

Boat of Garten and Vicinity Community Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 08 March 2021 via Zoom Conferencing.

1. Record of attendees and Apologies received.

Community Council Members: Brian Tolson, Ken Aitken, Caroline Holroyd, Alan Bennet, and Valerie Fairweather. **Apologies:** Kathryn Gillings

Ex Officio: Willie McKenna and Liz Henderson (CNPA). **Apologies:** Muriel Cockburn

Members of the Public in attendance: Uwe Stoneman (RSPB Abernethy)

2. Minutes of Meeting of 08 February 2021

The minutes were proposed as an accurate record of the meeting by Valerie Fairweather and seconded by Alan Bennet.

3. Matter arising from the Minutes

- a. **Proposed Phone Mast** – Brian informed councillors that he had written regarding the proposed phone mast near the steam railway sheds but at this point had not had a reply. He will continue to pursue. **Action: Brian Tolson**
- b. **Boat Hotel Planning Application** - Valerie enquired as to the timescales for a decision on this application. Brian informed that the application will need to go to a full council meeting and that these are delayed currently due to the pandemic.

4. Declarations of Interest

None

5. Guest Speaker – Uwe Stoneman (RSPB Abernethy)

Uwe introduced councillors to the RSPB's 60-year vision and also gave some background as to how and why it had come about. Basically, it is a joint vision to engage local communities in the work of the RSPB in terms of land management. The land rights and responsibility statement is the responsibility of the Scottish Land Commission to implement. Further details of this can be seen on the Land Commission's website.

The idea of the 60-year vision is not to be a one-off initiative. It is intended to be meaningful and a long-term engagement in decision making relating to land management.

Uwe explained that within the decision-making framework only moderate or significant impact activities would initiate community engagement. Uwe's question to Councillors

was how we would like to engage with the BOG community. Brian asked Councillors for their ideas on this, and the following were suggested: Articles in the BOG Standard, group sessions/ meetings (when permitted), presentation and Q&A at a Boat Talk, use of Social Media and the BOG website.

Brian suggested that perhaps engagement needed to be on different levels eg a public meeting (post pandemic) and encourage involvement in that using the BOG Standard, Facebook etc. Brian also suggested considering creating a 'User' group to gain a wide range of opinions.

Liz Henderson agreed with the idea of a public meeting and gaining interest in attending. She also felt it was important to manage people's expectations of what can and can't be achieved. She felt a 'User' group was a good idea particularly if we are able to get representatives with a wide range of experience, views and opinions.

Brian requested that Uwe write an article for the BOG Standard's next edition to make people aware of the 60-year vision. Brian also requested that Uwe send Caroline further details that can be circulated to Councillors.

Brian requested that Caroline send out the link to Councillors of the Scottish Land Commission.

Action: Caroline Holroyd

Uwe said that the Nethy Bridge community had expressed an interest in contributing to current issues eg. Visitor management issues such as reporting of wildfires, littering etc. The Nethy community have a WhatsApp group set up to report issues and it was felt by Councillors that this would be a good idea for Boat too.

Brian suggested that this issue should be added to next month's agenda so we could continue to discuss once Councillors had time to consider it. **Action: Caroline Holroyd**

6. Treasurers Report – Alan

Not a lot to report this month. No expenditure on either account and the only income was a further £120 for advertising in the BoG Standard.

As mentioned in previous months we do have some items still to pay for, festive lights, tree and annual insurance.

Treasurers Account

Balance at 01/02/21	£2281.97	
Balance at 02/03/21	£2401.97	
Credits this period:	£120.00	Advertisers in BOG Standard £120
Debits this period:	£ 0.00	

Environmental Account

Balance at 12/10/20	£3829.82
Balance at 13/11/20	£3829.82
Credits this period:	£0
Debits this period:	£0

7. Planning Matters

None to consider

8. Items of business which the Chairperson has directed should be considered

New Councillors – Brian reminded Councillors that he is due to step down from the Council in November 2021 and we should consider actively approaching anyone we feel might be interested. It was felt that this will be much easier as lockdown restrictions are eased.

9. Reports

CNPA – Seasonal Rangers have been recruited and there will be 8 across the National Park. Liz Henderson offered to find out who will be based in this area and let us know.

Liz also reassured us that there were robust plans in place based on the experiences of last year, in terms of visitor management across the park including dealing with fires, littering, camper vans etc.. Plans and details of investment had been outlined last week and would be available to review.

10. AOCB

Valerie Fairweather questioned whether we should be printing the same number of BOG Standards this time as some had been left over from the last issue partly due to the Boat Hotel being closed and no visitors purchasing them from the Post Office. Alan pointed out that printing fewer will make negligible difference to the cost but everyone felt it was the right thing to do as it was less wasteful. All Councillors agreed it was important to continue printing it and not to go back to a web version.

10. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 12 April 2021

The meeting closed at 20.09