

BELHELVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 20th June, 2011

VENUE: BALMEDIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHAIR: D. Watson **VICE CHAIR:** TBA
SECRETARY: W McBride **TREASURER:** A. Robertson

PRESENT: D. Watson, A. Robertson, I. Edwards, W. McBride, G. Sinclair, W. Anderson, L. Anderson, R. Miller, A. Smith, Cllr. A. Hendry, Cllr J. Loveday, J. McEwan, Cllr Juohnstone.

VISITORS: Constable M. Roger, Grampian Police,

APOLOGIES: D. Briggs, Cllr. J. Gifford, R. Miller

ABSENT: M. Ross

The chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all attending.

1: Police Matters **Constable Roger**

The meeting was advised that nothing major had been reported for the period. An instance of dog biting had been reported and appropriate action was being taken. One instance of vandalism by two youths had been investigated and one male was in custody with action being considered against the second person.

The compensation to BCC in relation to the vandalism to a notice board remains outstanding however the police are pursuing the parents for the agreed compensation.

Cllr Hendry raised an issue regarding indiscriminate parking in the 'Invalid' parking spaces in the leisure centre car park and this will be followed up. He also reported the periodic overnight parking of an articulated vehicle in the car park and again the police will make enquiries on our behalf.

Incidents of speeding in Belhelvie on the B977 at Cadger's Garage has been monitored by the police using radar equipment and 4 incidents have been recorded with appropriate action.

The question of the use of push bikes by police officers in patrolling the villages was raised by Cllr Hendry who pointed out that a sum of money had been donated by business to buy a quantity of these however to date there is no evidence of them being used to any degree. Constable Roger advised that a programme of training was being implemented and that they could hopefully be reinstated in the near future.

L. Anderson reported instances of speeding motorcycles and cars at various periods through the village and this will be investigated.

Sections of re-surfacing has been undertaken on the B999 and is causing problems by vehicles driving too fast on these areas despite a 20 MPH sign. This is causing stone chippings to be thrown up at oncoming vehicles which will result in cracked windscreens and could cause potential accidents.

A number of travellers caravans have been reported encamped in the Balmedie Country Park at the waste water treatment plant end and police have already made enquiries. They are not seen to be causing any litter problems and the police will continue to monitor the situation.

The Constable was thanked for his contribution and had to leave to continue his duties.

2: Minutes of meeting of 16th May, 2011

The Chairman asked everyone to read through the minutes of the previous meeting and invited comments.

A very full discussion took place with regard to the content and construction of the minutes and L. Anderson advised that she wished to be disassociated from the minutes as she felt unhappy with the way in which the meeting had been conducted and with the general process of the meeting.

D. Watson responded that that meeting had been conducted in an open manner and that the opinion of each member present had been invited and a vote taken on whether the matter regarding the complaint from Mr Jenkins should be conducted as a hearing or if the matter should be dealt with by a written response to K. Wiles at Aberdeenshire Legal & Governance Department. The vote had been recorded as 8 people against raising the matter to a hearing and 1 person against. L. Anderson was advised that she should have abstained from voting on the matter if she was unhappy about any part of the process.

H. Kershaw who had been the single vote in proposing that the matter be referred to a hearing proposed a motion that we should follow the constitution and felt that the decision was going against the constitution. As this motion was not seconded by anyone, the proposal was declared invalid. At this point H. Kershaw tendered his resignation and left the meeting

An issue was raised regarding the Chair's reluctance to allow Cllr Johnstone to speak and clarification was received from Cllr Loveday regarding the process to allow Ex Officio members to address the meeting.

The meeting was advised that contact had been made by a number of the members present to K. Wiles and Cllr Johnstone was able to report that a letter of response had been sent to Mr Jenkins and that a response from him would be forthcoming via K. Wiles. It was therefore agreed that the matter should be put in abeyance until such times as we receive a response from K. Wiles.

W. Anderson suggested that each member of the community council should be issued with a copy of the constitution and this will be done within the next few days. He also suggested that we must always ensure that we abide by the rules of the constitution.

With these amendments recorded in the minutes of the current meeting of 20th June, the minutes of 16th April, 2011 were proposed by A. Robertson and Seconded by G. Sinclair.

