

BOAT OF GARTEN AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Revised Draft MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 12th June 2023 in Boat of Garten Community Hall

1. Record of Attendees and Apologies Received:

Community Council Members: Kathryn Gillings - Chair, Alan Bennet - Treasurer, Valerie Fairweather, Donald Walker, Alison Morris - Secretary.

Ex Officio: John Bruce - Highland Council

Members of the Public: Rebecca Watts - CNPA, Ben Sparham, Lesley Taylor, Kevin Redgewell

Apologies: Neil Maciver - Police Scotland, Muriel Cockburn - Highland Council

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th June 2022:

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

3. Chair's Annual Report:

This year has again seen many changes. Some in the village and some within the community council. In November, John Dickson, Secretary, tendered his resignation from the council as he was moving away. His input and energy have been sadly missed. His role was taken on by Alison Morris as Secretary, ably filling the gap left by John.

In May, Don Walker was added to our number. We have had just 7 meetings this year, with 1 cancelled in March as we would have been inquorate. The November meeting was delayed by 2 weeks, so December was not held, and no meeting was held in January.

In April we were sad to learn of the death of Alison Fielding, a member, then chair of the Community Council for many years. Her work for the village and further afield was invaluable. Several members of the council were able to attend her funeral.

Over the past year the sawmill in the village has closed and been decommissioned. The sawmill was not only an important employer, but very much part of the village. We wait to see who takes over the site.

We have had several discussions with Scottish Water, both at our meetings at their water treatment plant. This was because of the terrible smells that invaded the lower part of the village when the storage tanks were being emptied. Concerns were raised about raw sewage discharged into the river. Objections were raised regarding the security and screening work being proposed for the site. This has since been slightly modified.

Considerable time has been given to obtaining a decent size live Christmas tree. Unfortunately, as the sawmill was going to help us with this, with the closure we were back to square one and we are not sure how to proceed.

There has been a vehicle regularly speeding through the village, which has caused much consternation to a lot of villagers, because of the dangers. Unfortunately, because it goes so fast, nobody has managed to record the licence number.

Chris Carter came to a meeting with a query regarding the state of the Children's Playground. He takes his grandchildren there and finds it uninspiring. A possible funding source may be available to upgrade the equipment. Chris has been asked to get photographs of more exciting and safer playgrounds to help with any application we may make.

One of the most important things we do is monitor the planning applications in the village and vicinity. Since the introduction of new registration requirements for Short-Term Lets, a number of recent applications relate to this. This ruling affects not just self-catering cottages, flats, etc.; but also traditional Bed and Breakfast businesses.

Representatives were sent to two Community Council Forums held during the year. It is a way of communicating information between this and other Community Councils, to discuss views and ideas.

Our most pressing problem at present is the resignation of Steve Goodall as editor of the BoG Standard; and the Technical Editor, James Morris, will be moving to Italy in due course. I am going to have a meeting with the Chairs of the Community Company and the Community Hall in the hope that we may be able to come up with some form of joint action.

Neil Maciver, our local representative of Police Scotland, keeps us up to date with incidents in the village and surrounding vicinity. Muriel Cockburn, Councillor, has attended our meetings when she can. Both her input and support have been invaluable. Our sincere thanks to them both.

The Community Council exists to give help and support, where it is possible, within the community. This November will see elections to the Community Council and we would welcome new members.

4. Treasurer's Annual Report:

Financially, 2022-23 has been yet another relatively quiet year.

The key financial factors were:

- 1) With income of £2846.59 and expenditure of £3209.68, we ended the year with a deficit of £363.09.
- 2) The deficit for the year is currently affordable and in part is due to timing differences. Our accounts are prepared on a cash basis and therefore shows expenditure for 4 editions of the BoG Standard but only has income from 3.
- 3) When added to the balance at the end of 2021-22 of £5501.42 we now have total funds of £5138.33. This is split between the Environmental account £3829.82 and the Treasurers account £1308.51.

