. Muriel Cockburn responded that she would look into this.

8.f Traffic Calming and Active Travel

Alan Bennet advised that there will be a Drop-In centre on the subject of Traffic Calming and Active Travel at the Boat of Garten Community Hall on Friday 3rd March, from 4pm-7pm.

9. The next ordinary meeting of the Community Council was scheduled for Monday 13th March 2023 at 7.00pm in the Boat of Garten Community Hall. Due to a member, Valerie Fairweather, not being unable to attend; that meeting would not be quorate. Therefore the next ordinary meeting of the Community Council is proposed for Monday 10th April 2023 at 7.00pm in the Boat of Garten Community Hall. This date and time is already confirmed on the Hall calendar.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Revision (22nd March 2023):

Due to council members being unable to attend on Monday 10th April 2023, the next ordinary meeting of the Community Council will be held on Tuesday 11th April 2023 at 7.00pm in the Boat of Garten Community Hall. This date and time has now been confirmed on the Hall calendar.

ANIMALS
ON ROAD
I

ROAD TRAFFIC
MATTERS
II

SUSPICIOUS
PERSONS
I

ROAD
ACCIDENTS
III

ARM
ACTIVATIONS
I

MISCELLANEOUS
MATTERS
II

VANDALISM
II

14 incidents between
01/01/23 and 13/02/23.