

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

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Monday 9th December 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

Apologies: none

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th November 2024:

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

3. Matters Arising

3a. Community Resilience Plan update - Hannah Cameron-Ross (HCR), Emergency Planning Officer, The Highland Council followed up our request for advice.

HCR explained that the process is designed to be community-led, using local knowledge and understanding of resources. HCR can offer guidance and support.

Plans to formulate the next Community Action Plan/Local Place Plan for Boat of Garten, discussed at the last meeting, would include the consideration of resilience and emergency planning priorities.

In a brief initial discussion, areas such as forest fires and Strathspey Railway were mentioned.

AB said that the community already had a good record of pulling together during challenges such as Covid.

HCR highlighted [READY Scotland](#) as a useful resource for building community resilience as well as the National Centre for Resilience.

3b. Village signs

KG contacted the community company about costs of the signs they were looking at for the pump track. Their discussions hadn't yet got as far as prices.

The possibility of the 3 wooden osprey signs (placed at the road entrances to the village) being taken to the village Repair Cafe was discussed.

- **DW to look in to this**

3c. Bank Charges

AB had no progress to report in finding a suitable alternative to the Bank of Scotland.

MC said that she had spoken to Lewis Hannah, HC Community Support and Engagement Team, about the implications this additional demand on funding may have for community councils. MC has also highlighted the issue with our local MP and is awaiting feedback.

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Reports

5a. Police - no report received this month.

5b. CNPA

Dan Harris (DH), Planning Manager (Forward Planning and Service Improvement) sent out the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan, link [Development Plan Scheme 2024](#) . This was adopted by the National Park Authority Board on 22 November 2024.

It was agreed that this document will be useful as part of the planning process for the next Community Action Plan/Local Place Plan for Boat of Garten.

5c. NHS

MC reported that the Community Planning Partnership has been looking at the needs of the community in areas such as drugs education, vaping, mental health, etc.

MC said that the partnership is keen to hear any further ideas and concerns from the community. Invitations to 3 meetings over 2025 have been shared with BoGCC.

MC said that any issues/ideas could be raised via her.

KG asked about space for pupils to do homework.

- **MC to look in to this.**

6. Finance - Treasurer's Report for meeting 09/12/2024

Boat of Garten and Vicinity Community Council

Treasurers Account	£
Balance at 06/11/24	2628.03
Balance at 02/12/24	2607.03
 Credits this Period	 30.00 Bog Standard advertising 30.00
 Debits this Period	 33.00 Poppy wreath 18.00 Hall hires 51.00
 Environmental Account	
Balance at 06/11/24	4000.00
Balance at 02/12/24	4000.00

No transactions for this period

Since the report was written on 2nd December 2024, a donation of £600 has been received from Seafeld & Strathspey Estates. This will go towards the costs of Highland Council putting up the festive lights.

BoGCC would like to thank Seafeld & Strathspey Estates for their generous donation.

Also since the treasurer's report, the latest BoG Standard was issued. Invoices for advertising have been sent out and are expected to bring in approx £1000.

BoGCC would like to thank the BoG Standard team for their continued hard work and dedication.

7. Planning Matters

There were no planning matters requiring discussion.

8. Correspondence

8a. Road Repairs

There was an enquiry from a member of the community about road repairs required for a loose manhole cover.

MC confirmed that The Highland Council Portal should be used to report issues, [Roadside problems | The Highland Council](#) . Alternatively telephone: 01349 886601.

- **LT to reply to the enquirer**

8b. Consultation - Highland Wide 20 mph Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order

Feedback has been requested by the Road Safety Team, Highland Council re the proposal to make 20mph limits permanent.

- **BoGCC members will reply individually if so desired**

8c. Highland Council Visitor Levy Consultation

The Highland Council is undertaking a public consultation into a proposed Visitor Levy for Highland. If introduced, this will impact residents, businesses, accommodation providers and visitors to Highland.

Highland Council has asked community councils to encourage as many stakeholders as possible to engage with the consultation.

Information and the opportunity to take part in the consultation can be found at: [Visitor Levy | The Highland Council](#)

8d. The Highland Council Budget Challenge 2025-26

Between November 2023 and February 2024, Highland Council undertook a widespread engagement exercise to help inform its budget for the next three years.

They have shared feedback from this exercise and want to hear what further ideas members of the public may have.

Further information is available at: [Budget 2025 to 2026 | Our budget | The Highland Council](#)

People can provide feedback through the online Engagement Platform where there is both an online survey and an ideas board www.bit.ly/budget-survey2025-26

Closing date for feedback is the **20th January 2025**.

9. BoG Standard Update

As per item 6.

10. AOCB

Changes of dates for February and March 2025 meetings were agreed to try to ensure all members of BoGCC can attend and that the meetings are quorate.

- 10 February 2025 moved to 17 February 2025
- 10 March 2025 moved to 17 March 2025

- **LT to change bookings for meeting room**

11. Questions and Contributions from the Public

None.

The next ordinary meeting of the Community Council is scheduled for **Monday 17th February** at 7.00pm in the Boat of Garten Community Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

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.