

BANCHORY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th FEBRUARY 2019

AT BANCHORY ACADEMY

PRESENT

L. McNab (LM), J. Wills (JW), V. Kerridge (VK), A. Murison (AM), A. Law (AL), H. McNab (HM)
Cllr. A. Ross (AR), Cllr. E. Durno (ED), Cllr. R. Bruce (RB). Also in attendance was C. Luby

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Treasurer LM chaired the meeting. She welcomed all to the meeting and reported apologies from ML, DC, ZC, DM, and TT. AL apologised for having to leave early for pipe band practice.

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

ED noted that Shire Council had initiated consultation on the potential lease of an area of Bellfield Park to the skateboard Group. This was generally supported.

RB reported that the Council's budget would be decided in a few days, and may have consequences for services. Also reported that consultation was now also ongoing regarding the Council's new waste collection service. Following consultation it would commence in spring of 2020. Collections would move to a 3 weekly cycle.

AR reported action on several fronts. New windows were to be installed in Banchory P.S. and the potholes in the playground were also being infilled. She also reported that The Forestry Commission had (finally) taken responsibility for repairs to the Glen O Dee access road, and repairs were now on going.

Further reported that Business Gateway had held a retailing workshop for High Street traders today, and it had been well attended.

Regarding indiscriminate parking around schools, all Councillors had met with the Area Manager to discuss the topic. Police involvement and dialogue with pupils and parents had affected some improvement, but it was still very much a work in progress. Roads had confirmed that extending the zig-zag lines on the roads around the schools was not favoured.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTE and MATTERS ARISING

AR had written in advance of the meeting to update the minute on parking around schools. With this amendment, adoption of the minute was proposed by AM, and seconded by JW. There were no matters arising which were not on the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

LM reported the only correspondence was a letter from Shire Council advising of the consultation on the proposal to lease the skateboard park site.

YOUTH CONCERNS

AL reported that she had met with the Academy Head Teacher Mrs Wight to discuss several issues, including litter. A 'litter pick' had been suggested, and AL is to address the junior school assembly on the issue. AL and ZC also liaising with the Pupil Forum, and will report back on emerging issues.

RB noted that equipment could be available from the Council Waste Team to assist with the 'litter pick', and AR suggested liaison with the Parent Council might also be worthwhile.

TREASURERS REPORT

LM reported that the BCC account now stood at £2903.51

This included £40 to the Data Protection Regulator, and £1500 to Lawn Tennis Club – cheques which had not yet been cashed.

The Y2000 account now stood at £3300.96, while the treasurer's account contained £429.50

BANCHORY COMMUNITY FUND

AM reported that the Hill of Banchory Neighbourhood Watch were willing to erect the signs if BCC purchased them. It was agreed to proceed in this fashion.

LM reported that she had received written confirmation that Deeside Dance Studio was able to 'ring fence' the money from the Community Fund for the 'Dance for Parkinson's project. On this basis LM was asked to proceed.

BANCHORY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

HM had circulated an Updated Report on progress with the plan before the meeting, and this was noted and welcomed. Councillors noted the following further progress :

Health Centre - The Banchory project had now been included in a 'package' (including new health facilities for Danestone and Ellon) for which funding was now being sought from the Scottish Government.

Education – Revised School Roll Forecasts had recently been produced. The roll of Banchory Academy is predicted to be at 99% of capacity by 2022, but the current estimate does not take account of any internal changes to the school with the removal of the pool as the plans for that space haven't been finalised yet. It is hoped to proceed with the construction of the new learning 'plaza' to replace the swimming pool while the school was closed for the summer.

T

The Shire-wide re-assessment of the School Estate would take place in stages. With Primary schools re-evaluated this year and Secondary schools next year.

AR also questioned the extent to which the idea of a Masterplan for Banchory High Street had been considered by the Town Team. HM noted that there was discussion at the last Town Team meeting, and that the Area Manager (JC) had been sent the Update Report.

KEITH WHITE AWARD

JW and VK reported that progress was slow, but they were encouraged by AL and ZCs willingness to participate. They liked the idea of calling it a 'Young Citizen Award' and suggested that henceforth it be referred to as the Keith White Young Citizen Award. This was agreed.

COAT OF ARMS

HM reported that Minutes of the sub-committee were previously circulated, and noted that a further meeting would be held tonight. All BCC members would be copied in on the Minute.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Planning : HM reported there had been no major new planning applications. He had circulated a paper setting out the contents of the Main Issues Report on the review of the Local Development Plan, as they affected Banchory. As objections had to be lodged by 8th April, he suggested this should be a major topic for discussion at the next meeting. HM also reported that the Architect who was to make a presentation on the Proposed Woodend Eco Village was not able to attend. He would, therefore, make the presentation, but as he had an interest in the development, this would be at the end of the meeting.

Police Liaison : Before departing on holiday, DM had circulated the Police Report, which was noted. VK noted that there had been further damage to the shelters in Bellfield Park. AR suggested this be reported to the Police, and that a press article highlighting the vandalism should be considered. VK will take this forward. JW will obtain quotes for repair.

Community Safety : ED had attended the recent CSP meeting and reported that there had been no major new issues raised. It was agreed that this was perhaps the best forum to raise the issue of indiscriminate parking outside schools, and ED will raise this.

Transport : VK reported that various people had shared information online regarding their experience of the new bus timetables. Most were accepting the changes as reasonable, given the level of usage. VK also reported that none of the Banchory buses were being diverted on to the AWPR, as there was no available interchange. ED noted that the A to B bus service was proving successful, and there were now 2 buses operating in Banchory. This was welcomed.

BDI : AS DC was the BDI liaison, there was no report.

Windfarm Reports : RB reported that Shire ISC committee would shortly consider the Glendye Windfarm project, and make recommendations to the Scottish Government. Both the Kincardine and Mearns and Marr Area Committees had opposed the development. There was no progress reported yet on the Fetteresso Windfarm.

Town Team : The next meeting was planned for March.

Planning Presentation : Proposed Woodend Eco Village

In the absence of the project architects, HM made a presentation on the project on behalf of North Banchory Company. He explained that this was not a planning application, but a pre-application consultation.

He described the location of the proposed site, and its zoning as suitable for the development of an 'Eco Village' in the current Local Plan. He described the proposed site layout, which incorporated 32 homes, including 8 affordable houses. Examples of the landscaping were shown, and the house types were discussed.

Questions included :

The type of affordable housing – 2 and 3 bedroom houses, type to be agreed with Shire Housing Service, and sold at agreed prices.

The 'Eco' credentials of the scheme – to be built to a high standard of insulation and sustainability. Seeking to achieve the 'gold' standard as defined in the Building Regulations. And how the site would be marketed – as plots for individuals to build their own houses, but to a standard of finish and sustainability stipulated in a Design Brief.

HM agreed to forward the presentation to each member of the CC electronically, along with a feedback form.

AOCB

There was no further business.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at Banchory Academy on 11th March at 7.30pm.