

Approved Minutes: IBGCC meeting Jan 7th 2026

The meeting opened via Teams at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome and apologies:

Present: Paul Herrington, Chris Low, Sue Blow, Andy Dickson, Cllr Yi-Pei Chou Turvey, Cllr Ann Ross, Laurie Huff.

Chris Bath sent his apologies, together with the Treasurer's report: see slide set.

2. PH welcomed Laurie Huff to the IBGCC as an associate member

- a. See **slide 3** for a summary of IBGCC member responsibilities.
- b. LH has kindly agreed to support our Social Media development

3. Treasurer's report: CB: *information* **Slide 5**

Summary: Bank balance £2642.66

We shall need to repay £1088.52 - overpayment for Glassel hall window repairs.

Investment a/c has made £102.10 interest.

4. Councillors' reports: *information*:

a. Cllr Yi-Pei Chou Turvey.

The Council has declared a major incident because of the current snow conditions in Aberdeenshire. It is applying for additional financial support to cover exceptional costs for snow clearing plant, food deliveries and emergency support for those who need it.

b. Cllr Ann Ross

- i. AD raised the issue of pavements in Banchory not being cleared. AR advised that there is a priority hierarchy for snow clearance which we can look up on the Council website: Main roads first, and access to hospitals etc, then footpaths. Cllr Ross thanked those volunteer members of the community and volunteer farmers who are working locally to clear access. It was noted that some farmers are paid for clearing snow and some volunteer as unpaid.
- ii. Budgets are currently being compiled ahead of the full Council meeting next week. The Budget will be announced next month. The over-spend has been reduced. The Health and Social Care

partnership will need to be reviewed as it doesn't work as intended because of the way it was set up.

- iii. Other elements of the Council's overspend needs addressing on a National rather than local basis.
- iv. There is an exhaustive hospital review currently being carried out: everything is being considered. Creative solutions are being reviewed, such as cutting bed numbers rather than closing entire small community hospitals
- v. All local Community Councils are being encouraged to participate in the Banchory Surgery's Participation group. SB volunteered to enquire about participation in this group.

Action: SB

5. Social Media: *action* LH / PH

- a. Other Community Councils have Face Book pages and presence on various social media platforms (**Slides 8-11**)
- b. PH proposes a way forward (**Slide 12**) Together with LH
- c. LH outlined some of the benefits to the IBGCC of having a social media page. CL pointed out the benefits of having a FB presence to link with our Website.
- d. *Action: CL to provide email address for LH. PH to work with LH on a process to establish our presence on FB initially.*

6. Local Place/Development plan: *action* PH

- a. Aberdeenshire Council's "Call for Sites" closed at the end of October 2025. Now we are invited to propose ideas and have until March 16th to respond.
- b. Our area comprises some 461 dwellings. Between 400 and 500 new homes are in the developers' proposed sites. This gives some idea of what could be in the pipeline. The various site proposals are shown in the slidepack.
- c. On the plus side, a variety of community projects have been extracted from the IBGCC Local Place Plan by the council for consideration in the Local Development Plan. These are shown in the slidepack and in summary:
 - i. There is a potential Nature reserve identified on the plan

- ii. The areas liable to flood have been abstracted and included on the plan
- iii. The Bothy and Inchmarlo Hall have both been recognised as Community assets
- iv. A future Quiet Road route between Banchory and Torphins has been partially identified .
- v. PH has been working on Ideas connected to pedestrian/cycle routes.

Note: all this is a great deal of work. PH has volunteered to draft ideas which he will circulate for responses. The timeline is tight: this week to compile, next week to circulate, then the combined thinking will be submitted together with Banchory's responses.

Cllr Ross emphasised that she is able to listen but cannot comment because this is a planning matter.

Cllr Turvey mentioned that here is a possibility that the Government may ask for additional housing provision on top of that which is currently planned or proposed.

LH asked how the public can be kept informed. Finding information can be difficult. Cllr Ross mentioned that on previous occasions the Council has held open sessions for public consultation and these have been very well attended.

7. North East Scotland Convention of Community Councils *action* PH
 - a. See **Slide 31** for full details
 - b. We have enough information to approve the statement.
8. Broadband, smart meters *action* PH
 - a. An email has been sent to our residents distribution list to understand whether there are issues with smart meters .
 - b. Further information is given in **slide 43**
 - c. Aberdeenshire Council's Jack Rigby's provided an update on broadband . CL raised the possibility of Jack making a presentation to residents, and this was seen as a possibility
9. Glenskinnan Windfarm PH...nothing to report

10. Mid-hill Windfarm applications *action* CB

Andy and the Resilience team will update as and when the revised application for funding a pump is received.

11. Road safety: signage action PH

a. PH noted that progress is dismal. Cllr Ross has volunteered to pursue the matter on our behalf. At the same time, Bev Lechatellier has been in contact with the Council regarding near misses at the bridge. We may have to wait for a new policy on road safety and signage. Our situation does not meet the requirements of current road safety policy. Cllr Ross asked PH to forward correspondence on this issue, and she will raise it with Tim Stephen at Aberdeenshire Council.

b. CL noted correspondence in the Secretaries inbox from Linda Easton regarding her concerns over an unrestricted speed sign that had been installed before the small bridge on the minor road towards Cairnton estate. PH stated that he had already raised this with the Council Roads dept who confirmed that this sign should not have been installed and will be removed.

12. Planning Applications: CL

Nothing to report

13. Review of actions PH See Slide 43

14. AOB

CL on behalf of CB: Ken Gow has mentioned the annual Bothy newsletter. Since Fred Olsen are the Bothy's major funder, KG asked whether it would be a good idea to send FO a copy of the newsletter letting them know of all the good community work that is being done by the Bothy. We agreed this was a good idea.

Action: CB

15. Date of next meeting: **MARCH 4th: Inchmarlo hall and hybrid.**

16. The meeting closed at 9.08pm