

 20/6/22



Bennachie Community Council
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
14 June 2021
(AGM Held On-line: Hosted by Aberdeenshire Council)
(Note: No AGM held in 2020 due to Covid-19)

Present: Sarah Robinson (Chair/Leslie), Frank Musgrave (Vice Chair/Oyne), Wally Rhodes (Treasurer/Leslie), Stuart Rennie (Planning/Insch), Wendy Glasspool (Sec/Chapel of Garioch), Wilma McIntosh (Rayne), Alan Simpson (Leslie), Scott Ewan (Insch), Stan Averell (Culsalmond), Andy Miller (Oyne), Janet Hoper (Insch), Robert Grant (Insch), Hugh Fraser (Insch) and Leslie Ovington (Insch)

In Attendance: Cllr Victoria Harper (Presiding officer), Cllr Hazel Smith & Anne Overton (Area Manager Garioch Aberdeenshire Council)

Apologies: None received

Visitors: None

Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the on-line meeting, welcomed new community councillors and thanked AC for hosting the on-line meeting.

AGM Held on 24 June 2019

The minutes of the AGM held on 24 June 2019 were approved: proposer Wendy Glasspool; seconder Frank Musgrave. Note: No AGM was held in 2020 due to Covid-19.

Community Council Annual Report

The Chair read out her annual report covering the period 25 June 2019 to 14 June 2021 (No BCC Annual General Meeting took place in 2020. Bennachie Community Council's (BCC) last face to face business meeting took place on 2nd March 2020 following which meetings were suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic). The chair thanked departing BCC Community Councillors and welcomed new councillors. The chair thanked all BCC members for their flexibility, forbearance and continued commitment in this new Covid world [Annex A: Chairs Report].

Due to poor internet connection Stuart Rennie (Planning Spokesperson) was unable to give a planning review during the meeting, as had been in the case in previous years.

Approval of Independently Verified Statement of Accounts

1. The Treasurer confirmed that the accounts had been audited as follows: 2020 / 2021 (01-04-20 to 31-03-21) audited on 04/04/2021 & there was a balance of £4952.86 [Annex B: 2020 / 2021 Accounts]. Note: Accounts for the period 2019/ 2020 had previously been approved and submitted to AC [Annex C: 2019/2020 Accounts].

2. Funds Available 2021/22. The forecast funds available for the period 2021/22 are as follows: Start Financial Year 21-22: £3776.35. Plus ABZ Grant £1146.54 Plus SSE Wayleave £213.99: Sub Total £5136.88. Less expenditure to date gives a current balance of £4338.00 approximately £4338.

3. **Appointment of Auditor.** The Treasurer declared that the proposed auditor for the following year's accounts was his daughter-in-law, Katherine Rhodes. Mrs Rhodes has now audited the BCC accounts for some years and a potential conflict of interest had been declared and discussed previously. It was agreed to appoint Mrs Rhodes as the auditor for 2021/22.

Election Reporting

The Sec gave a brief overview of the BCC membership. At the close of the election BCC membership stood at 14 with 6 vacancies. [A list of all members is included as Annex D].

Appointment of Office Bearers

Following the prescribed voting procedure, office bearers were appointed as follows:

Post	Appointed	Proposer	Seconded
Chair (interim)	Andy Miller*	Wally Rhodes	Stan Averell
Vice Chair (interim)	Frank Musgrave**	Wilma MacIntosh	Wally Rhodes
Treasurer	Wally Rhodes	Alan Simpson	Stuart Rennie
Planning Spokesperson	Stuart Rennie	Wendy Glasspool	Frank Musgrave
Secretary	Wendy Glasspool	Scott Ewan	Stuart Rennie
Garioch Area Forum Rep	Wally Rhodes	Alan Simpson	Stan Averell
Garioch Area Forum Rep	Scott Ewan	Scott Ewan	Wend Glasspool
Auditor	Katherine Rhodes	Wally Rhodes	Scott Ewan

* Note: Andy consented to be Interim Chair

**Note: Frank consented to be Interim Vice Chair (as per the BCC Constitution having held the role for the previous term).

BCC Grant

The BCC grant from Aberdeenshire Council for the coming year 2021/22 is £1146.54. The council also provide an additional £40 for ISO data registration. The BCC receives also receives an additional ~£200 from SSE (wayleave payment).

BCC Constitutional Amendments

No constitutional amendments were proposed or made.