3. Matter arising from minutes

Any matters arising from the previous meeting had been incorporated into Item 2

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the current balance stood at £7984.11 however this did not give a true reflection of the value of the Community Council account as the value included monies belonging to the Skateboard Park account and also monies awaiting transfer to the Balmedie Gala Fund.

Replacement signatories still require to be arranged and it was agreed to proceed with 2 signatories in the meantime to allow the account to be used.

Cllr Hendry asked the Treasurer for a reason why the money for the Skateboard Park had still not been transferred to the account held by the leisure centre and it was agreed that this would be resolved prior to the next meeting.

5: Planning Applications

Nine planning applications had been lodged and were notified to the meeting. No objections to any were expressed.

6: Correspondance

The following correspondence had been received since the last meeting and was advised to the meeting: Aberdeen City Council: Proposals for New Park and Ride Car Park

Colin McKenzie, Aberdeenshire Council. (Confirmation of letter of concern to proposed extension to Balmedie Primary School).

Formartine Area Planning & Infrastr. Srvs. Tamala, Whiecairns. (confirmation of letter of concern regarding proposed change of use of two (2) agricultural buildings to commercial use).

7: Formartine Community Council Forum

It was confirmed that Alan Smith will be attending the Forum at Meldrum Academy on 29th June and W.McBride will attend the next one on 17th August. Thereafter further volunteers will be required to attend future meetings.

Cllr. Hendry pointed out that it is necessary for our representative to make a small statement to the Forum outlining our actions taken since the last meeting.

8: AOCB

Resignation: Due to pressure of business Mark Johnston has had to tender his resignation as a member of the community council to take immediate effect. We are sorry to lose his services and wish him well.

Balmedie Gala: Despite poor weather conditions the gala was a great success with a high attendance from the public. We had a similar number of stall holders to last year however added 3 new attractions to the event which proved very popular. We also installed a Marquee to house the bar-b-q and Bar and this also proved to be very popular. No financial report is available yet as we still have to hold a closing meeting of the gala committee and a fuller report will be available at our next meeting.

Planting out of Flower beds throughout the villages: WMcBride advised that these plants had been available for collection for several weeks but with the exception of Belhelvie, still remained unplanted through lack of volunteers to undertake the work. He made a further appeal to enlist volunteers to carry out this work and agreement was reached to have the work carried out very soon.

Core Paths: Due to the resignation of H. Kershaw there is currently no one assuming responsibility for the collation of information relating to Core Paths within the area.

We are aware that a public enquiry is due to be held and it was suggested that we contact Mark Mitchell to gain some fuller information.

Update on Website: Due to the resignation of Mark Johnston, the plans to transfer responsibility for the maintenance of the website to him has been scrapped. Following the resignation of H. Kershaw Jim Lamb is currently assuming full responsibility for all aspects of feeding information onto the website. His current contract is due to expire in July and it was proposed by W. Anderson that we should approach him to find out if he would be willing to consider extending his contact to allow new arrangements to be made with regard to the management of the website. D. Watson has agreed to make contact with J. Lamb to discuss.

Landfill Sites: Easter Hatton; Work is now at an advanced stage with regard to the reinstatement of the large area of waste (Tabletop Mountain) and D. Watson has spoken to the contactor who advised that the Topography of the land has been completed and currently final coatings are being put on the new level. Following this the area will be seeded and there should be evidence of grass growing on this area before the end of the current year.

W. Anderson advised of a 'second-hand' report of Asbestos being broken up on one of the sites despite the stringent controls which are in place and he has been asked if he could try and find out some more information to allow an investigation to be carried out.

It was still hoped that a member of the community council would be able to work in conjunction with Cllr Johnstone to monitor the progress and controls put in place with regard to the working of the surrounding landfill sites.

9: Dates and venues of future meetings

Monday 18th July, 2011 Belhelvie Community Centre.

Monday, 15th August, 2011 Venue: TBA

Monday, 19th September, 2011 Venue: Balmedie Primary School

Monday, 17th October, 2011 Venue: TBA

Monday, 21st November, 2011 Venue: TBA

Monday, 19th December 2011 Venue: TBA