

Boat of Garten and Vicinity Community Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 June 2021 via Zoom Conferencing.

1. Record of attendees and Apologies received.

Community Council Members: Brian Tolson, Caroline Holroyd, Alan Bennet, Valerie Fairweather, John Dickson and Kathryn Gillings.

Ex Officio: Muriel Cockburn

Members of the Public in attendance: Sue Murray.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 12 April 2021

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

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** – Brian informed the council that according to the Highland Council website this is still pending.
- c. **Reopening the CNPA** – In last month's meeting Liz Henderson had promised that she would pass the council a document summarizing the plans for reopening the park – this was received.
- d. **RSPB** – The council have requested a formal response from the RSPB regarding the issue raised in the last meeting relating to crows. No response has been received other than a holding email.
- e. **Election of new member of the Community Council** – John Dickson was proposed by Brian Tolson to join the Boat Community Council, and this was seconded by Alan Bennet. All Councillors were in favour.

4. Declarations of Interest

None

5. Treasurers Report – Alan

You will see that we have had a quiet time since our last meeting. In the Treasurers account we have had no expenditure and income of £530 for the April BoG standard advertisers. This currently gives us a credit balance of £1197.26 in the bank. In the Environmental account there were no transactions, and our balance remains at £3,829.82.

Treasurers Account

| | | |
|----------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Balance at 05/04/21 | £667.26 | |
| Balance at 06/06/21 | £1197.26 | |
| Credits this period: | £530.00 | Advertisers in BOG Standard £15 |
| 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 |

6. Planning Matters

None to discuss.

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

BOG Litter Pick – this usually takes place in Spring but the proposal this year is to organise for late September. Councillors thought this was a good idea as it would help clear up any issues following the main tourist season. Brian proposed that he work with Caroline to identify the best date and also plan how we ‘recruit’ volunteers.

Action: Brian and Caroline

Communities Housing Trust Representative – This role has been carried out by David Goodall but he has recently decided to resign the post so the Council is now looking for someone to take over.

David has very kindly provided a summary of what the role involves, and this is quoted below. Anyone interested should get in touch with the BOG Community Council or David directly if you have any questions.

“The Trust Board is a friendly mix of community reps, some of whom are employed by their communities as Community Development Officers, Highland Councilors and officers and some professionals from across mainland Scotland and the Islands.

The managers and staff of the Trust are a closely integrated and energetic group with different skills appropriate to community development.

The thrust of the Trust's work is to strengthen communities by providing professional assistance at all stages of the development the community identifies as potentially beneficial.

Examples of the Trust's work near us are in Laggan, Dulnain Bridge, Tomatin and now in Tomintoul. CHT, on behalf of the Boat Community Company, has a planning application in with the CNPA at present for two affordable houses at the top of Strathspey Park. CHT would be the developer, owner and manager for those houses.

I have seen so many examples of wonderful work done by CHT for the communities involved and anyone joining the Board will, I am sure, be similarly enthused.

Nominations from Community Councils go before the AGM in September and a maximum of six community directors are elected. The directors' positions will be held for three years from this year's AGM forward."

For more details please also see the poster –“This is what we do”- displayed on the noticeboard at the Gallery and attached to this email.

Road Repairs at Sawmill – These have now been completed.

Editorship of BOG Standard – Kevin (current editor) does not want to continue in the role after the next edition. He has said that he would be happy to write an article for the next BOG Standard to describe what the role involves, with a view to encouraging interest.

Alan discussed the fact that the previous Editor, Cath had a small team of volunteers who helped put the edition together. So perhaps we could identify a team to support Kevin in the same way? Sue Murray mentioned the Nethy news and that although this is quite a different publication they do have someone who solely deals with the advertising side and that this seems to work well. John Dickson said he was happy to get involved with advertising this opportunity to see if we can get a team of 'helpers'

Action: John Dickson

Brian also said that he would write to Cath (via Pete) to discuss how the team worked.

Action: Brian Tolson

Sue Murray offered to pull together a list of groups active in the village and who the key contacts were.

Action: Sue Murray

Caroline will then email the key contacts and ask them to assist with the BOG Standard by providing material and perhaps Editor support.

Action: Caroline Holroyd

Sourcing of Xmas Tree and Festive Lights – Alan had circulated notes about both subjects before the meeting. The bottom line being that the council can not afford to pay for both. A few options had been highlighted already including a 'Living' Xmas tree. But most options involved costs that were out of the Community Councils range. The final option discussed was utilising the Community Garden and instead of having a tree on the green, put lights on a tree within the garden.

Councillors were in favour of this idea as it means we don't have the expense of erecting a tree which means the funds we do have can be spent on the village lights.

Sue Murray pointed out that there is no longer electricity available in the garden as this was removed on safety grounds. But battery powered lights are an option. Muriel Cockburn said that the best person to contact re reinstating power was John Alan at Highland Council. Brian to email him for guidance **Action: Brian Tolson**

Alan agreed to talk to the Community Company about the idea. **Action: Alan Bennet**

BOG Standard Finances – Alan told the Council that he had a discussion with Kevin (BOG Standard Editor) about advertising and driving the benefits of advertising. Alan explained that the BOG standard is the Council's only source of income and that ultimately the advertising has to cover the publication costs as a minimum. Last time the revenue was £520 from advertising which just covered costs but pre covid income was circa £900. So, we need more people to advertise and those that do to spend more money. So basically, we need to identify who doesn't advertise any more and then talk to them to get them back. Perhaps even incentivise them to return. Kevin will provide a list of companies not currently advertising so that we can target them.

John suggested spotting trades van going through the village and then contacting those businesses to see if they would be interested.

8. Reports

Police – Police report received and distributed before the meeting. No comments highlighted.

NHS – Muriel informed Councillors that patients are due to be transitioned to the new Aviemore Hospital by September. Staff are all in place although there is still issue regarding radiography and x ray department cover as it has only been planned for part time at the moment. Muriel is working with NHS Highland on this.

9. AOCB

- Brian Tolson will circulate the CNPA Development Plan.
- Brian Tolson is requesting Ranger cover for weekends following the wild camping litter problem a couple of weeks ago.

- Brian discussed the letter he has written to Forbes and Ewing regarding short term lets but as yet had only a 'holding' response from Forbes and nothing from Ewing.

10. Date of Next Ordinary Meeting and Annual General Meeting – Monday 13 September 2021

The meeting closed at 20.25