- 4) There were no transactions on the Environmental account during 2022-23.
- 5) The Treasurers account shows income of £2846.59 being a donation of £600 from the Reidhaven Estate, advertising income of £1735 via the BoG Standard, £74.45 from village jubilee celebrations and an administration grant of £437.14 from Highland Council.
- 6) Expenditure breaks down into administrative costs of £588.68, £660 to Highland Council for the installation and removal of the Festive lighting and £1961.00 for the printing of our community newsletter, the BoG Standard.

At this moment, it would also seem appropriate to raise a couple of issues which could impact on our finances. As we know the BoG Standard is currently in abeyance and until it's future is clarified this will have an impact on our finances especially as it is one of our few sources of income. We also have to consider the village festive lights, we are currently using the annual donation from the Reidhaven Trust to cover most of the installation costs and we need to consider whether this is the best use of funds going forward.

In closing, there are a number of people to thank. Firstly, we are grateful to Reidhaven Estate for their continued support and donation of £600 to the community. We are also grateful for all those involved with the BoG Standard which continues to provide us with additional income. To mention a few, our varied and loyal advertisers, Groverprint for continuing to keep costs low, the editor Steve Goodall supported by James Morris, John Dickson and Jackie Wilson for their work with our advertisers and of course thanks to the team of BoG Standard distributors. Finally, thanks to John O'Donnell for his added scrutiny and examining the accounts.

5. Demit of current office bearers and election of office bearers :

All office holders stood down.

Kathryn Gillings was proposed as Chair by Alan Bennet and seconded by Alison Morris.

Alan Bennet was proposed as Treasurer by Valerie Fairweater and seconded by Donald Walker.

Alison Morris was proposed as Secretary by Alan Bennet and seconded by Kathryn Gillings.

6. Chairperson to declare a provisional date of the next AGM and close meeting:

Kathryn Gillings declared that the provisional date of the next AGM will be Monday 10th June 2024, following which she brought the meeting to a close.

Community Councils						
Standard Financial Reporting Format - Example						
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2023						
Boat of Garten & Vicinity	Community Council			2023	2022	
Income				£	£	£
Highland Council Grant					437.14	437.14
Sponsorship						
None				0.00		
				0.00		
					0.00	0.00
Donations						
Reidhaven Estate				600.00		
Jubilee income from Church				74.45		
					674.45	600.00
Contributions Received						
None				0.00		
					0.00	0.00
Other Income						
BoG standard advertising				1735.00		
				0.00		
					1735.00	1785.00
Deposit Account interest					0.00	0.00
Total Income					2846.59	2822.14
Expenditure						
Highland Council Grant	Secretary's Expenses			0.00		
	Chair Expenses			49.80		
	Treasurer Expenses			0.00		
	Room Hire			124.00		
	Data Protection fees			35.00		
	Insurance			86.00		
	Website support			0.00		
	Community Newsletter costs			1961.00		
	Secretary's Honoraria			250.00		
					2505.80	1157.80
Donations				0.00		
					0.00	0.00
Maintenance Work				43.88		
					43.88	0.00
Transfer received in error returned					0.00	0.00
Community Events						
	Installation of Festive Lights			660.00		
					660.00	660.00
Total Expenditure					3209.68	1817.80
Surplus/Deficit for the year					-363.09	1004.34
Add Balance brought forward					1805.26	800.92
Balance carried forward					1442.17	1805.26

Community Councils									
Standard Financial Reporting Format - Example									
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2023									
Boat of Garten & Vicir Community Council							2023	2022	
Fixed Assets					£	£	£	£	
None						-			
						-			
							0.00	£0.00	
Current Assets									
Treasurers Current Account						1,308.51			
Environmental Current Account						3,829.82			
							5,138.33	5,501.42	
Net Assets							5,138.33	5,501.42	
Represented By									
Capital Valuation Account							0.00	£0.00	
Revenue Reserves									
Balance at 1.04.22						5,501.42			
Less prior year debits/credits						-			
Surplus for year						- 363.09			
Balance at 31.03.23							5,138.33	5,501.42	
Total Funding							5,138.33	5,501.42	
Independent Examiners Certificate									
I hereby certify that the Accounts to the 31st March 2023 are an accurate summary of the underlying books and records of Boat of Garten & Vicinity Community Council.									
Signature:		John O'Donnell							
Print Name		John O'Donnell							