

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

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Monday 9th October 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), Donald Walker (DW); Lesley Taylor (LT), Secretary.

Ex Officio: Neil Maciver (NM), Police Scotland

Members of the Public: Ali Pressey, teacher Deshar Primary (AP)

Apologies: Alison Morris (AM); Muriel Cockburn (MC), Member, Highland Council

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th September 2023:

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

3. Matters Arising

3a. 20mph speed limit

BoGCC received a comprehensive response from the 20mph team at Highland Council to their email of 15 September 2023. It set out clearly Highland Council's strategy for the implementation of 20mph limits within the village.

NM clarified the Police Scotland position - 20 mph limits will not be routinely enforced, unless it is absolutely necessary and in the interest of casualty reduction. For example, outside a school.

3b. Litter Pick 30 September 2023

AB reported that the litter pick had been a success with 10 family groups and 5 individuals taking part. AB also reported that only 3 bags of rubbish in total were collected, reflecting the relatively low level of litter in the village.

3c. Playpark update

MC confirmed, by email, that the play park inspector has visited and has found no safety issues with the equipment.

BoGCC has passed on consultation information from Highland Council to the school and Friday playgroup for their responses to feed into the development of the Highland Council Playpark Strategy.

AP outlined the work that has been done by the school children - surveys, reports on condition of equipment, ideas, etc.

KG/LT have been invited by the children to visit the school. They will attend on the afternoon of 8 November 2023.

It was agreed that input to the BoG Standard as part of the follow up would be good.

- *To be discussed at the next meeting*

The playpark officer has visited the park and spoken to LT on the phone in follow up. BoGCC discussed her thoughts and agreed that the woodchip surface, which limits accessibility for wheelchairs and buggies, should be an area we look at further. VF suggested approaching K Derrick, VABS, for advice about possible funding sources.

- *LT to email K Derrick*
- *KG to explore possible support from the Access Panel*

3d. Community Growing project

Clarification of the community company involvement was received from Kate Johnson. Kate 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. It is not a company group at present and has not been agreed by the directors.

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Finance:

AB advised that since the last meeting there had been no new income and the only expenditure was £36 for meeting hires. The balances are :

Treasurers account £1,498.33

Environmental account £4,000.00

6. Planning Matters

There were no recent planning matters requiring comment from BoGCC.

7. Reports

7a. Police

Incidents from 11 September 2023 - 9 October 2023

Fraud	1	Road Traffic Matter	1
Abandoned/silent 999 calls	2	Domestic Incidents	1
Total 5 Incidents			

VF raised concerns about people cycling on the pavement.

NM said that people are not meant to cycle on pavement and could be spoken to if seen to be acting dangerously. In extreme cases they may be prosecuted for “cycling furiously”.

DW asked NM about the legality of cars parking on the pavement. NM clarified that this is only illegal for lorries. The police may ‘advise’ drivers to move, for example, if they see a vehicle parked such that it may force pedestrians onto the road to pass.

8. Community Council Nominations/elections process

As sufficient nominations were received for vacant places no election was required (2 vacancies remaining).

The undernoted members are duly elected with effect from Wednesday 11 October 2023.

Alan	Bennet
Kathryn	Gillings
Alison	Morris
Lesley	Taylor
Don	Walker

The inaugural meeting of the new Boat of Garten Community Council will be called by the Ward Manager, date to be confirmed.

9. Scottish Forum of Community Councils

BoGCC have completed the form to join this new organisation.

10. AOCB

10a. Partner Development Contacts

The Highland Council produces a fortnightly briefing aimed at community groups which collates information about funding, events, resilience and other topics of interest. BoGCC have signed up to receive the emails.

10b. Forest Fire Dangers

C Carter, member of the public, contacted BoGCC to express his concerns about the management of forests around the village and the need to ensure they restrict the potential spread of forest fires. Two examples were cited:

1. *Trees now overhang either side of the firebreak which stretches from the Community Hall to the track near The Yard, to such an extent that in some places a fire would have no difficulty in jumping the intended barrier and spreading further*

2. *There is no effective firebreak beside the lane which runs behind the houses on the south side of Deshar Road. As a result a fire could easily spread across the lane and engulf the houses which are closest to it. The same applies to the houses on the west side of Kinchurdy Road.*

AB said this issue had previously been brought up at the meeting of 29 June 2020.

The action agreed at that time was to contact Seafield Estate and CNPA to request their fire plans for the community.

It was agreed that LT would contact Seafield Estate and CNPA to highlight the concerns and ask for a 2023 update.

- *LT email Seafield Estate & CNPA*

10c. Remembrance Day Wreath

AB asked KG to order the commemorative wreath for Remembrance Day.

- *KG to order wreath*

10d. Valerie Fairweather

KG, on behalf of BoGCC, offered a heartfelt thank you to Valerie Fairweather as she steps down from the council. Valerie has given many years' service to the community and KG thanked her for her tireless efforts, passion and commitment. We wish Valerie all the very best with her plans for the future.

12. Questions and Contributions from the Public

Contribution from AP as detailed in 3c.

13. The next ordinary meeting of the Community Council is scheduled for Monday 13th November 2023 at 7.00pm in the Boat of Garten Community Hall.

This will be dependent on arrangements for the inaugural meeting of the new council.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.10pm.

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.