

Inchmarlo, Brathens and Glassel Community Council
Online meeting
Wednesday 31st January 2024, 7.30pm
DRAFT Minutes

Present: Paul Herrington (Chair), Andy Wilkins, Gail Ledingham, Andy Dickson.
Councillors: Cllr Ann Ross, Cllr Yi Pei Chou Turvey
Visitor: Hilary English, Marr Community Planning Officer, Aberdeenshire Council
Apologies: Neil Bisset (Secretary), Regis Lechatellier (Treasurer)

Actions are highlighted in Red

1. Welcome/Apologies: PH welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that NB was away due to a bereavement, and RL due to business. HE introduced themselves as the Community Planning Officer for the Marr Area, who's role is essentially to support communities developing projects, for example, place plans, community action plans. The role can also provide access to funding and works in alliance with health and social care partnership, the police, fire and rescue service and community learning and development. HE also referenced the Marr Area Community Plan. Further discussion was agreed under AOB.

2. Approve Minutes of previous meeting: PH proposed and GL seconded minutes of the previous meeting.

3. Secretary's Report: there was no report from the Secretary due to NB being absent.

4. Treasurers report: there was no report from the Treasurer due to RL being absent. PH described the November 2023 accounts that RL circulated by email showing a balance of approximately £2,500.

5. Councillors report: AR described that the council was trying to reconcile its £67mm budget deficit, and that unpopular decisions would need to be made. A lack of funding will mean that the GP surgery in Banchory will no longer move to Silverbank as was previously described in the Local Development Plan. In addition the Scolty dementia ward at Glen O'Dee hospital will have to close. AR also described the closure of the Aboyne Bridge which is dividing the community there, and comes on top of the closed bridge at Park. A specialist team is carrying out an assessment following which funding will need to be found. This comes on top of the consequences of the various storms, including flooding, issues with roads and culverts and tree falls. AR also noted that she had taken time out due to bereavement and was catching up with correspondence.

YT mentioned that Aboyne is second in terms of bridge priorities for the council to address but depends on capital being available. YP also described after-school services in Banchory which the council is planning to withdraw from and let the third- and private-sectors move in. YP has been working with Inchmarlo Village to address waste services. Lastly officers are waiting for the 2025 roll-out of reduced speed limits around towns and villages, and are being challenged to introduce them earlier.

6. Minute agreement to the Windfarm Representation document: PH asked for minuted agreement to the IBGCC Hill of Fare windfarm representation document, which has a deadline for submission to the Scottish Government (ECU) of Friday 2nd Feb. AW, AD and GL all provided their support for the document to be submitted.

7. **IBG Area Resilience:** There was no report on resilience due to RL being away.

8. **Retirement Village Speed Limit:** GL noted that vegetation was being cut back more frequently to improve visibility turning out of the retirement village. PH noted that he had located and circulated the council manuals for speed limits and signage, and that these documents should be useful in future. AR noted that **she would like to arrange a meeting with GL** to discuss further options and progress around the speed limit and signage at the village entrance. GL noted that she would be back from the 9th of March. YT noted that in the best situation the 40mph limit would be extended all the way from Banchory to Bridge of Canny, and **recommended listening to the recording of the Marr Area committee agenda item on roads policy, at the meeting held on 30th January.** AW noted that difficulty in police enforcement was used as a reason for not setting reduced speed limits, but that this did not seem valid as the majority of people would comply. AR commented that council decision-making was driven by policy.

9. **Hill of Fayre Windfarm:** this agenda item was covered by Item 6 above.

10. **IBG, Torphins & Banchory Paths:** PH described the initiative taken by Chris Low to set up the Inchmarlo Paths Group, with an initial meeting tomorrow night in the village hall. The key project is to replace the footbridge over the Canny Burn, which will likely cost in the region of £35k. Chris obtained planning permission, and fundraising is the next step. **HE offered to help source funding and suggested contacting her directly. PH to arrange with Chris.** PH also noted that the paths group were looking for a Treasurer and requested any suggestions.

11. **Any other Business (AOB): Meeting software** - there was discussion around the trial of Teams and subsequent fallback to Zoom. **AW offered to look at the package of meeting/email/drive/website services and make a proposal at the next bi-monthly meeting.**

AW gave an update on broadband services to the houses at Bridge of Canny excluded from the R100 programme. Cerebras have provided a quote of £70k to get fibre to Bogarn House (the most distant house), which approximately equates to the voucher scheme. AW will meet with resident Keith Roberts and Council digital team member Jack Rigby on 6th Feb to discuss options and next steps. YT also described the council's digital team and supported having a meeting with Jack Rigby at Inchmarlo Village Hall.

PH introduced the community planning topic, the Community Action Plan (CAP) that was carried out whilst IBGCC was part of a wider community council area, and the possibility of producing a new Local Place Plan (LPP). HE described the difference between a CAP and a LPP, the latter being a spatial plan that is submitted to the local council for registration, and becomes a formal part of the planning process. The LPP and CAP should reflect the wishes of the local community covering for example allotments, low cost housing, affordable transport, asset transfers, paths etc etc. HE's colleague Nick Mardell is currently dealing with 12 asset transfers from the council across the Marr area. There is also an option to combine an LPP and CAP into a single document. The plans can range from simple to very extensive. HE offered to arrange a meeting with her team to come and talk in greater detail, described the push to get LPPs in place so that they fit with the Local Development Plan schedule, and that £500 was available to help develop LPPs. HE will send out an email with further information on the council team. **PH suggested the CC members then discuss the email content and revert to HE regarding a follow-up meeting.**

12. **Date of next meeting - Wednesday 27th March 2024**