

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

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Monday 14th April 2025 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 18th March 2025:

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

3. Matters Arising

3a. Community Action Plan

There is a meeting of the relevant parties, including KG and DW on 21st April 2025 to look at the collated results of 'The Big Conversation' and plan next steps.

- **DW to send a copy of the collated results to AB/LT**

3b. Visitor Infrastructure Improvement Program (VIIP) response

Adam Streeter-Smith, CNPA, responded to our query about how VIIP related to the Active Travel Plan. We now understand that it is aimed at providing new or improved facilities such as parking or toilets at pressure points or addressing gaps in provision such as the lack of basic overnight stopping points for motorhomes, waste disposal facilities, EV charging etc. This is separate to the Active Travel Plan to be delivered by the Park Authority.

We also received correspondence this month from Gavin Miles, Director of Planning and Place, CNPA, to let us know that the Park Authority is tendering for a detailed design and consent contract for active travel proposals for Aviemore and for some smaller active improvements in Boat of Garten.

3c. Village Clean Up

There was a very modest response to the litter pick organised in the village on 12th April 2025. Much of the feedback given was that litter was not seen as an issue within the village.

There were suggestions from some members of the community that the main issue was roadside litter. Advice was sought from Highland Council.

Their response was that while the Council's Waste Team welcomed litter picks, they noted that part of our proposed routes could include roadsides and they were very clear that they strongly discourage volunteers from litter picking on roads, due to the very high risks involved. AB also confirmed that BoGCC's public liability insurance would not cover such activity.

BEAR Scotland has responsibility for the maintenance of the A95 but, as confirmed by their website, litter collection is the responsibility of the local authority.

As a result it was agreed that we highlight the Highland Council portal for reporting litter concerns;

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1054/rubbish_and_recycling/89/litter_and_fly-tipping

Katrina Taylor, Waste Operations Manager for our area also gave contact details for BoGCC to address any concerns about roadside waste directly to her.

3d. Brown tourist sign on A95

This has now been removed.

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Reports

- Police Scotland - none
- CNPA - as detailed earlier
- NHS - none

6. Finance

Boat of Garten and Vicinity Community Council

Treasurers Report for meeting 14/04/25

Treasurers Account	£	
Balance at 18/03/25	3591.83	
Balance at 31/03/25	3319.58	
Credits this Period	0.00	
Debits this Period	250.00	Annual Honoraria
	4.25	Bank monthly service charge
	18.00	Hall hires
	272.25	

Environmental Account

Balance at 18/03/25	4000.00
Balance at 31/03/25	4000.00
No transactions for this period	

7. Planning Matters

There was discussion with MC about various planning matters.

AB said that the lack of detail in many of the applications is a concern. Is the application providing enough information for the planners, and others, to respond appropriately?

There was also a lack of clarity about how/where we find the outcome of planning applications where BoGCC have been consulted on the application.

- **MC will email the Area Planning Manager**

There was much discussion about one application, **Construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System which will store up to 120MW of energy, together with associated infrastructure, substation, security fencing, CCTV, security lighting and landscaping**. This did not appear on the usual weekly planning lists nor had BoGCC been consulted, though we could see on the planning portal that various other bodies had been. We asked MC why this would be the case.

MC established that the SCRE at the end of the case reference number, **25/00217/SCRE**, stands for Screening Opinion. This indicates a formal request from an applicant to the council to determine if an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is necessary for a proposed development.

We could see from the portal that a decision has been reached, that an EIA is required.

- **MC will enquire further and report back at next meeting**

8. Correspondence

8a. Highland Local Development Plan: Evidence Consultation

An email was received informing us about the [Evidence Consultation](#) in relation to preparation of a new Highland Local Development Plan and the [extended the deadline](#) for submission of comments and additional or alternative evidence.

MC advised that we should consult D Cowie, Principal Planner, Development Plans Team, The Highland Council to establish if a response is required from BoGCC. We are already involved as part of the CNPA Local Development Plan and the updating of the Community Action Plan.

- **LT email D Cowie**

8b. Cairngorm Communities Gathering

An invite to this years' Cairngorm Communities Gathering in Ballater on 30 April 2025 has been received.

Given the ongoing work on the Community Action Plan, it was agreed that this event is not a priority at the present time.

8c. Bird watching wardens and police involvement in Deshar Woods

An enquiry was received from a member of the community after visiting birdwatchers asked about wardens and police restricting the areas and/or times they could go birdwatching.

MC clarified that there are extra measures in place at the moment as part of the #Lekitbe campaign. Full details can be found on the [Lek It Be](#) website.

- **MC will respond to the member of the community**

9. BoG Standard Update

The next update will be after the Community Action Plan feedback is reviewed.

10. AOCB

None

11. Questions and Contributions from the Public

None

The next ordinary meeting of the Community Council, **preceded by the AGM**, is scheduled for Monday 12th May 2025 at 7.00pm in the Boat of Garten Community Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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.