

BANCHORY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Monday 9 January 2017

Banchory Academy Library

7.30pm

Present: Mary Lennox (Chair); Eileen Durno (Vice Chair); Rebecca Glansbeek (Treasurer); Louise Cameron (Secretary); David Conroy; Vivika Kerridge; Harry McNab; Lyn McNab; John Wills; Sgt Willie Murdoch (Police Scotland)

Officials: Cllr Karen Clark

Apologies: Cllr Linda Clark; Cllr Jill Webster; David Milner; Nicola Kenyon; Corinne Ogilvie

Members of the Public: Forbes Burn; Ann Ross

Bertha Forbes; Alistair Murison; John Reid; Mike Robson; Prof Gordon Walkden and Stewart Wilson from the Banchory Heritage Society Steering Group.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Mary Lennox opened the meeting and noted the apologies.

2. Police Report

Sgt Murdoch reported there had been no major incidents since the December meeting, although class A drugs were seized in Banchory on Christmas Eve.

Complaints of parking beyond the 45 minute restriction on High Street and Bridge Street have been received by the local police. A local resident raised the issue with the local MP last year. Banchory Community Council is not aware of any parking issues and no complaints have been made directly to the Community Council. It was agreed members would be mindful of the issue, note their own experiences and report back at the February meeting.

Sgt Murdoch advised the meeting that he is to move from local policing in Banchory to an alcohol related violence and reduction unit based in Inverurie. His successor has yet to be appointed but in the meantime Community Council correspondence can still be directed to him.

Eileen Durno commented that she had been made aware of a vehicle being 'keyed' and asked if the police were aware of other such incidents. Sgt Murdoch said nothing had been reported and asked Eileen Durno to advise the owner of the vehicle to report the vandalism by calling the 101 telephone number.

3. Councillors' Report

3.1 Feedback on Live Q&A Session with Senior Aberdeenshire Councillors

Mary Lennox reported that although none of the questions submitted by the Banchory Community Council had been answered during the live session, a written response to them was received shortly afterwards.

Banchory Sports Village

In response to the concern that the provision of this facility may be affected by budget cuts, Aberdeenshire Council replied that work is to start in the summer of 2017 and is due to complete at the end of 2018.

New Health Centre for Banchory

In response to a question on how the budget proposals will affect progress towards a new health centre for Banchory, Aberdeenshire Council replied that a new health centre for Banchory (and Ellon) remains a top priority.

Banchory Academy

The Community Council expressed a concern that the current Banchory Academy building is no longer fit for purpose. Aberdeenshire Council replied that a new Academy for Banchory is not a priority and that remedial repairs will be carried out to the existing building. Mary Lennox noted that the need for a new Academy building was the main issue raised in the Banchory Community Action Plan survey responses. This is an issue to be revisited once the action plan is finalised.

3.2 Local Development Plan 2016

Cllr Karen Clark advised the meeting that the 2016 Local Development Plan will go before the full Aberdeenshire Council in March. One item of significance to Banchory is under the LDP 2016 the area Braehead had sought to development is not be built on.

A copy of the LDP 2016 is available on the Aberdeenshire Council website and at their offices in Aberdeen (Woodhill House) and Stonehaven (Viewmount).

Also see 14.1

3.3 2018 Westminster Constituency Boundary Changes

Cllr Karen Clark reported that Aberdeenshire Council had submitted an official response to the proposal for Banchory to be included in the constituency of Kincardine and Angus East instead of Gordon and Deeside.

Aberdeenshire Council are unhappy with the proposal and have highlighted two areas. Firstly in relation to who resumes responsibility of the role of Returning Officer under the proposals and secondly a suggestion was made to change the proposed new constituency names to more accurately reflect the areas they cover. The suggestion is 'Gordon and Upper Deeside' and Kincardine, Mid-Deeside and Angus East.

3.4 Banchory Academy Parent Council and BSV Meeting

Cllr Karen Clark advised the meeting that Senior Aberdeenshire Council Officers, including John Harding Head of Lifelong Learning & Leisure, are to meet with the Parent Council of Banchory Academy on 12 January 2017. The format is to be a Q&A session on issues connected with the new Sports Village which will affect the school and its pupils.

