

BOAT OF GARTEN AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting

Monday 11th September 2023 in Boat of Garten Community Hall

1. Record of Attendees and Apologies Received:

Community Council Members: Kathryn Gillings (KG), Chair;

Alan Bennet (AB), Treasurer; Valerie Fairweather (VF), Alison Morris (AM), Donald Walker (DW), Lesley Taylor (LT), Secretary.

Ex Officio: Muriel Cockburn (MC), Member, Highland Council; John O'Donnell (JOD), Communities Housing Trust

Members of the Public: Chris Carter (CC), Ben Sparham (BS)

Apologies: Neil Maciver (NM), Police Scotland

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th August 2023:

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

3. Matters Arising

3a. 20mph speed limit

Concerns were raised with NM, Police Scotland, at the last meeting but problems persist.

The Community Council received an email of concern about speeding vehicles from a member of the public. VF has also emailed H Masterson, Senior Traffic Technician, Highland Council, expressing concerns.

There was discussion of the inconsistency of signage on roads and at the roadside. AB said that speedbumps had been discussed in the past, as a response to a survey, but Police Scotland were not in favour of this measure.

VF wondered if priority narrowing (road narrowing which creates a one-way priority system at that point) would be possible.

AB advised that CNPA Active Travel plans will put traffic calming measures into place in the village. The measures for the hotel corner have not yet been finalised.

- *MC to email C Irvine, Roads Officer, HC re inconsistency of signage on roads and at roadside.*
- *LT write to H Masterson and C Irvine re Community Council concerns*

3b. Litter Pick 30 September 2023

Agreed 10.00 start at Community Garden.

**** All members of the community are most welcome to join the litter pick.**

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Finance:

AB advised no changes since the previous meeting.

6. Planning Matters

Pre-planning discussions of the Community Trust Houses at Strathspey Park

Site visit attended by AB with JOD, Communities Housing Trust, in May 2023.

JOD presented draft plans and designs to aid Community Council input to the design of the proposed properties.

The development is to be built on land given to the community by Seafeld Estates. Two houses will be facilitated by the Community Housing Trust, 2 will be for private sale by Seafeld Estates. Those facilitated by CHT will be of wheelchair standard and for people from within the community.

The Community Council agreed the most desirable features for the CHT properties, in order of priority, as:

1. A carport to the side of each house
2. Solar panels on the roof
3. More variety of the roof line (CHT houses in Gairloch cited)

The lighter coloured cladding was preferred.

The Community Council noted that a ground floor bedroom in the houses for private sale would allow for 'future proofing' in terms of accessibility.

The lighter coloured cladding would also be preferred on the 2 houses for private sale.

- JOD will report back to CHT

7. Reports

7a. Police

Incidents from 14 August -11 September 2023

Frauds/Scam complaints	1	Road Traffic Complaints	2
Alarm Activations	1	Domestic Incidents	1
Domestic Bail Checks	1	Mental Health Incidents	1
Disturbances	1	Concern for Person	1
Total 9 Incidents			

7b. CNPA

Mini Meadows Project Update received from Rebecca Watts:

“HC agreed to reduce mowing at the 2 sites identified by the community - doing an edge cut only at Craigie Ave and the small triangle at Grampian Crescent, however given that locals are looking to do some interesting things at the small triangle at Grampian Crescent we have asked that HC only reduce mowing at Craigie avenue.

The 6 week gap achieved at Craigie Avenue between mows this year will allow some later flowering plants to set seed, and the different grassland textures may be beneficial to invertebrates.

A final/overall cut of the year will take place in late September/early October by HC depending on the grass growth.

Plantlife and ourselves will be having a raking and seed sowing session on Friday 13th October in the afternoon to remove the grass cuttings and introduce some yellow rattle to the site at Craigie Avenue, this will be a small affair, with Plantlife inviting people living next to the site.

Only a small hiatus in mowing has been achieved this year, but we hope to see some further benefits to the site next year, when the grass will receive a longer period of edge cut only/reduced mowing.”

8. BoG Standard update

KG advised that the BoG Standard Christmas issue is going ahead as planned. Most of the people needed are in place.

AB felt that the Community Council should contribute an article to this edition. All agreed that this should wait until the new Community Council is in place after the nominations/elections process in October.

9. Playpark Update

Chris Carter previously contacted the Community Council about updating play equipment in the park. In follow up he submitted photos and information on playparks that his grandchildren had enjoyed. Brodie Castle and Ardvonie Park in Kingussie rated highly. A good climbing frame and balance trail were popular.

AM had contacted A Pressey, teacher at Deshar Primary, to ask for pupils' thoughts on what they would like to see in the park and this is being taken forward as a whole school project.

CC asked if national funding, previously highlighted, was still available.

MC said that HC allocation of the funding has in turn been allocated to wards.

Highland councillors visited local sites and decided allocation of funds on the basis of need. Boat of Garten had one item identified as requiring repair and no further action was planned by HC.

CC said he felt some of the equipment in the park was not safe.

- *MC will get this checked out*

AB felt that if the Community Council was to consider fundraising then some idea of costs would be necessary.

MC said if taken forward it would be good to consider intergenerational elements such as gym equipment for adults, youth shelters, etc.

CC suggested the adult equipment could be placed round the football field.

All agreed this should be a subject to feed back on in The BoG Standard.

- *MC to send HC playpark officer details*
- *LT/AB to arrange to meet with playpark officer*

10. Community Council Nominations/elections process

There was discussion of requirements/timelines for members wishing to serve again.

The Community Council is keen to encourage new members. It was agreed that posters and details of the nomination/election process be attached to the minutes and displayed in the post office.

All details can be found at HC Community Council elections page:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/799/elections_and_voting/643/community_councils

- *LT to organise posters display*

11. AOCB

11a. AM advised that a member of the community had offered a tree from their garden for the village at Christmas.

The council were grateful for this offer but agreed to continue with the tree donated by Seafield Estate.

11b. Ben Sparham spoke to the council about his plans to develop opportunities for community growing.

Correction to wording: Kate Johnson has discussed Ben's group coming under the community company banner if the group goes ahead and this would be a way of applying for funding but this is not a company group at present and has not been agreed by the directors.

AB suggested the Hall Committee may also be able to help.

MC spoke about Community Regeneration Funding with Karen Derrick as point of contact.

JOD highlighted that there is a small plot within the proposed community housing at Strathspey Park which could be suitable for accessible gardening.

- *BS to update the Community Council at a future meeting*

11c. DW asked for an update on the meeting of HC members with Police Chief Superintendent Rob Shepherd. MC reported that the Chief Superintendent highlighted that Highland would still prioritise a community policing approach. There was also discussion of topics such as cyber crime and concerns about young men and mental health.

11d. KG received correspondence about refurbishing the village signs at a cost of around £1400. Given the financial constraints of the Community Council there are no plans to go ahead with refurbishment at this time.

MC advised that CNPA may be able to give advice on signs for the village. This will be raised with C Simpson, CNPA who is due to attend the November meeting.

12. Questions and Contributions from the Public

Contributions from CC and BS as detailed in the minutes.

13. The next ordinary meeting of the Community Council is scheduled for Monday 9th October 2023 **at the earlier time of 5.00pm** in the Boat of Garten Community Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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.