Scheme of Establishment Review is on-going by Aberdeenshire Council

Dates of Business Meetings

The Chair provided a list of dates for the forthcoming business meetings as follows:

No Business Meeting in July 2021	24 January 2022
23 August 2021	28 February 2022
27 September 2021	28 March 2022
25 October 2021	25 April 2022
22 November 2021	23 May 2022
No Business Meeting in December 2021	27 June 2022 (AGM)

The format of the meetings to be confirm in light of Covid-19 restrictions and poor internet / broadband within the BCC area.

Date of Next AGM

The next AGM would be held in The Institute, Rannes Street, Inch on Monday 27 June 2022 at 7.00 pm.

The AGM was followed by the BCC business meeting for 14 June 2021.

Bennachie Community Council Report **25 June 2019 – 14 June 2021**

1. Introduction

This report covers the period 25 June 2019 to 14 June 2021. No BCC Annual General Meeting took place in 2020. Bennachie Community Council's (BCC) last face to face business meeting took place on 2nd March 2020 following which meetings were suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Since then, due to issues of poor broadband in rural locations within the BCC area, BCC has conducted its business by email. Aberdeenshire Council is aware of and has confidence in the transparency of decision making and the general manner in which BCC has continued to conduct its business throughout this very challenging time.

I would like to thank all BCC members for their flexibility, forbearance and continued commitment in this new Covid world. Despite the logistical challenges I am proud to say that BCC has maintained its focus, delivered work of the highest quality and stepped up to support our much-valued local services and voluntary organisations; our effectiveness has not been diminished and it is important to take time to reflect on all that we have been involved in and all that we have achieved.

2. Thank You to Departing Community Councillors and Welcome to the New!

I would like to note our appreciation to Anne Mansfield (Chapel of Garioch), John Agnew (Insch), Katy Thompson (Premnay) and Janet Hoper (Insch) for their contribution to BCC and to wish them all well. I would particularly like to thank Janet Hoper for her excellent minute taking over many years and for all her work to establish the first BCC website. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the newly elected Community Council Members Andy Miller (Oyne), Hugh Fraser (Insch), Robert Grant (Insch) and Lesley Ovington (Insch). As well as meeting new colleagues and hopefully future friends you will gain a great insight into the work that goes into a successful Community Council and it is my belief that there is a great potential for life to be enriched by such an experience.

3. BCC Business

BCC has conducted its business in accordance with the utmost professionalism and its code of conduct at all times. During the period BCC has maintained all certification to ensure legal and insurance compliance. In addition, the Secretary has completed a GDPR review and the introduction of a 'Declarations of Interest' item on the BCC Agenda marked an additional step towards ensuring that business is conducted impartially. BCC has participated in the ongoing Scheme of Establishment review, provided valued input into Community Council Fora and is represented on the Glens of Foudland Wind Farm Trust. During the period a number of Community Councillors have also attended training and community empowerment events.

In mid-2019 a revamp of the BCC website was completed by Scott Ewan and BCC increased the use of its Facebook page to disseminate information and encourage participation within our area to great success. Statistics show that some posts are now reaching thousands of people; posts regarding the Insch War Memorial Hospital, the Insch Train Station Public Survey, Oyne Fork Roadworks Update and Information regarding the Insch Chemist having had the greatest reach. Thank you very much to Scott for all his hard work in this essential area. We live in the age of electronic communication and while this has certain benefits it is not accessible to all; BCC recognises this and takes into account when planning important communications.

I would like to commend Aberdeenshire Council on the introduction of its Report IT system, which enables immediate and direct reporting of any issue to the Council. This system ensures

that individual concerns are addressed and has enabled BCC to focus on issues of a greater collective concern.

During this time, Ward 10 Councillor representation has not been as prominent as I would have liked and I hope that this will improve moving forward. In order for the political process to work effectively this link needs to be consistent and reliable in order to demonstrate commitment to the electorate.

4. Policing

BCC has continued to maintain a positive relationship with Police Scotland who has been responsive to BCC requests regarding speeding and traffic control particularly around Primary schools within the area. In late 2019 BCC followed up on speed-monitoring in the communities of Oyne, Premnay, Logie Durno and Rayne. It is evident from social media that there is an ongoing issue with vandalism, parking, litter and unsociable behaviour in Inch and BCC has requested local patrols to be made on a regular basis. It is important to remember to report any concerns to the Police directly.

5. Planning

Planning is such an important issue and BCC takes its role as a statutory consultee with a huge sense of responsibility. From the Aberdeenshire City and Shire Strategic Plan to the Local Development Plan, Planning Consultations, Planning Applications and Tree Preservation Orders there is a myriad of detail regarding policy and procedure. Once again the community is indebted to our Planning Representative for the many, many hours spent in the research and development of his informed and comprehensive responses on planning and development matters on behalf of BCC. I note my sincere thanks to Stuart Rennie.

