

IBGCC Bi-monthly meeting minutes: Nov 6th 2024

Present:

Councillor Ann Ross and Yi-Pei Turvey

IBGCC : Paul Herrington; Chris Bath; Sue Blow

Tech support: Keith Roberts

Apologies received from Chris Low; Andy Dickson; Ross Provan

The Meeting was held in Inchmarlo Village Hall as our first hybrid meeting. We thank the village hall for use of wi-fi- and projection capability and Keith for helping us to use it.

Agenda item 1: Welcome

Paul opened the meeting shortly after 8.45. Both in-person and virtual attendees appreciated the hybrid format. We shall continue with the hybrid version for alternate meetings.

Agenda item 1: Approval of minutes of previous meetings and action review: PH

The minutes for the virtual meeting held on Sept 25th were approved by CB

The Action review (PH) in summary:

Action	Name	Date Raised	Closed
Conclude any revision to IT systems incl cost noting issue raised by RL	AW -> CL	03/04/24	o
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
GL will look for suitable alternative CC candidates from the Inchmarlo Retirement Village	GL -> PH	26/06/24	n
RL will arrange for Catherine Nichols to verify the accounts once she is available in mid-July	RL -> CB	26/06/24	y
Circulate Resilience Plan for agreement, when ready	RL -> AD	26/06/24	o
Follow up on roads speed limit policy with Philip Mackay at Aberdeenshire Council	AR	26/06/24	o
Investigate funding options for Retirement Village Aberdeen-bound bus-stop access	GL -> PH	26/06/24	n
Circulate draft LPP ahead of next meeting (6th Nov), aiming for agreement at that meeting	PH	25/09/24	y

Action summary

1. Discussed under agenda item 13
2. Still under discussion CB
3. Kirkwood Homes / paths discussions ongoing CL
4. No progress made but important. CB suggested involving the IRV management Committee. PH
5. Finances agreed: agenda item 5 CB
6. Resilience Plan still needs refining but is nearly ready for approval. AD with Sylvia Stephen
7. Roads speed limit: ongoing AD
8. IRV bus stop safety and access

This topic is still under active discussion' with support from Cllr Ann Ross.

CB and Cllr Ann Ross discussed options for the safety of residents of Inchmarlo Retirement Village when catching westbound buses.

Although new warning signs are in place (Reduce Speed on red background; elderly people crossing; warning sign for right hand turn), this section of road still has the derestricted (60mph) limit in place. This does not allow those less able to cross the road in safety.

Chris asked if a roundabout, or turning circle within the Village entrance, would be feasible. This would allow travellers to both east and west to wait in security.

There are several initiatives on-going and Cllr Ross warned against duplication of effort and lack of communication.

Councillor Ross proposed meeting with Skene first to explore the issue before taking things further. However, she has undertaken to ask the bus companies involved if they would be willing to turn into the village to collect west-bound passengers.

Action: Councillor Ross PH

9. Draft LPP has been circulated. It will be agreed with any amendments at the IGBCC meeting on Jan 8th and will be submitted to the Council on Jan 8th (see agenda item 7)

Agenda item 3: Roles and Responsibilities

There are no changes to those identified in table for in the Minutes of Sept 25th 2024

Activity	25-Sep
Chairperson	PH
Correspondence Secretary	RP
Meetings Secretary	SB
Treasurer	CB
Vice Chairperson	CL
Resilience	AD
Midhill Funding	CL
Broadband	CL
Planning proposals & implementations	CL
Website / IT	CL
Local Place Plan	PH
Paths	PH
Road safety	PH
Windfarm / pylons	PH
Environment and sustainability	SB

Agenda item 4 Environment and sustainability SB

Sue described a new initiative being planned for the River Dee catchment, which will coordinate and communicate the activities of scores of specialist activity groups and organisations. The aim will be to create a wildlife, diversity and best practice management scheme for the whole Dee catchment from its source to the sea. It will also link into our local Resilience Planning. A longer summary is given as Appendix 1

Action: SB will monitor progress and keep the IBGCC updated

Agenda item 5 Treasurer's report: CB

Summary:

Our account has now been approved

Insurance with Zurich is in place

The Council has paid us.