Rebecca Glansbeek, also a member of the Parent Council, will attend the meeting and report any relevant matters to the Community Council at the February meeting.

3.5 Aberdeenshire Council Budget Engagement

Cllr Karen Clark reported that the Aberdeenshire Council Budget Meeting is to take place on 9 February 2017. As part of this meeting the Aberdeenshire Councillors will discuss the possibility of raising council tax rates. To support the attainment fund through which education in Aberdeenshire will be targeted, a 3% rise has already been set for bands E to H. The meeting will determine if a further rise, up to a maximum of 3%, should be levied on all or any of bands A to H to fund other areas of Council expenditure.

Louise Cameron reported that concerns had been expressed to the Community Council about one budget proposal which would see arts and leisure facilities move from Aberdeenshire Council to a charitable trust. Although there are significant savings to be made there are drawbacks to this suggestion.

Cllr Karen Clark expressed a desire to see the drawbacks of this proposal fully assessed before a decision was made and noted that a business case is currently being drawn up and explore these issues.

4. Guest Speaker: Professor Gordon Walkden, Banchory Heritage Society Steering Group

Professor Gordon Walkden of the Banchory Heritage Society Steering Group addressed the meeting on plans to establish a Banchory Heritage Centre. Although at an early stage the steering group are keen to raise the profile of a proposed Heritage Centre with the Banchory Community. The proposals range from a small centre to a large commercially based one which could also offer a civic focus.

The Community Council asked if a business plan / case had been prepared. Prof Walkden replied that the steering group are not yet at that stage.

The Community Council expressed surprise that a heritage centre had not been mentioned in any of the responses received in the Banchory Community Action Plan survey.

5. Approval of November Meeting's Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of 12 December 2016 were proposed by Rebecca Glansbeek and seconded by John Wills.

Matters Arising

5.1 BT Issues

The meeting agreed not to request a visit from a BT representative. Banchory Community Council will wait until more work is completed under the Digital Scotland initiative before considering this option.

5.2 Hill of Banchory Neighbourhood Centre – Path Improvement

Harry McNab reported that path improvement between Hill of Banchory West and Fir Brae had been a specific planning condition imposed on Bancon. Now completed the upgrade has been signed off by the Aberdeenshire Council planning department. In the long term a safe pedestrian crossing will be provided for Hill of Banchory West but this must wait until development of the site is complete.

The path beyond Fir Brae which was not upgraded is owned by Aberdeenshire Council and did not form part of the planning condition.

5.3 Banchory Signage: Information Panels on Bridge Street near River Dee

Mary Lennox reported that, as agreed at December's meeting, she advised Lizzy Shepherd of Banchory Signage Project that Banchory Community Council wish to retain the information contained in the information panels on Bridge Street when they are replaced and would prefer for it not to be condensed from two panels into one. Lizzy Shepherd was also advised of Banchory Community Council's view that the proposal to dedicate one panel to the subject of Pearl Mussels seemed excessive.

Lizzy Shepherd replied that the Pearl Mussels panel is being erected by another organisation (Rivers and Fisheries Trust of Scotland). She offered to provide Banchory Community Council with a 'mock up' of the Signage Project's proposed new panel before any work is carried out. Mary Lennox agreed to this suggestion.

5.4 Path Obstruction on Inchmarlo Road

Louise Cameron reported that since the December meeting, 7 complaints had been received about the path from Inchmarlo Road between houses Darac and Lysham opposite the Tor na Coille being blocked by locked gates. The Aberdeenshire Council Outdoor Access Officer, Marsaili Aspinnall, was informed of the complaints. Louise Cameron advised the meeting that Ms Aspinnall had provided a progress report which stated the path obstruction could not be dealt with under Rights of Way legislation as enshrined in the 1967 Countryside (Scotland) Act as the path was not a 'Right of Way'. In order for the route to be a public right of way several criteria must be met, including 'going from public place to public place via a clearly defined route'. The route from Inchmarlo Road to the river bank crosses the Golf Course and therefore not a clearly defined route.

