

**BOAT OF GARTEN AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
(BoGCC)**

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Monday 11th November 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; Lesley Taylor (LT), Secretary; Don Walker (DW)

Ex Officio: Muriel Cockburn, (MC), Member, Highland Council

Voluntary Action in Badenoch & Strathspey (VABS): Karen Derrick (KD), Chief Officer; Alice Fogg (AF), Interim Chief Officer

Members of the Public: Valerie Fairweather (VF), Heather Barton (HB)

Apologies: Neil Maciver (NM), Police Scotland; A Pressey, Deshar Primary School

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th September 2024:

The minutes were proposed as an accurate record of the meeting by DW, seconded by AB.

3. Matters Arising

3a. **Resilience plan update** - LT emailed A Donovan, Senior Resilience Officer, Highland Council to ask for advice. The matter was referred on to another member of the Highland Council Resilience Team. No further response as yet.

- **MC will email to chase up**

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Reports

5a. Police

Incidents from 9th September to 11th November 2024

Sheep on the Road	1	Concern for person	1
Road accident	1	False call good intent	1
Total 4 Incidents			

Everyone was pleased to see the low number of incidents Sept-Nov.

5b. CNPA

Dan Harris (DH), Planning Manager (Forward Planning and Service Improvement), CNPA replied to our enquiry about the former sawmill site.

DH said that this is a site which CNPA can look to allocate in the next Local Development Plan. They will be holding a call for site consultations next year, which is when CNPA will first be looking at site related matters.

However, DH confirmed that the Local Development Plan (LDP) does not give CNPA any more power than is currently held by the Highland Council. The site is still privately owned and the landowner would need to be willing to do something with the site to get it developed.

DH said he would be happy to attend one of our meetings to explain the LDP and the work CNPA are currently doing. The community council felt that this could be helpful further down the line once we have had discussions with VABS about Community Action Plans/Place Plans.

- **LT to email DH**

6. Finance - Treasurer's Report for meeting 11/11/24

Boat of Garten and Vicinity Community Council

Treasurers Account	£	
Balance at 11/09/24	2685.89	
Balance at 06/11/24	2628.03	
Credits this Period	30.00	Bog Standard advertising
	437.14	Highland Council admin grant
	467.14	
Debits this Period	507.00	Printing BoG Standard winter
	18.00	Hall hires
	525.00	
Environmental Account		
Balance at 08/09/24	4000.00	
Balance at 06/11/24	4000.00	

No transactions for this period

Bank Charges

AB raised concerns about our current bank, Bank of Scotland, introducing charges for their banking services from the 14th January 2025.

The cost will be £4.25 per month per account. It appears this charge is being made to all clients like ourselves.

AB reported that he had looked at some other banks but these too appear to have charges.

We agreed that this raises questions for Highland Council's funding of community councils. The current admin grant does not cover this new cost, which will be at least £51 per year.

- **AB to contact L Hannah, HC Ward Manager for our area to record concerns**
- **MC to look into this with Highland Council**
- **KD asked AB to report back if he does find a suitable bank as all community groups will be affected**

7. Planning Matters

There were no planning matters requiring discussion.

8. Correspondence

8a. Highland Community Councils Scheme Review 2024/25 Survey

Community Councils are created and governed through a Scheme of Establishment developed by each Local Authority. The current Scheme commits the Highland Council to a review within each Local Government electoral cycle. This process is underway for the Election Term up to November 2027. BoGCC will complete a survey as part of the process.

- **BoGCC members to complete the survey at the end of this meeting**

8b. Unpleasant smells in the village

There was a further note of concern about the unpleasant smells in the village received in September 2024.

HC Environmental Health, as they had previously advised, reiterated that there are no specific regulatory controls on the spreading of manure and many of the new slurries.

MC advised that the concerned party could think about writing to the farmer directly to see if some solution could be reached to keep all parties happy.

- **LT to write to the complainant with this information**

8c. Village signs

KG reported that the community company are organising signs for the pump track. They asked if BoGCC were interested in getting the same person to produce signage for the village.

All agreed that some idea of cost must be obtained to see if this might be possible to take forward.

- **KG to ask community company about costs**

9. CNP Local Development Plan and Local Place Plans

The meeting welcomed VABS outgoing Chief Officer, Karen Derrick (KD) and Interim Chief Officer, Alice Fogg (AF).

KD said that VABS are currently working with local communities to facilitate the production of the next iteration of Community Action Plans. The most recent Boat of Garten Community Action Plan was produced in 2018 with previous versions in 2014 and 2011. The process is led by a steering group of local community groups, including community councils, community development trusts, parent councils and other community organisations. Community Action Plans aim to articulate a shared vision for the community and steps needed to get there, kickstarting a 5-10 year process of working through those actions collaboratively.

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced Local Place Plans as part of a new system to allow communities to prepare plans for their local areas that have a focus on spatial planning and development. Local Place Plans can build on the foundations of existing Community Action Plans, and inform the Local Development Plan. There are currently no Local Place Plans in the Cairngorms National Park, but every community in Badenoch and Strathspey has a Community Action Plan.

In the Cairngorms National Park, the CNPA is responsible for drawing up the Local Development Plan. This plan is shaped by the aims and ambitions of communities across the National Park. The current plan, from 2021, is due to run until 2027 but consultation has started now for the formulation of the next. The CNPA will take the Community Action Plans from across the Park into account when producing the next Local Development Plan.

KD outlined how VABS can support the community through the process of formulating the next Community Action Plan for Boat of Garten. Planners from the CNPA will also be involved in the process, enabling the community to add a spatial element to the Community Action Plan.

KG as Chair agreed to begin the Community Action Planning process, with the first meeting likely taking place in December 2024 or early 2025.

- **KD/AF to start the process early 2025**

AB asked if Active Travel would be part of this. KD confirmed it would.

DW asked if the inclusion of bike racks on buses was being taken forward. AF said it is under consideration and there has been progress with some buses in the Aberdeenshire area of CNP.

VF expressed concern that some people are still cycling on the pavement in the village.

10. BoG Standard Update

AB reported that the Christmas edition is at the printers at the moment and should be distributed next week.

11. AOCB

None.

12. Questions and Contributions from the Public

Covered during the meeting.

The next ordinary meeting of the Community Council is scheduled for
Monday 9th December 2024 at 7.00pm in the Boat of Garten Community Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Community Councils are comprised of people who care about their community and want to make it a better place to live. If this sounds like you, we would love you to join us! For more details please contact boatofgartencc@gmail.com

COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK WELCOME

The Community Council exists to see that the opinions of local residents are properly taken into account by official bodies and generally to foster local interests. Your opinions matter and we would like to hear any comments you have on what the Community Council does or does not do.

Residents are welcome at all our meetings and, subject to the guidance of the Chair, may contribute to all discussion.

The Community Council is registered with the Information Commissioner in terms of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Copies of agendas and minutes, besides those circulated to members, Highland Councillors & officials etc.; can also be sent to residents who have expressed an interest in the work of the Council. If you would like to be included in this e-mail circulation, please contact the Secretary at boatofgartencc@gmail.com.