We now know that an oversight in communicating with Virgin Bank has been the cause of recent difficulty. Virgin was unaware of changes to Community Council membership, so we did not have the correct security arrangements in place.

This is now being addressed.

CB asked the meeting to confirm that we will not be in breach of data protection requirements by giving the bank the personal details it needs to complete our mandate.

PH confirmed that, since the details are available in our minutes, and the minutes are published on our website with our consent, there is no data protection breach.

CB is currently setting up arrangements for internet banking and thinks we shall need two signatories for security and access in case of illness or accident.

Action: CB; PH

CB also asked the meeting to review its costs: specifically, Zoom, Cloud Storage and email hosting through IONOS: see Agenda item 13.

Agenda item 6: Councillor's report

Councillor Ann Ross updated us with current activities. This is a quiet period, partly due to the deficit in Council finances: all but essential spending has been cut. This will affect local services, and the situation is unlikely to improve until the new budget is set in February 2025.

All three councillors will be placing wreaths at services this coming Remembrance Sunday. Ann mentioned Banchory, West Kirk, Strachan and Kincardine O'Neil.

Agenda item 7: Local Place Plan and agreed next steps: PH

The Local Place plan is complete in draft form. Paul showed us summary slides of the key elements. The complete document is some 40 pages plus appendices.

The questionnaire was based on a generic Scottish Government example which goes beyond the specific needs of the local plans. Paul has edited and arranged the material from the questionnaires we received. The completed document will be agreed at our next meeting on Wednesday Jan 8th and delivered to the Council on Jan 9th.

Implementing the actions will necessitate working in sub-groups and these will be decided once the plan is agreed.

Action: PH, CL and Community Council Members

Agenda items 8 Resilience Plan, 9 Planning application development, 10 Hill of Fare Wind Farm, 11 Paths and 12 Mid-hill windfarm funding were all deferred to our January meeting owing to shortage of time or no change in status since our September meeting.

Agenda item 13: Website and IT: Google workspace – CL (PH)

CL is currently reviewing this and will update us with his findings. Paul showed Chris' table which summarises options for future discussion and decision. Many of our cost are non-negotiable so it makes sense to explore others where we have options. Examples are non-business Zoom, Skype, and Aberdeenshire Council funded Cloud access.

Action: CL to talk to Aberdeenshire Council via Kirsty Macleod to gauge support for our IT systems and strategy.

Agenda item 14: Any other business

- Torphins' very active paths Group have sent us a letter asking for support for their plans to work on extending their path network to Banchory
- Bill Crichton's planning application has been passed.
- Ross Proven will investigate patches of Council Land that would be suitable for a potential play park: funding is available.

The next meeting will be held on Zoom and will be on **Wed Jan 8th, 2025**

The meeting closed with thanks at 9.15

Appendix 1: From Heather to Harbour – Deeside catchment wildlife corridor

Every Community Council must publish a workable, effective Resilience Plan. These are important now but will become increasingly so if climate change increases our vulnerability to fire and flood. The Dee catchment area is continually monitored for changes in river level and quality, species diversity and land management practices.

An initiative in the South of England, From Weald to Waves, is proving highly successful in establishing a 100-mile-long wildlife corridor. Species diversity is increasing and contributing bodies from councils to golf courses are finding innovative ways of adapting the ways in which they manage their land. Less fertile land is being used in offset schemes, bringing new sources of income to farmers and landowners. *(Ref: Radio 4 Sounds. Open Country. The 100 Mile Wildlife Corridor. Martha Kearney, 26 Sept 2024)*

A similar initiative, provisionally called Heath to Harbour, is proposed for the Dee catchment. Our area will form part of that. The scheme will give us new ideas for improving resilience through diversity and good land and soil management. It will give us suggestions for practical steps we can take to sustain and improve our area to the benefit of the Community and the River Dee.