

## **BOAT OF GARTEN AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Draft MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2024 in Boat of Garten Community Hall**

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

**Community Council Members:** Kathryn Gillings (KG), Chair; Alan Bennet (AB), Treasurer; Alison Morris (AM); Lesley Taylor (LT), Secretary; Don Walker (DW)

**Ex Officio:** Muriel Cockburn, member, Highland Council

**Members of the Public:** Valerie Fairweather (VF); Sue Murray (SM); John O'Donnell (JOD), Community Housing Trust; Jackie Wilson (JW), BoG Standard

**Apologies:** Neil Maciver - Police Scotland

#### **2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12th June 2023:**

The minutes were proposed as an accurate record of the meeting by AB and seconded by AM.

#### **3. Chair's Annual Report:**

In the past year we've had 8 meetings of the Community Council plus an inaugural meeting of the new Council in November 23. At present we have five members.

Over the year we discussed many subjects. The introduction of the 20 mph speed limit through the village caused a lot of discussion - mainly how it can be implemented. We had a lot of input into the plans for the Strathspey Park development. This will consist of 2 adapted houses, facilitated by the Community Housing Trust, and 2 for private sale by Seafield Estate. We had updates on the mini Meadows project run by CNP and a presentation from Ben Sparham on plans for a Community fruit and vegetable garden.

We were asked by Chris Carter about the possibility of upgrading the play park. Chris did a lot of research and produced photos. Deshar School did a project on their 'dream park'. Lesley went to the school and saw the innovative and sensible ideas that the pupils came up with. Unfortunately the funding for parks from Highland Council was allocated elsewhere.

Early last year the future of the BoG Standard was uncertain as we had no one to take over from Stephen Goodall. Thankfully a group of talented people got together to produce the paper. So far two successful issues have been produced.

A recurring theme is short term lets. Our village has a high proportion of properties that are not occupied full time. This can be detrimental to the life of the community. As a

council we decided not to object to planning applications on properties that have been holiday lets for several years but to object to new applications.

Other subjects have been forest fires, the sawmill site, extremely strong farming odours and a living Christmas tree for the Green.

In October there were elections for the Community Council. We had less than the max 7 members standing so Alan Bennet, Kathryn Gillings, Alison Morris, Lesley Taylor and Don Walker were duly appointed. Valerie Fairweather decided to retire after many years of service to the Community. She is very much missed.

Thanks to Muriel Cockburn, local Highland councillor, who is most helpful and supportive and to Neil Maciver, Police Scotland, who keeps us updated on local crime figures and answers our questions on the law.

A final thank you to members of the public who have come to our meetings over the year to ask questions, bring ideas or presentations or even to complain.  
Why not join us as a community councillor?

**Kathryn Gillings**  
**Chairperson, BoGCC**  
**13 May 2024**

Questions from the meeting:

JOD asked where the figures about the proportion of dwellings not occupied full time came from. MC said that the data would have been taken from the revenues department, Council Tax collection in Highland Council.

- *MC agreed to check the up to date figures and report back*

JOD expressed the opinion that short term lets can also have a positive effect on the community with revenue brought into the area, etc.

#### **4. Treasurers Report for the Financial Year 2023-24**

Financially, 2023-24 has been yet another quiet year.

The key financial factors were:

- 1) With income of £3032.32 and expenditure of £1997.18, we ended the year with a surplus of £1035.14.
- 2) The surplus for the year is mainly due to the BoG Standard. Our accounts are prepared on a cash basis and therefore shows some income relating to previous years as well as not having to pay the printing costs for the relaunch edition of the BoG Standard.
- 3) When added to the balance at the end of 2022-23 of £5138.33 we now have total funds of £6173.47. This is split between the Environmental account £4000.00 and the Treasurer's account £2173.47.

- 4) The only transaction on the Environmental account was a transfer in of £170.18 to round the fund up and show our bank the account was still active.
- 5) The Treasurer's account shows income of £2862.14 being a donation of £600 from the Reidhaven Estate, advertising income of £1700.00 via the BoG Standard, £125.00 refund and an administration grant of £437.14 from Highland Council.
- 6) Expenditure breaks down into administrative costs of £576, £684 to Highland Council for the installation and removal of the Festive lighting and £567.00 for the printing of our community newsletter, the BoG Standard.

At this moment in time, financially, our key activities appear to be meeting administrative costs required for a community council, organising the village festive lights using the Reidhaven donation as the principal funder for this and printing of and receiving advertising income from the BoG Standard.

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 extremely grateful for all those involved with the BoG Standard relaunch which continues to provide us with our additional income. To mention a few, our varied and loyal advertisers, Groverprint for continuing to keep costs competitive, the whole new editorial team (sadly too many to mention) who have given up a lot of their time and put in a tremendous effort to relaunch the BoG Standard and hopefully keep it going, the many contributors and Jackie Wilson for her work with our advertisers and of course thanks to the team of BoG Standard distributors.

Finally, thanks to John O'Donnell for his ongoing scrutiny and examination of the accounts. Thank you.

**Alan Bennet**

**Treasurer, BoGCC**

**6 May 2024**

Questions from the meeting:

KG asked if there had been any rebate from HC on the lights after a fault developed.

AB said there had not been a rebate but that HC had sent people out twice to try to fix the lights and that they had undertaken to fix the fault for next year.

#### **5. Demit of current office bearers and election of office bearers**

All office holders stood down. MC thanked all on BoGCC for the work they do. She asked for nominations for chairperson.

KG was proposed as Chair by AM and seconded by LT.

KG then asked for nominations for treasurer and secretary.

AB was proposed as Treasurer by LT and seconded by KG.

LT was proposed as Secretary by DW and seconded by AB.

AM said that she would be standing down from the community council.

KG thanked AM for her valuable contributions to the work of the council, both as a member and secretary.

- *LT to return details of office bearers to Highland Council*

6. KG declared that the provisional date of the next AGM will be **Monday 12th May 2025**, following which she brought the meeting to a close at 7.35pm.