6. Licencing

During the period BCC was asked to comment on two licencing items; Aberdeenshire Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Policy and an application from The Gin Cooperative Ltd of Mayfield, Oyne.

7. A96 Dualling – The consultation on the A96 Dualling Programme (Inverness to Aberdeen) has been one of the greatest focuses of BCC during the period. BCC's detailed review of the project information enabled it to ask pertinent and probing questions at all of the Community Council Dualling Fora hosted by Amey Arup. The preferred route option originally scheduled to be announced in October 2019 was announced a few days before Christmas 2020. BCC was first to respond to the outrageous timing of this announcement and the short consultation period, demanding it be extended to 8 March 2021. Aberdeenshire Council and Lewis MacDonald MSP followed with similar requests and Transport Scotland did eventually concede. BCC campaigned to encourage as many people to respond to the consultation and, following a response from Amey Arup to additional questions raised by BCC, alerted the community to the potential substantial increase in traffic flow through Inch. BCC submitted its own consultation response by the deadline after what would collectively amount to weeks of work, led by Frank Musgrave and assisted by Stuart Rennie and myself. Thank you to Frank and Stuart for all your hard work on this important consultation.

8. Rural Broadband

Despite the issue of poor rural broadband being discussed and presented on at recent Community Council fora, what is currently being offered, which is essentially that people in rural areas have to pay in order to get the same speed and reliability received by others, is unacceptable. In an age when we are being driven to conduct all our business electronically, broadband becomes an essential service. The recent effects of the Covid pandemic have shown how important it is that these services are available, at an acceptable working level, to everyone in order for education and business to be conducted from home if needs be. The current situation represents a fundamental failing of Scottish Government and I hope that more pressure will be applied by individuals, organisations and at all levels of government to rectify this situation.

9. **Insch**

Insch is the service hub for many of the parishes which make up the BCC area and as such much of the work undertaken by BCC in the period has focused on Insch. Firstly I want to acknowledge the wonderful work undertaken by Dr. Kay Gauld and all the volunteers and donators who have supported the Food Bank now renamed as the Community Larder. The community has rallied round to help and support those who have been and are still in need. To date BCC has donated a total of £1500 to this initiative which has been very gratefully received. BCC lobbied Aberdeenshire Council to allow Insch to be eligible to apply for The Phoenix Fund, a grant of up to £5,000, to help town centre business regenerate following the effects of the pandemic. BCC developed a questionnaire which it hand delivered to over 40 businesses in Insch. The response was very poor and as a consequence BCC decided not to proceed with an application for funds. BCC believes that a Business Association could be of great benefit to Insch and Aberdeenshire Council has the resources in place to support its establishment. Even though The Phoenix Fund was not pursued, BCC commissioned the design of a 'Shop Local' poster and these were distributed to shops and businesses within Insch.

BCC continues to support the Friends of Insch Hospital and its campaign to reopen Insch War Memorial Hospital and has written to the Chair of NHS Grampian on numerous occasions. It has also written to NHS Grampian and the Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership to support Insch Medical Practice in their desire to provide the Covid-19 vaccination to a wider cohort of the population.

BCC formerly campaigned vigorously for the retention of the Insch Household Waste Recycling Centre and there have been some rumours that this may be under review again. The decision to no longer accept certain materials at recycling centres, notably tyres and asbestos has, unsurprisingly, seen an increase in fly-tipping within the area. At this time when we face a global environmental crisis more resource must be allocated to encourage people to recycle and safeguard our environment. A Community Waste Officer was due to present to BCC but the meeting was suspended due to the pandemic.

BCC has been represented at Insch Flood Study Public Engagement Events and the Insch Flood Study was submitted by Dougall Baillie Associates to SEPA in December 2019. Scottish Government National Prioritisation is currently underway with prioritisation of submitted flood studies expected in June 2020. Insch, however, is likely to have a low priority. As part of flood resilience planning a sandbag container has been located at the Aquatech car park in Insch and a further container is to be located on the former site of the public toilets on Western Road. Thanks to John Agnew and Stuart Rennie for all their work to get these in place.

The AECOM report to Nestrans regarding improved accessibility at Insch Railway Station was due in November 2019 and since that time there has been no further update. There are 3 potential options for access to the South Platform. The Chair of the Aberdeenshire Council Infrastructure Services Committee has recently been contacted and will report back to BCC with an update.

With respect to the provision of local bus services, BCC objected to the changes in the local Dial-A-Bus service and has requested that, when possible, the Garioch Area Bus Forum takes place in Insch. Repairs were made to the High Street bus shelter in Insch following Stuart Rennie contacting Environmental Health and Roads Departments.

