

IBGCC Minutes of hybrid meeting

Feb 26th 2025. Inchmarlo hall and skype

Actions in green

Present: Paul Herrington (chair), Andy Dickson, Sue Blow, Chris Bath, Cllr Turvey

1. Welcome and apologies: apologies received from Chris Low, Ross Provan.
2. Minutes of meeting Jan 8th 2025 were proposed (CB) and seconded (AD)
3. Roles and responsibilities were raised in case anyone wanted to discuss

Action	Name	Date Raised	Closed	Closed?
Conclude any revision to IT systems incl cost noting issue raised by RL	AW -> CL	03/04/24	o	y
Separate out the IBGCC and Mid Hill funds in finance reports	RL -> CB	03/04/24	?	?
Follow up on Kirkwood home community benefits including paths	PH -> CL	16/05/24	o	o
GL will look for suitable alternative CC candidates from the Inchmarlo Retirement Village	GL -> PH	26/06/24	o	o
Circulate Resilience Plan for agreement, when ready	RL -> AD	26/06/24	o	y
Follow up on roads speed limit policy with Philip Mackay at Aberdeenshire Council	AR	26/06/24	o	o
Heather to Harbour initiative - SB will monitor progress and keep the IBGCC updated	SB	06/11/24		o
Finalise arrangements for internet banking	CB	06/11/24		
Decide on LPP sub-groups and how to take forward	ALL	06/11/24		
Sign up to data protection for £40	CB	20/12/24		

y = action completed, o = action is open, ? = unclear

Item 3: follow up on Kirkwood homes CL will update at next meeting

Item 4: we still have no volunteers to join the community council.

Item 5: Key items are being purchased. They will be photographed with instructions for use. However, if there is a problem with Inchmarlo hall, we need another space to be available as backup in an emergency. **Action: CB and AD will Liaise with Sylvia Stephen to discuss nominating Glassel hall.**

Item 7: Heather to Harbour. Regular meetings are being held but the co-ordinator is not yet ready to publicise the initiative further yet.

Item 8: Internet banking now organised.

Item 10: Data protection insurance paid: £35 CB

Additional notes: File storage: no progress; New distribution lists; now created; Smart meters: to be discussed under a later agenda item.

4. Secretaries' report: nothing to share this time
5. Treasure's report: CB
 - Data protection insurance paid: £35
 - Paul Herrington and Chris Low have internet banking rights to the Virgin Money account.
 - Glassel hall repaid £1088.52 as the costs for replacing some windows was less than expected.
 - Received payment from Fred Olsen wind farm in respect of the application made by Inchmarlo Community Workshop for £975.30
 - Met with Kirsty Leiper: discussed a variety of community funding ideas

- Future meeting with Mid Hill wind farm community benefit: CB and CL to attend. Date to be agreed.
- Meeting with Glassel hall to discuss potential resilience plan backup (date to be agreed: see item 5 above)

Mid Hill: IBGCC Community Fund Status : 26/02/25

- Fund balance brought forward as at 31/1/25 with RPI included providing additional funds of £4,139.19
- No application or payments have been made since our last meeting
- Overall Fund balance at 31/1/24 available for allocation held by Mid Hill: £20,421.62

6. Councillor's report: Cllr Turvey Chou Turvey

Some schools are interested in getting funding via their community councils. This initiative has already been proposed and picked up by Torphins and Banchory. **Cllr Turvey asked if IBGCC could check our boundaries to see what eligible schools fall within our area.**

The Council budget deficit is still causing concern. Finding savings is proving difficult which makes it hard to plan. There is currently much social media attention on this topic and Cllr Turvey reminded us that the public have a right to sit in on these discussions. **Cllr Turvey encouraged IBGCC to put forward ideas for both budgetary savings and allocation of funds.**

7. Local Place Plan: proposed Public Meeting PH

- PH proposed 2 public meetings, One in the village hall, and a second at Inchmarlo Retirement Home Lodge. Dates proposed are Wed 2nd and Thursday 3rd April. **It was agreed that these dates were suitable, and PH will send an email to invite the community.** PH has produced a set of presentation material using the LPP, saved in the googledrive. One purpose of the meeting is to get seek volunteers.
- Correspondence regarding the Master Plan is ongoing
- An Aboyne / Mid-Deeside mobility demonstrator initiative is being progressed by Mid-Deeside Community Council. PH is involved and can provide further details.

8. Potential traffic / A93 group PH

- Colin Stewart (IRV head of estate) and Cllr Ann Ross have expressed a willingness to be involved in a group to consolidate A93 road safety issues. Currently there are a variety of initiatives concerning road safety.
- There was debate over whether windfarm funding would be available for small relevant projects such as digital speed signs.
- It was noted that the has erected additional warning signs to both the east and the west of the entrance to the Retirement village.
- Settlement signage: PH presented signage that had originally been proposed for the extended 40mph zone at Smiddy Park-Bridge of Canny. The wording was discussed and **PH will circulate the signage and a proposal to take to the council.**
- Potholes were briefly discussed and PH described having used the council's online map system which had been an effective way of raising issues. However **PH noted that the root cause of some of the regular severe potholes, such as drainage, was not being addressed, and would raise this further on the council system.**

9. IBG area resilience. AD. Already discussed under Agenda Item 3, item 5.

10. Planning applications and developments: Nothing to report.

11. Hill of Fare Windfarm: PH

This will go to a Public Enquiry. We expect to get a letter from the Government for Scotland that will give us 14 days' notice if we wish to engage. Hazel Bailey is the case officer. **It was agreed that IBGCC would participate in the Public Enquiry.** We have yet to receive the letter [**note letter received in spam folder, and a response now sent**].

12. Paths PH

PH presented the Torphins Path Group "Big Vision" loop map, which integrates the Banchory-Torphins-Lumphanan old railway route with the Tarland and Deeside Ways to create a circular route. PH will liaise with Torphins and Banchory paths groups to address section in the IBGCC area, and to deliver a Glassel to Banchory Route that forms part of the Big Vision loop. In some places old paths have been sold or built over, but new paths across forestry land may be viable. **PH will keep IBGCC informed.**

13. Mid-hill Windfarm funding

CL, CB, PH et with Fred Olsen's Kirsty Leiper and Kirsty Ryder met to discuss suitable proposals for funding. PH wrote up a meeting note which details the discussion. Fred Olsen are very supportive of the Community Council's work. Clarity will be required over whether funding can be allocated to projected that might be deemed part of Aberdeenshire Council's "mandate". IBGCC was encouraged to look outside our area for suitable projects that would still benefit residents, for example helping children's activities.

14. Website and IT. Nothing to report.

15. AOB

The issue of Broadband connectivity was raised on behalf of Chris Lowe. Local resident Keith Roberts' struggles to address speeds in his surrounding area were described, and the frustrating situation was noted. PH gave an update provided by Jack Rigby regarding the R100 and Project Gigabit fibre upgrades. The former is due to be delivered in 2027/8 for those properties included in the contract. Project Gigabit would cover those properties outside of R100, and in theory be delivered by 2023. This would address the area around Keith Roberts, but is 5 years in the future and not without uncertainty.

The issue of Smart meters was raised by PH, who noted that some work and some do not, from a small sample of local residents. **This is a topic that PH will progress further.**

16 Date of next meeting: 04/ 06/ 25: Hybrid at Inchmarlo village hall. This will include the AGM.