

Inchmarlo, Brathens and Glassel Community Council
Online meeting
Wednesday 26th January 2022, 7.30pm
Approved Minutes

Present: Robert Russell (Treasurer), Neil Bisset (Secretary), Andy Wilkins, Peter Tyrell.

Councillors: Cllr Rosemary Bruce, Cllr Eileen Durno, Cllr Ann Ross

Apologies: Regis Lechatellier, Bill Byth, Paul Herrington

Actions are highlighted in **Red**

1. **Welcome/Apologies:** The Chair (Neil), welcomed everyone to the meeting and Neil confirmed that Regis Lechatellier, Bill Byth, Paul Herrington, Chris Low sent their apologies.
2. **Approve minutes of previous meeting:** Bob Russell proposed, Neil Bisset seconded.
3. **Secretarys Report:** Neil advised that the new IBG CC secretary email address is up and running and very little other emails are now going to the other account but when they do an out of office should direct them to this new email address. The Testing schedules are being sent out every week which you have seen which gives the locations on where Community Lateral Flow testing kits are available from. Neil advised he will continue to do this until he stops receiving emails. The bin collections note has been sent out to the residents, we will be going to 3 separate bin collections and the date when this starts has not been confirmed and Neil will advise if there is anything that needs to be sent out by IBG CC nearer the time. Neil advised one of our residents contacted him regarding road closures on The Cairn o mount travelling from the South and that it caused confusion and they ended up travelling to Stonehaven when the sign at the bridge of Feugh was closed (ie road open) and the snow gates at GlenDye we open so the road was in use. Cllr Bruce has kindly forwarded this onto the roads team and the police to make them aware. Neil advised he was also contacted by another resident regarding smelly smoke that seems to have been coming over from the water works into Inchmarlo resident homes. It has happened more than once. Even with the windows shut the smell seems to be getting in, Paul has kindly offered to look into this one. Cllr Ann kindly advised that there is an environmental app that you can use to report these incidents on 'my aberdeenshire' to report problems like this. Neil has emailed Colin Champion regarding the Queens Canopy proposal to see about welcoming a member of the Royal family to the Inchmarlo area, and he responded that he is awaiting news from the Platinum Jubilee activities, to see whether the diary of HRH the Duke of Rothesay (otherwise known as Prince Charles) and Mrs. Duke Of Rothesay and if they are available before the end of March early April to plant two trees, one for the Platinum Jubilee, the other for the Queen's Canopy, on the Inchmarlo estate. If not the Lord Lieutenant and one other would do this.

4. **Treasurers Report:** Bob informed the group he has sent out a summary from the last meeting, the financial year is the end of March 2022. The next meeting will be tying everything up for the year. £369 cheque has left IBG CC for the Bridge of Cannay footbridge.
5. **Councillors Report:** Cllr Ann shared that we are coming to the end of the council term on the 5th May (5 yearly), so the administration will be working until this date but certain areas may be winding down within the same context. Budgets are being set for the coming year but they are facing budget cuts of £90m over the next 5 years. Marr Area committee took place 25th January, the Banchory skate park were awarded a grant, also they looked at the pollinators action plan which is going for approval. The plan is that 10% of open spaces are going to be set aside for biodiversity. Cllr Ross also mentioned that NESBEC is an important area which covers wildlife and environment. Residents can report anything on NESBREC website from road kill to environmental issues and colonies of birds etc. Cllr Ross also mentioned she is an honorary president of the Banchory singers and they are a community choir and are looking to welcome anyone interested in becoming part of this group. Cllr Bruce reinforced the comment about NESBREC and how important this is. Cllr Bruce mentioned that Scottish Southern have a community fund for Storm Arwen which is still available for applying for in community councils. Pot holes are also still being addressed and if anyone can take photos and report the pot holes then this will be addressed accordingly. Cllr Durno mentioned that herself and Cllr Ross had a meeting with 2 ladies from AECOM about the Deeside way and they met in Drumoak and Banchory discussing various issues, buses and walking areas etc. It was mentioned that the IBG CC side is not really part of this review but should get something addressed for the area to improve access to Banchory. Cllr Durno confirmed she sent the information from the Planning dept to see if anything was taken forward regarding the CC not receiving information previously on the awarding of planning applications. **Bob Russell is to take further forward as the planning dept are happy to meet with the CC to talk through everything and we can ask questions.** Cllr Ross advised that she made a point with AECOM regarding access from Banchory to Aboyne but this will require more work
6. **Police Report:** Neil informed the group that the most up to date Police report was as per the issue on 5th December regarding the November Police Report.
7. **A93 request for Speed Limit reduction:** Andy has presented the information to Marr Council in December including the petition, the speed limit is now on hold until February 2022 (est). Andy advised he wasn't aware of the next process but will await the outcomes from the report. Cllr Ross informed the group that we can make a request to present more information if required. Andy advised the need to speak would be dependant on the outcome of the report and agreement (or not) on the speed limit reduction. **Cllr Ross suggested that the CC can email all the members of the Marr Area committee and then this would go to the infrastructure committee to make them aware of the CC views in advance of the meeting.** Bob mentioned that there is still the second admission for the retirement village area speed reduction and that we could email

regarding both areas and email the Marr area committee. Andy asked if anything had been completed on the survey as vans had been noticed in the area along the road but nothing had come back so no further updates.