It is essential that we remain vigilant and ensure that local services are not lost and that issues and concerns identified are actioned. Traffic and Parking, the leading concern in the 2017 Insch Place Standard exercise has still not been addressed and I have now requested that a holistic review of traffic in Insch is undertaken. Traffic through Insch is set to become significantly worse with the Rothney West development and the execution of the preferred A96 route option.

10. Chapel of Garioch

Unfortunately there has been no progress regarding the repair of the Whiteford bus shelter or the erection of a new bus shelter at/near the Old Garage Pitcaple. In early 2020 a resident raised safety concerns regarding access to the A96 at the Whiteford/Pitcaple junctions due to the speed of traffic on the A96. Although this was raised with Bear Scotland no action has been taken. BCC will revisit this to see if it can suggest or support any further action. Following changes to Aberdeenshire Council's waste management arrangements, Chapel of Garioch has reported a number of Fly Tipping incidents. BCC will continue to lobby Aberdeenshire Council to reconsider its waste management approach.

11. Culsalmund

Following safety concerns raised by BCC regarding buses stopping on the A96 at Colpy, discussions involving residents and Aberdeenshire Council have taken place with a view to determining the best location for north and southbound bus stops. Plans are currently awaited for the whole location and the need for illumination at the stops and crossings has been emphasised.

12. Leslie

A number of issues have been brought forward to BCC from a resident which include the temporary closure of Leslie Hall on health and safety issues, the illegal parking of a caravan and issues specific to the road outside his house. BCC has responded and offered support within its capacity to do so.

13. Oyne

BCC supported Oyne Community Association in its efforts to get a crash barrier erected in Kirkton of Oyne, however, Aberdeenshire Council advised that the part of road in question did not meet the specific criteria for barrier erection. Crash barriers were installed in another location, just west of the lay-by in Oyne, in late 2019. Speeding, an ongoing issue regarding access to Bennachie, the installation of a defibrillator and an Arts and Crafts Studio proposal for the Archaeolink site are all issues that have been discussed.

14. Premnay

Following historic issues regarding flooding in Premnay in early 2020 the Chair met with the Garioch Area Manager, Aberdeenshire Council Flood personnel and a representative from Dougall Bailie Associates (consultants appointed by Aberdeenshire Council to undertake Flood Studies). While this was a positive step it is still unclear as to whether the root cause(s) have been identified and addressed. In order to help mitigate flood damage a sandbag container has been provided by Aberdeenshire Council and is located at Premnay Hall carpark. In January 2020 the Chair confirmed that building work on the school extension had commenced and this long-awaited improvement is now complete – hooray!

15. Rayne

Issues raised for Rayne have focused on road safety including the cutting of bushes obscuring visibility and issues with missing or damaged speed and passing place road signage. Concerns raised by parents have resulted in discussions regarding safe boarding and alighting points for pupils using the Kirkton of Rayne school bus. There has also been proactive Police monitoring of speed around Rayne North School and pupils have been given advice on safety aspects when walking to school. Safety concerns regarding the non-removal of grass cuttings have also been raised. Finally, the poor and dangerous state of Rayne North School car park has also been raised with Aberdeenshire Council with Rayne Community Councillors requesting the support of BCC as required.

16. Consultations

During the period BCC has provided input to a number of consultations:

- Stagecoach BlueBird Consultation on Proposed Services (June 2019)
- Health and Social Care Services Engagement – Strategic Development (June 2019)

- Scottish Fire & Rescue Draft Plan (July 2019)
- Aberdeen Airport – Airspace Modernisation (Oct 2019)
- Aberdeen Supported Bus Survey (December 2019)
- Library Services Survey (February 2020)
- Local Fire & Rescue Plan Review 2020 (March 2020)
- Property Flood Resilience Survey (March 2020)
- NE 400Kv Reinforcement Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) (March 2020)

17. 2021 and Beyond!

The events of 2020 showed that we were able to carry on in the face of uncertainty and upheaval to say the least and that in times of adversity the best of our human nature can come to the fore. It has also showed that there can be different ways of doing things which are often just as, if not more effective, than before. Given 2020, it is good to reflect on what is really important and why it often takes a crisis to bring about lasting change. For me, taking care of people has to be No.1; education, healthcare, being able to earn at least a living wage, to live and prosper in a thriving community. I would like to see everything relooked at and ripped up if it brings no real value to these. Personally, I'm fed up of all the lip service, meaningless consultations when nothing gets actioned, being asked what I think the fire brigade should be doing, too much spin and paper being pushed around to no good end at all levels of government and an ever increasing expectation of volunteers.

