

Inchmarlo, Brathens and Glassel Community Council
Online meeting
Wednesday 27th September 2023, 7.30pm
Approved Minutes

Present: Paul Herrington (Chair), Neil Bisset (Secretary), Regis Lechatellier (Treasurer), Andy Wilkins, Gail Ledingham, Andy Dickson.

Councillors: Cllr Ann Ross

Apologies: Cllr Yi Pei Chou Turvey,

Actions are highlighted in **Red**

1. **Welcome/Apologies:** The Chair (Paul), welcomed everyone to the meeting. Neil confirmed that Cllr Turvey had sent her apologies.
2. **Approve minutes of previous meeting:** Paul proposed, Andy seconded.
3. **Introduction of new IBG CC Members:** Paul introduced Gail Ledingham and Andy Dickson and they gave a quick introduction about themselves.
4. **Secretarys Report:** Neil informed the group he will be putting out the Midhill wind farm funding email to the residents next week for their replies to be in by 10th November. The review will be on Wednesday 22nd November at 7pm. Neil then mentioned that the community will be putting up the local poppies in the area along the roadside as part of remembrance Sunday. Neil highlighted that we are receiving a number of emails for various training sessions or coaching and mentoring in different areas of the community which is good to see. He will continue to forward these on when they come through but its good that the CC are being offered 3 places part funded. Neil discussed that he has forwarded on the small grant scheme which Kirsty from Marr council has sent out and will keep sending these out. There are requests just now for applications for small grants and you can apply for these online. Theres community council training tomorrow for those who wish to attend. The latest Crime alert report was sent out via IBG CC from Grampian Police on 5th September, no further update since then.
5. **Treasurers Report:** The recent presented figures up to the 31st July 2023 which is £2,538.40. Midhill wind farms were exhausted and the outstanding balance is £2,445.16. Next Midhill Windfarm total is £15,691.64.
6. **Councillors Report:** Cllr Ross took some time to discuss the recent Inchmarlo retirement Village speed limit reduce from 60mph to 40mph. Some points to note - The process that was involved and the outcome that the The Marr Area Committee supported it, in particular Cllr Ross took an interest. Bill Byth spoke at the meeting. The initiative was taken forward to the Infrastructure and Services Committee on the 24th August. Bill and Paul spoke, and Cllr Ross spoke in support. The council road officers did not support the change and

Councillors voted 11 to 3 to reject the change, but to accelerate the review of the council's road policy, schedule to be agreed. Cllr Ross also informed the group that the Police have advised they will not be coming out for minor crimes (eg garden furniture being stolen) unless there are CCTV cameras showing the crime taking place. Budget constraints on the Police means they are now required to focus on the priority issues.

- 7. Resilience & Flooding:** Regis informed the group that he had been speaking with the residents regarding resilience and flooding but although reaching out, he has not had requests for any help. A small group of residents have planned their own group and are continuing to make the changes themselves to protect their property. There is a request for a new wall to be made at one of the residents (increased height) which does not seem to be getting traction from any contractors. **Regis to contact these residents to see if there is anything we can help with.** Regis has also passed his details onto the flood group for inclusion in anything we can help with. Cllr Ross mentioned that Aberdeenshire Council will not be able to help as much as expected but can advise where possible.
- 8. Speed limit Inchmarlo retirement village:** Paul showed some slides going over the final outcome of the speed limit reduction. The meeting was on 24th August to reduce speed limit from Banchory to Bridge of Cannay down to 40mph which was not ultimately supported (3 supported, 11 rejected any change but to accelerate the review of the council's road policy) there is no clarity on the timeframe of this. One positive outcome of the meeting is that there are going to be signs put up either side of the retirement village entrance which was primarily due to having to cross the road to the bus stop. It was noted Bill Byth made good cases for the speed limit reduction along with the signatures. Paul requested that if this was to be done again that we will have some good lessons learned after seeing some of the outcomes from the roads group, what the councillors are looking for and the full scope of what was applied for (potentially a reduced scope in future). **There is an action on IBG CC to monitor the Scottish gov future updates and Aberdeenshire council on the new road policy review which is to be carried forward by Gail.** The roads team look at the accident history of the area and the conclusion given was that there was a small number of accidents does not mean this is a factor for speeding, the IBG CC were unclear that we felt speed is a factor due to the accidents we have seen in the area. There is also an issue raised by the roads dept that they felt if this strip of road is changed to a 40mph limit, that it would be confusing for drivers due to the surrounding environment lending itself to a 60mph limit. The IBG CC felt this was not a good case as it's around the entrances to houses and the retirement village. Gail also made some additional points during this item that the roads group had incorrect assumptions in their points eg, having an accessible path into Banchory schools through the retirement village which is incorrect. Cllr Ross informed the group that historically planning applications have been advised that there is a safe route through the retirement village to school which she agrees is not the case. Andy Wilkins advised that vegetation was cut back on the Bridge of Cannay application and suggested that we could take a staged approach to getting the approval. Signage, cutting down vegetation, going down to 50mph

