

IBGCC Minutes of Skype meeting January 8th 2025

Attendees: Chris Low (chair), Sue Blow, Andy Dickson, Ross Provan, Chris Bath, Cllr Ann Ross, Cllr Yi-Pei Chou Turvey.

Chris opened the meeting at 7.05pm.

1. Chris welcomed us to the new Skype format which seemed to work well for most of us. Apologies were received from Paul Herrington.
 2. The Minutes of the last meeting were approved by Chris Bath, seconded by Chris Low.
- Action tracking

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

Pt 2: Midhill to be discussed under agenda item 5 , treasurer's report.

Pt 3: To be discussed under agenda item 9: Planning applications.

Pt 4 retirement village recruitment: a poster has been put up and we await response

Pt 5 to be discussed under agenda item 8: Resilience.

Pt 6: Councillor Ann Ross updated us with progress regarding speed and safety signs at the entrance to the Inchmarlo Retirement Village (IRV). After much careful persuasion and negotiation Ann has secured the best possible outcome given current rules governing speed limits on the A93. In summary: a reduced limit is not possible, but two warning signs have been erected: one advising motorists to slow down approaching the right hand turn, together with a second warning sign for elderly people crossing.

3. Roles & Responsibilities

No changes - see slide in pack.

4. Secretaries' reports

Ross Provan noted that the community email distribution list needs to be updated and checked. CL suggested that PH should send the new email addresses collected during the Place plan consultation sessions to RP who could then check if people wish to be included on the list before adding them. Action: PH & RP

5. Treasurer's report (slide 5) Summary:

- Internet banking issues have been resolved

- Website renewal has been paid: £129:80
- ICW for Dec. Pd: £158.45
- Inchmarlo Hall Resilience Plan Dec paid: £6,053.44
- Glassel Hall window repair underspend: we expect a repayment to IBGCC iro £1k
- Data protection fee: £40 The Council agreed for this fee to be paid.
 - CB action

In addition, the Community Council agreed that additional Council members should have payment authority with the Virgin Money account. Chris Low, Paul Herrington and Chris Bath will be signatories: Action: CB to arrange the paperwork.

Slide: Bank transactions. CB will present a summary slide at each meeting. The agreed and collated slide set will be presented to auditors in April.

CL asked if any council funding for conducting the Local Place Plan consultations had been received.

Action: AD to follow up with Kirsty Macleod at the Council to apply for this grant,

6. Councillors' reports:

- a. **Councillor Ross** began with good wishes for the 2025. She updated us with the results of our request from our previous meeting that she inquire about buses turning into IRV for added safety and to remove the risks associated with crossing the A93. The bus company ruled out this option since the additional time taken would mean an extra bus would have to be added to their fleet which would be uneconomic. However, the request has been logged and may be taken into account at some future time.
- b. Cllr Ross reminded us that a Dial-a bus service is available between 9.30am and 11.30am into Aberdeen and she referred us to the Aberdeen Council website for further information.
- c. Work towards the improvements to the existing bus stops is ongoing.
- d. The Council are reviewing grit bin locations and provision. You can apply on-line through the Aberdeenshire Council website or the MyAberdeenshire app to have grit bins refilled or replaced if they are damaged.
- e. Priority roads are being gritted first and other roads then gritted as per the Council's policy.

6 ctd Councillor Turvey reminded us that in view of Aberdeenshire's £40m funding deficit we could expect cut-backs in services. She is working hard to minimise the effects of specific reductions on the community.

She too reminded us of the rules regarding grit bins and advised us to go on the Council App to check the location of existing bins. However, if we require new bins we need to meet new criteria for assessment.

7. Local Place Plan

Paul Herrington has sent an email summarising progress and the way forward. The LPP performs two key functions: 1) to act as a Community Action Plan, and 2) To contribute towards the next Local Development Plan.

It is accepted that the Place Plan will evolve but is in a good enough shape to be submitted by Jan 9th2025.

As part of the process Paul Herrington and Chris Low have consulted with key stakeholders, all of whom have been positive and have agreed to work together with the Community Council on key matters of mutual interest: paths, speed of traffic and refuse collection. The Leys estate is working on a masterplan plan with other landowners and expects to be consulting with residents at the end of Jan/early Feb 2025.

Paul recommending submitting the Place Plan as it stands and recruiting and working with sub-committees as and when specific projects need attention and action.

The Council agreed that the Place Plan be submitted and updated as and when necessary.

8. Area Resilience

Resilience funding was requested by Inchmarlo Hall Resilience Group. The group received funding at the end of 2024 and is in the process of purchasing resilience equipment that will be stored at the Inchmarlo hall. The Resilience Group will provide a document with photos and descriptions of the resilience equipment. This document will be placed on the IBGCC website.

Fred Olsen Renewables (FOR) are keen to use our Resilience planning project as part of a case study to provide evidence for good use of funds. Chris Low informed FOR that it was too early as the project had not got off the ground yet.

9. Planning applications

Chris Low updated us (slide 9) on the situation regarding the breach of planning application regulations by Kirkwood homes. The paths and cycleways integral to the application have not been built. Chris has been in contact with both the head of planning and the planning enforcement team and responses from both are being followed up. A new planning application for pathways is expected to be submitted shortly.

Mr and Mrs Crichton's planning application has now been accepted following support from Marr area committee.

10. Hill of Fare proposed windfarm

Discussion deferred to the next meeting: PH to monitor and update.

11. Paths

Discussion deferred to the next meeting.

12. Community Fund Status: Fred Olsen Renewables (FOR)

Funds are available for the community and continue to grow with the currently available fund balance of c \$16k. Kirsty Leiper (FOR representative) got in touch to suggest a meeting to discuss ways in which the fund can be promoted. Paul H and Chris L have a meeting arranged for 22nd January. (*Post meeting note: Chris Bath is also joining this meeting*).

Ideas put forward from the Council:

Chris Bath suggested checking with Glassel hall to see if they would be interested in having a resilience plan.
CB to action

Sue Blow suggested proposing a plumbing upgrade to the Inchmarlo hall. Cleaning was curtailed recently due to frozen pipes and there are noisy airlocks.

Action: SB to raise with Hall Committee

13. Website and IT

The new Resilience plan has been added to the website.

Actions have been taken to reduce overall annual expenditure on IT from c. £600 to c. £230 per year (see slide 14). Key changes have been to cancel the Zoom subscription which will save £200 pa. and replace with the free Skype application, and to take advantage of a 50% off deal with WIX for website hosting.

Chris Bath wondered if Aberdeen Council could help us reduce our IT costs even further by facilitating a pooled data storage system with other Community Councils.

Action: PH/CL to raise with A/C.

14. AOB

A Recruitment poster has been put up in the Community area at the Inchmarlo Retirement Village. We will continue to make attempts to recruit a representative to the Council from the residents.

15. Date of Next Meeting is currently scheduled for 5th March 2025.

Chris closed the meeting with thanks at 21.05