Now is the time to push back on what has been the norm. It's time for a fresh start, new eyes and a big waste bin. It is also time to be vigilant that decisions are not being made using Covid as an excuse. Don't look back, focus on a more successful future; do less but with even more determination. Just go for it!

18. Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who has served as a Community Councillor for your commitment and contribution during the past two years. Special thanks to the Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Minute Secretary, Planning Representative and Representatives of the many and varied committees and fora that BCC supports. It has always been a great team effort. Thank you also to Aberdeen Council and Ward 10 Councillors for your support.


Finally, thank you for having confidence in me as Chair for the last 8 years, it has been an honour. I joined BCC in 2013 planning to be a Community Councillor for Premnay in the hope that I could help secure an extension for Premnay School and I leave knowing that the school extension is now complete. I'm not sure whether anything I did had anything to do with it but I'm pleased all the same! Thank you once again, I wish you all and BCC the very best for the future.

Sarah Robinson (Chair)
14th June 2021

Bennachie Community Council Accounts for 2020/2021

<u>Bennachie Community Council</u>			
<u>Statement of Accounts for the period 01-04-2020 to 31-03-2021</u>			
<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Balance b/f	£3,581.94	Re-submitted Cheques	£16.50
SSE Wayleave	£218.61	Insch Institute	£16.50
Annual Grant	£1,152.31	Insch Parish Church	£500.00
		M.I.R Admin Data Prot.	£35.00
		Insch Institutes	£16.50
		Room Hire BLC	£24.00
		Admin. Print Carts. Sept	£17.49
		Insch Parish Church	£500.00
		S Robinson. Posters	£31.02
		Admin. Print Carts (Jun)	£19.50
			<u>£1,176.51</u>
			<u>£3,776.35</u>
	<u>£4,952.86</u>		<u>£4,952.86</u>

I CAN CONFIRM THAT THIS IS AN
ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THE BCC ACCOUNTS
BASED ON SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

 4/4/21
K. RHODES

Bennachie Community Council Accounts for 2019/2020

<u>Bennachie Community Council</u>			
<u>Statement of Accounts for the period 01-04-2019 to 31-03-2020</u>			
<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Balance b/f	£3,397.82	Re-submitted Chqs	£124.68
SSE Wayleave	£207.81	Insch Parish Church	£25.00
Annual Grant	£1,085.09	Insch Institutes Apr	£16.50
Uncashed Cheque 369	£16.50 [†]	M.I.R Admin	£8.64
Uncashed Cheque 371	£16.50 [*]	Insch Institutes May	£16.50
		K Rhodes (Audit)	£50.00
		Refund Colpy funds	£400.00
		S Ewan. Website	£194.40
		S Robinson. Fayre	£30.00
		Insch Institutes Jun	£16.50
		ICO Data Protection	£35.00
		Insch Institutes Aug	£16.50
		Web Site	£21.60
		Insch Institutes Nov	£16.50
		Scotways Charity	£20.00
		Insch Institutes Sept	£16.50
		Insch Institutes Oct	£16.50
		Vistaprint	£35.97
		S. Ewan WebSite	£10.10
		S. Ewan Web Site	£28.44
		Insch Institutes Jan	£16.50 [*]
		Dec refreshments	£9.45
		Insch Institutes Feb	£16.50 [*]
			£1,141.78
		Balance c/	£3,581.94
	£4,723.72		£4,723.72

I CONFIRM THAT THIS IS AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THE BCC ACCOUNTS BASED ON SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

K. Rhodes
[Signature] 2015/2020

**Bennachie Community Council – Members
14 June 2021**

	Name	Representing	Roles
Community Councillors			
	Stan Averell	Culsalmond	
	Sharon Duncan	Rayne	
	Scott Ewan	Insch	Website/Facebook/CC Forum
	Hugh Fraser	Insch	
	Wendy Glasspool	Chapel of Garioch	Secretary & Minutes
	Robert Grant	Insch	Minutes
	Karen Gray	Premnay	
	Wilma McIntosh	Rayne	Glens of Foudland Rep.
	Andy Miller	Oyne	Chair
	Frank Musgrave	Oyne	Vice Chair
	Stuart Rennie	Insch	Planning Spokesperson
	Wally Rhodes	Leslie	Treasurer/CC Forum
	Leslie Ovington	Insch	
	Alan Simpson	Leslie	
Ward 10 Councillors*			
	Victoria Harper	SNP	
	Sebastian Leslie	Aligned Independent	
	Hazel Smith	Scottish Liberal Democrat	
Police*			
	Sgt Rachael MacLennan	Police Scotland	Inverurie

*Non-voting members