first as we have already done some of these items at Bridge of Cannay. He also advised a document which could be referred to for our 40mph speed limit that could be taken into account. Andy Dickson suggested making the entrance of the retirement village safer with potential ramp ways on/ off or even a filter lane but agreed these would be big budget items. Cllr Ross said that she was very disappointed with the outcome and the main reason the application failed was because it was against policy and until the roads policy changes, there won't be change or desire to support this cause. Cllr Ross supported the IBG CC case and made very valid points. She used many of the arguments we have mentioned above and used these because she was aware this was not going to be approved. One of Cllr Ross' points was that the full 40mph strip was too long and chances would have been greatly increased if we applied just for the strip in front of the retirement village entrance. She mentioned that the signs were going to be changed but there is no timescale for this. Photos helped and the accident history is taken from Police records which is primarily only when people are injured that its recorded. Gail added some of her negative experiences that she has encountered trying to leave the retirement village entrance but also thanked Cllr Ross for her support. **Paul created an action to get together with Gail and Bill to setup a further meeting to discuss our forward plan.**

- 9. Hill of Fare Windfarm** - Paul reminded us there are 6 CC's (including IBG CC) who are now waiting for RES to submit their proposal to Scottish Gov. RES have said they will do this late summer, so assumption is that this will be imminent. Once this is submitted there is a 4 week period for us to respond. Paul highlighted a one page document that the 6 CC's wrote, the Chair of Crathes CC, sent out the page to MSP's, Scottish Gov, Councillors etc. What the CC's did in parallel to RES was gather responses from the area, 77% objected, 10% in favour and undecided or neutral was the rest. The CC's then reflect what the Community is telling us is that they object to the wind farm. Neil asked who was going to approve the project and Paul confirmed the approval was from the Scottish Gov which bypasses the Aberdeenshire Council. Cllr Ross did make the comment that Aberdeenshire council will be making comment on the plans as well. **Cllr Ross said if we have comments for us to send them to all the Area committee Councillors and/ or all Councillors depending which route the approval is going to go.**
- 10. Torphins to Banchory Paths** - Paul displayed to the group, the map of Torphins to Banchory footpath. Torphins have had approval for a certain area on the map. The next stage is to get through glassel and brathens which may be difficult but there is a path thats already being proposed. Once it gets to west of Banchory it becomes easier to join other paths. Torphns are currently corresponding with the landowner at the areas before west brathens. Neil asked if Torphins were continuing with this and trying to find the best route and Paul confirmed that was the case, as he has met with the group and is happy to help where requested. Cllr Ross mentioned that she had concerns with the route coming onto a busy rural road and said there is conflict between traffic and the fact its a bus route as well, and to stay off the road where possible.

11. **Any other Business (AOB)** - **Andy Wilkins will send out an email update on the broadband which he received notification on just before this meeting.** The IBG CC did thank Cllr Ross for the help and advice she had given the CC regarding the 40mph speed limit. It was also noted that if we are required to go challenge the speed limit, as well as further requests again, then a new petition would be required.
12. **Date of next two meetings:** The next meeting will be Wednesday 29th November 2023 followed by January 31st 2024. Meeting will continue via Zoom.