- 8. Planning Applications:** Bob has nothing to report this past 2 months in planning area. Bill had raised the point that there is a planning permission application that has been issued to the residents which he feels IBG CC should be aware of. Bob discussed that from the Marr Area meeting there is a change to the planning review change being advised. Bob discussed that there are changes to the number of people being allowed to vote from a family unit being counted as 1 comment, as opposed to 4 (if there is a family of 4) as a vote. There was also comments on conflicts of interest which may affect the strategy of planning going forward. Cllr Ross confirmed Bob had this correct, the background is that there are not enough planners coming through the system and whether more decisions can be made from the planners and some applications won't be going to councillors for consideration. Cllr Bruce advised that 95% of previous applications never used to come in front of the councillors. If a CC puts in a rejection for planning then this will still go to the Council potentially larger applications but not limited to. Cllr Ross advised that decision making that councillors have are still wanting to have a say or a view which represents views of the area and that they can comment on. Cllr Ross & Cllr Durno advised that they received an email from another CC with questions and the potential for Marr Area committee to contact each CC for feedback on this through Janelle Clark. **Paul McCarry to be contacted directly by Bob giving our views across.**
- 9. Storm Arwen -** Neil raised the point that from the effects of Storm Arwen, was the CC adequately prepared for the damage/ outage. He asked the question to see if there was a response that we should have taken as as a CC. Should we have carried out certain actions, responses, helping the residents etc (which we eventually did as best as possible) as the feeling was the CC were not prepared for this. Peter mentioned that there has been discussions that there is going to be a meeting to discuss setting up an emergency response team which would setup the Inchmarlohall etc and this is going to be arranged with a few of the team from the Bothy and potentially led by Richard Clarke. There was mention of generators/ chainsaws/ sand bags/ radio walkie talkies etc and setting up procedures/ plan or calling upon volunteers who would know what to do if this happens again. He advised there are discussions ongoing with Ballater emergency response team and some retired oil workers to setup as part of the emergency response. Neil offered Peter to mention to the resilience team that they could apply to midhill wind farm funding and Cllr Ross advised that we should also update Janelle Clarke with our resilience plan once created. Cllr Durno shared that conversations within the council have been ongoing as well as they were in the same situation as IBG CC. Other CC's have started to look into similar arrangements. Cllr Durno confirmed that other councils are discussing using their halls as their main point of contact similar to IBG CC. The electricity companies will potentially be supplying funding to help with hall setups (tbc). A resilience plan seems to be the way forward as per the Ballater CC. This includes how to get information out to the area as quickly as possible. It was

noted that Banchory CC have a resilience plan which is going to be updated from the last Storm however they were not affected as much as IBG CC. The discussion was also based on around the local residents plan which is the early on, straight away response with the Marr area, the bigger organisations would take over once they got going. Bob made the point that Inchmarlo residents sometimes don't answer their doors if people are checking on everyone from door to door but the Inchmarlo retirement village did a reasonable job of attending to the residents. Bob also mentioned that the updates to the SSE website was not accurate and was misleading, the website should have been updated regularly (every 5 mins est) the times were incorrect as to when the power was going to be back on. This led to residents waiting to be connected and not being connected when they assumed they would be. **Peter to relate back to IBG CC if the resilience team are created.**

- 10. MidHill Windfarm funding:** March 30th is the next award date for Midhill funding. The defibrillator has been purchased from the last award and there is wiring required to keep the defibrillator warm.
- 11. Charging points for IBG CC:** Andy raised the point regarding charging points and policy shows that there is a climate change proposal for the councillors to be carbon neutral by 2040. All roads and Aberdeenshire council car parks under the council's control, we can comment on this policy up until February. The comments will be included in a report due in March. Andys concern was making community comments regarding charging points and any grants available in the IBG CC area such as the Inchmarlo hall and to encourage people to respond to this. Cllr Bruce mentioned there is a wide ranging discussion to be had to cater for people in flats, people who have their own houses/ garage/ rural areas.
- 12. Any other Business (AOB) - No comments**
- 13. Date of next two meetings:** The next meeting would be Wednesday 30th March, Wednesday 25th May (AGM). Meeting will continue via Zoom until further notice.