

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

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Monday 12th February 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; Alison Morris (AM); Donald Walker (DW); Lesley Taylor (LT), Secretary.

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

Police Scotland: Neil Maciver (NM)

CNPA: Colin Simpson (CS), Head of Visitor Services and Active Travel

Members of the Public: None

Apologies: A Pressey, Deshar Primary

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

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

3. Matters Arising

Cairngorms Capercaillie Project

AB met with C Robertson and updated the community council by email in Dec 2023. There will be further updates as the project progresses.

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Finance:

AB reported that funds look quite healthy at the moment with £4000.00 in the Environmental account and £2,270.53 in the Treasurers account.

Treasurers account

Expenditure - there are a few payments expected in the next month or so eg. the festive streetlights, possible repair to the power supply for the Christmas tree, annual insurance premiums etc.

Income - we are awaiting our admin grant from Highland Council and will have further advertising income from the next BoG Standard, having just paid for the printing of the next edition.

6. Planning Matters

There were no recent planning matters commented on by BoGCC.

There was discussion of an email from Highland Council notifying us of Ward 20 Short-term Let Control Area Establishment Information Sessions which will run ahead of the introduction of the Control Area on Monday 4 March 2024.

Each session is open to short-term let operators and the public to attend.

- *Each member of BoGCC will arrange to attend a session as appropriate*

7. Reports

7a. Police

Incidents from 11 December 2023- 12 February 2024

Suspicious Persons	1	Domestic Incidents	2
Abandoned/silent 999 calls	2	Concern for Person	1
Housebreakings	3	Missing Person	1
False Call, good intent	1	Road Accidents	2
Alarm Activations	2	Bail Incidents	1
False Call	1	Medical Matters	1
Abandoned Vehicles	1	Sheep in Garden	1
Total 20 Incidents			

Following break-ins in the village in December 2023, NMCI agreed to submit Home Security Advice from Police Scotland to a future edition of the BoG Standard.

AB advised that 2 streets in the village are making moves to become part of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

- *LT to send contact details to NMCI*
- *NMCI to submit info*

7b. CNPA

Colin Simpson, Head of Visitor Services and Active Travel attended the meeting. He gave a most informative presentation on CNPA approach to managing visitors in the Cairngorms National Park and answered questions. He also gave a brief overview of Active Travel proposals for the Cairngorms National Park.

CS provided a copy of his slides, which can be shared on request.

8. Correspondence

8a. BoGCC Communication

The council received an email asking us to distribute a questionnaire to the public via our normal methods of communication. This led to a discussion of our present methods of communicating with the community.

These are:

- Email
- Noticeboards in the village and community hall
- Boat of Garten website

Possible use of social media such as facebook was discussed but it was agreed that this would not be taken further at the present time.

- *LT to get in touch with Community Company about getting access to the website*

9. BoG Standard Update

The BoG Standard spring issue is being printed at the present time and will be issued in the next 10 days. 500 copies are being printed.

- *MC to chase up new Ward Manager to get addresses info*

10. Live Christmas Tree

The possibility of a live Christmas tree had been proposed to BoGCC in the past. KG discussed with Ross Dunn, Cairngorm Christmas Trees in December 2023. He highlighted various issues connected with this such as the need to organise regular watering and, even if planted in a large container to start, the need to be planted in the ground eventually, requiring a large hole for the root ball. It was agreed that we should stick with a cut tree for now.

The lights on this year's tree did not work after the first few days. AB advised that Highland Council did try to fix them on a couple of occasions, including Christmas Eve, but it is not clear what the issue is. The issue may become clearer once the lights are taken down.

- *AB to follow up with HC*

11. Unpleasant smells in the village

BoGCC has received 2 notifications of concern from members of the community about an unpleasant smell which they notice from time to time as they approach the village from the school.

MC advised that Highland Council Environmental Health should be contacted to pass on these concerns

- *LT to write to HC Environmental Health*

12. AOCB

MC advised that a new Ward Manager, Mark MacKay, starts next week to replace Lewis Hannah.

13. Questions and Contributions from the Public

No questions or contributions at this meeting.

14. The next ordinary meeting of the Community Council is scheduled for Monday 11th March 2024 at 7.00pm in the Boat of Garten Community Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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.