

Boat of Garten and Vicinity Community Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 September 2020 via Zoom Conferencing.

1. Record of attendees and Apologies received.

Community Council Members: Brian Tolson, Alan Bennet, Kathryn Gillings, Ken Aitken, Caroline Holroyd.

Ex Officio: Muriel Cockburn.

Apologies: Valerie Fairweather.

Members of the Public in attendance: Graham Dean-Hart

2. Minutes of Meeting of 17 February 2020

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

3. Matter arising from the Minutes

- a. **BOG Village Sign** – Muriel Cockburn confirmed that she had spoken to the CNPA about this sign but it is not their responsibility and is not the responsibility of the Highland Council either. Caroline said that she knew that all brown signs were quite expensive so funding options would need to be considered. Alan said he had contacts with Visit Scotland and would try to find out the cost of replacement.
Action: Alan Bennet.
- b. **Pathway to School** – Brian said he had found out the person who had cleared the pathway leading the school and had personally thanked Mike Dixon.
- c. **Leaflets for village walks** – Brian confirmed that the village walk leaflets had been signed off and had gone to print.
- d. **Cycle Path at the end of Kinchurdy Road** – Brian had identified some hardcore and rocks were at the bottom of the road and assumed some work was possibly going to start to address some of the worst potholes etc.

4. Treasurers Report

The Treasurers report had been circulated before the meeting by Alan Bennet. In terms of detail for the Treasurers Account, we spent funds of £143.88 for an annual licence to use Zoom for our meetings, £42.95 on the Malus Royalty tree presented to Alison Fielding and £35.00 for our Data Protection ICO registration.

We also received income of £437.14 from the Highland Council for our annual grant and £143.88 from the Scottish Government Supporting Communities Fund via VABS to cover our costs associated with Covid-19. (Zoom meeting costs).

There have been no transactions on the Environmental Fund.

Treasurers Account

Balance at 22/06/20	£1636.78
Balance at 07/09/20	£1995.97
Credits this period:	£581.02 (HC Grant £437.14 & VABS £143.88)
Debits this period:	£221.83 (Zoom £143.88, Tree £42.95 & ICO £35.00)

Environmental Account

Balance at 22/06/20	£3829.82
Balance at 07/09/20	£3829.82
Credits this period:	£0
Debits this period:	£0

5. Planning Matters

01888 – We are awaiting a decision. Correspondence received from Mrs Clark and responded to by Brian.

02205 – Pump Park – This was supported by the CC. A number of questions were raised with the architect and the response was approved by Councilors. Permission has subsequently been granted.

03292 – New application submitted for changes to windows to a house on Kinchurdy Road. Brian has discussed this with the neighbour who has no objections as the impact will be minimal.

03127 – New application submitted for the erection of a garage on Kinchurdy Road. Brian has discussed the impact of this with the immediate neighbour as it will affect light conditions.

6. Planning and Management

New legislation is being prepared to address the concerns about the percentage of homes being purchased as second homes and not primary residences. The legislation is some time away from going to parliament, possibly not until Easter 2021. Muriel advised

that the CNPA are doing studies on this subject although community engagement has been low. She suggested that contacting the Housing Minister – Kevin Stewart may be a good idea.

Action: Brian Tolson

7. Reports

Police Report – Requested from Neil McIver but unfortunately not received as yet but needs chasing up and then circulating.

Action: Caroline Holroyd

NHS – Muriel confirmed that the new hospital is now only a few weeks behind schedule. Aviemore Medical practice has been coping very well using telephone consultations. Care homes have also coped well in the area. The only concern Muriel highlighted was a lack of hospital transport which is also being impacted by reduced bus timetables.

CBP – Caroline summarised the main points from the recent Zoom meeting which was a follow up to one held in June prior to tourism recommencing after lockdown. The area has benefitted from high numbers of tourists but has had to face challenges of littering, wild camping and increased accidental fires. The seasonal rangers employed by the CNPA have been key in tackling these issues and they are keen to keep them on into next year but this will depend on funding available from the Scottish Government.

Highland Council – Brian attended a Zoom meeting with the Highland Council to review how communities had coped in the last few months with challenges of Covid19. They were very complimentary about the role of VABS. Although the communities had been supported with lots of volunteers during lockdown as more people had now returned to work this support was slightly depleted. As Covid19 continues to impact our lives there are concerns about the effect on a lot of people's mental health as we head into the Winter months. There will also potentially be impacts on local businesses as winter takes hold and visitor numbers drop. HC and VABS are looking at ways to address some of these issues.

Graham Dean-Hart made the point that self-catering units in the area are still busy and have bookings into the traditionally quieter months. He also made the point that self-catering houses do provide business for local businesses eg. Plumbers, cleaners, gardeners. Graham also raised concerns about what he termed as "Corona retribution" based on what he had observed / heard from the Corona outbreak in Grantown recently.

Muriel made the point that we needed to be kind. Alan asked what we could do as a CC and it was suggested that we need to be able to point people in the right direction when they need help. Caroline suggested perhaps putting some information in the next BOG Standard that may help.

Alan made the important point that the Village Hall remaining closed is going to have a big effect on some people. Caroline made the point that the Hall were trying to organize some outdoor events and we should encourage people to get involved. Brian suggested that we should work with the Community Company and the Hall Directors to come up with some innovative ideas on the subject.

8. BOG Standard

The Council had received an email recently from Sue Murray on the subject of the BOG Standard asking that the CC consider reverting to a printed copy next time due to many people missing it and not able to access the online version.

The CC agreed that it should be printed next time and that we would check with people distributing it that they were happy to do so using necessary precautions and PPE. Alan suggested that we could reduce the cost of advertising for local businesses by 50% to respect the fact that many will not be prioritising spending money on advertising at the moment. This was agreed.

The CC acknowledged the commitment and work that Cath Wright had put into the BOG Standard over recent years and wished to thank her. **Action: Brian Tolson**

9. AOCB

Local Electricity Bill - Ken Aitken discussed the information he had circulated prior to the meeting regarding this which is a scheme to allow people to sell electricity from local renewable sources to local people. All Councilors agreed that we would support this.

Action: Ken Aitken

BT Payphone Consultation – Brian asked if we had any views on this but as it does not affect our community directly all Councilors did not have opinions either way. Brian did say we needed an update on the mobile phone mast. **Action: Brian Tolson**

Recruitment of Councillors – Brian asked Councilors to consider what we wanted the shape of the Community Council to look like in the future. How best are we going to serve the community?

Caroline suggested that we put something in the next BOG Standard describing the role of a Councilor and therefore helping to attract people with the skill set and interests that may be relevant.

Brian asked all Councilors to consider this issue and specifically ‘What is the role of a Community Councilor?’ and how best to communicate this. Councilors were asked to send their thoughts to Caroline before the next meeting so we could discuss then.

Action: All

Speeding in Street of Kincardine – Brian acknowledged he had received a complaint from Penny Dunbar – resident of Street of Kincardine about speeding through the village. She has identified that the speed limit signage is slightly obstructed due to trees. She has also lodged a complaint with the Police.

Thank you to Mike Dixon – Brian to formally thank Mike for his work on the school pathway. **Action: Brian Tolson**

Thanks to Volunteers – It was acknowledged that we have had so many volunteers helping during the Pandemic and that giving thanks in the next BOG Standard would be a good idea.

12. Date of Next Meeting – 19 October 2020

The meeting will be a Zoom meeting.

The meeting closed at 20.25