However Ms Aspinnall reported the matter is being dealt with under the Land Reform Act (Scotland) which provides for responsible access. The owners of the land have twice been asked by Aberdeenshire Council to remove the locks to the path but as of 6 January this had not been done. Aberdeenshire Council are now deciding on their next course of action and have asked that any concerned residents complete an 'Outdoor Access Issues Form' which can be found on the Aberdeenshire Council website.

It was noted that Banchory Path Association have decided not to promote or advertise or encourage the use of the route.

**ACTION: LOUISE CAMERON TO ADVISE THOSE WHO HAVE COMPLAINED TO COMPLETE OUTDOOR ACCESS ISSUES FORM
LOUISE CAMERON TO ASK THE OUTDOOR ACCESS OFFICER TO KEEP BCC INFORMED OF ANY PROGRESS**

5.5 Aberdeenshire Council Budget Engagement

Community Councillors completed the budget engagement survey on an individual basis. Also see 3.5.

5.6 Overhanging Hedges

No report. The matter is regarded as resolved.

Correspondence

6.1 Junction of Upper Lochton and Raemoir Road

Louise Cameron advised the meeting of an email received that expressed concerns about the Upper Lochton and Raemoir Road junction. In particular the issue of vehicles parking on ground close to the junction and obscuring visibility from the South. Louise Cameron noted that the local police had been made aware of the issue however they have limited powers if the vehicles are parked on private land and do not obstruct the pavement.

It was agreed Community Councillors living in the area would monitor the situation and the resident who raised the complaint would be advised of the speed limit reduction from 40mph to 30mph which will hopefully take effect soon.

ACTION: LOUISE CAMERON TO ADVISE RESIDENT OF DISCUSSION

6.2 Request for Funds from Banchory Sports Village

Following a request from the Banchory Sports Village Trust for additional funding towards the £700,000 target, it was agreed to ask them to submit an application for funds from the Banchory Community Fund.

ACTION: LOUISE CAMERON TO ASK BSV TRUST TO APPLY TO BANCHORY COMMUNITY FUND

6.3 Banchory Skate Park

Mary Lennox reported that a request for funds of £2,500 was received shortly before Christmas by the newly formed Banchory Skate Park Committee. The monies would be used to repair the Skate Bowl in the Bellfield Park as there are issues with the existing structure. Mary Lennox advised the Committee representative that an application would need to be made to the Banchory Community Fund (Mid Hill Wind Farm Benefit Fund). The Committee required the funds before the next round of application assessments and so Mary Lennox provided the Marr Area Partnership with details and asked for them to advise the Skate Committee of other funding streams. Mary Lennox also alerted the Infrastructure and Services Department of Aberdeenshire Council to the potential safety issues raised regarding the Skate Park.

6.4 Dog Fouling

Louise Cameron advised the meeting that a message had been received by the Community Council on the problem of dog fouling at Hill of Banchory and asking if there was a group or

individual who could be contacted to address the problem and improve the attitude to the area.

Vivika Kerridge noted that a Hill of Banchory Neighbourhood Watch group had recently been formed and she could provide the Face book contact details.

It was also agreed that the Dog Warden would be informed of the complaint.

**ACTION: VIVIKA KERRIDGE TO PROVIDE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH DETAILS
CLLR KAREN CLARK TO ADVISE DOG WARDEN;
LOUISE CAMERON TO UPDATE RESIDENT OF ABOVE**

6.5 Ward Forums

Mary Lennox reminded the meeting that the next Marr Area Ward Forum for our ward is to take place on 9 March 2017, venue to be decided.

6. Glen O Dee Site

Following the recent fire, concerns have been expressed about security of the Glen O'Dee site and the potential for further vandalism to the old nurses' home, gatehouse and other outbuildings. The local police have confirmed that they undertake regular patrols. However the meeting agreed with a proposal from Mary Lennox to contact the site owner (Forbes Homes), who has planning permission for residential development of the land, to ask what security measures are in place and when development is expected to start.

ACTION: LOUISE CAMERON TO EMAIL FORBES HOMES

7. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported a bank balance of £4,583.86.

This includes Mid Hill Wind Farm monies of £1,500 which are to be paid to Banchory Sports Village following their successful applications.

The current bank balances for Youth 2000 accounts are £4,227.66 and £545.82.

8. Youth 2000 Project

John Wills reported that after requesting quotes from 3 suppliers for painting the two Youth 2000 huts in the Bellfield Park, only one had replied before the meeting.

It was agreed to postpone making a decision until the February meeting when another quote could be obtained. It was also agreed to request a quote for painting the huts with anti graffiti paint.

ACTION: JOHN WILLS TO OBTAIN QUOTES

9. Notice Board

Harry McNab reported that planning permission had been granted. Rebecca Glansbeek advised the meeting that Loftus Signs could erect the new notice board by the end of January.

ACTION HARRY MCNAB & REBECCA GLANSBEEK TO ENSURE THE NEW BOARD MEETS THE AGREED DESIGN.

10. Banchory Community Action Plan

Mary Lennox advised the meeting that the next steering group meeting on 10 January will review the second draft of the plan. It is hoped to have a final draft out for consultation in the coming weeks.

11. Community Resilience Plan

David Conroy reported that, along with David Milner, he has a proposal for phase one of the plan prepared. The next stage is to approach community groups such as the Churches, Guides, Scouts and Cadets for volunteers and use of facilities.

ACTION: DAVID CONROY & DAVID MILNER TO CONTACT LOCAL GROUPS

12. Keith White Award

Louise Cameron proposed that the 2017 Keith White Award be offered on the same basis as 2016, being a joint initiative with the Banchory Lions Club using the same eligibility criteria and monetary award as 2016. The meeting agreed.

ACTION: LOUISE CAMERON TO CONTACT BANCHORY LIONS WITH PROPOSAL

13. Community Council Representatives

14.1 Planning

Harry McNab noted that after an objection was overruled by the Reporter the Local Development Plan 2016 will zone a site at Silverbank for the new health centre. The LDP 2016 will also now offer more flexibility with regard to developer obligations in respect of a new Academy. Monies can now be used for either a new Academy or for an extension to the existing one.

Furthermore the Reporter has stated that planning gain monies can be channelled towards the aims of the Banchory Community Action Plan.

Also see 3.2

14.2 Community Learning and Development

Nothing to report

14.3 B.D.I

Louise Cameron reminded the meeting that the community hub at No1 Scott Skinners Square opened on 9 January. Number One, Community Matters will offer a community

cafe, community learning facility and training kitchen. The first adult learning courses will commence from the week beginning 16 January. The cafe will also open every Friday evening.

More details can be found at www.visitbanchory.com/community/number-one and www.facebook.com/Number-One-1876781379219509

Louise Cameron advised the meeting that the BDI AGM is to be held at Number One on Tuesday 24 January at 7pm.

14.4 Banchory Sports Village (BSV)

Rebecca Glansbeek noted that fund raising plans are ongoing with £670,000 raised so far. A race night is to be held in the Burnett Arms Hotel on 25 February 2017.

More details can be found at www.banchorysportsvillage.co.uk

14.5 Banchory First Responders (Defibrillators)

Rebecca Glansbeek reported that the next meeting is 26 January 2017.

14.6 Community Safety Forum

Eileen Durno reported that the next meeting is 19 January 2017.

14. Banchory Community Fund

Rebecca Glansbeek advised the meeting of an email received from Aboyne Canoe Club asking if the club's plans for a new equipment storage facility could qualify for Banchory Community Fund monies (Mid Hill Wind Farm Benefit Fund). The sub-committee's recommendation was to advise the group against applying as it would not meet the eligibility criteria set out in the guidelines. The meeting agreed with the sub-committee's recommendation.

**ACTION: REBECCA GLANSBEEK TO ADVISE ABOYNE CANOE CLUB
LOUISE CAMERON TO RECORD REASONS FOR DECISION IN FILE**

15. Date / Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday 13 February 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Banchory Academy Library.

Further information about many of the projects and events mentioned above can be found online at:

www.visitbanchory.com

www.facebook.com/pages/Banchory-Community-Council/606634609388296