



**Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting in at St Drostan's Hall, Inch  
on Monday 25 November 2024**

**1. Present:** – Andy Miller (Chair and Oyne), Kevin Shand (Vice Chair and Culsalmond), Wally Rhodes (Treasurer and Leslie), Janette Taylor (Insch), Frank Musgrave (Oyne), Mark Worsley (Chapel of Garioch), Lynda Bain (Secretary and Chapel of Garioch), Diana Muriel (Rayne), Gill Bishop (Durno), David Wyllie (Premnay), Gill Walker (Rayne), Gordon Hood (Insch), Duncan Thow (Balquhain and Chapel of Garioch)

Councillor Moray Grant by Zoom link

Members of public: Cllr Andrew Hasson (Insch), Heidi Ellis (Kirkton of Rayne), Linda Reid (Insch), Emma Rattray (Meikle Wartle), Sarah Morbey (Insch and Largie)

Apologies – Fiona Heinonen

Meeting agreed to amend the constitution Item 3.6 to read “The Community Area shall be represented by members of the Council on the following basis. While this is the preferred allocation of members, discretion in allocation between parishes will be acceptable in order to optimise BCC membership:

Logie Durno, Whiteford and Meikle Wartle 2

Culsalmond and Colpy 2

Chapel of Garioch and Pitcaple 2

Insch 6

Rayne 2

Premnay 2

Oyne 2

Leslie 2

Total 20

The two Junior members are in addition to the 20 elected Council members.

LB to send updated constitution to Area Office.

**Close of EGM.**



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**2. Chair for Meldrum Academy PTA Heidi Ellis – Proposed Schools Closure Survey** – HE highlighted the survey to BCC members. Concerns that survey is not rigorous and not engaging the local communities but that it will be used to show community involvement. Focuses on primary schools. Concerns about occupancy levels of primary schools. 3 clusters being surveyed at a time. Survey can be completed as BCC or individually. PTA want to work more closely with BCC.

**3. Approval of the Previous Minutes:** Proposed by FM , seconded by GB.

#### **4. Aberdeenshire Council**

##### **a) Proposed Library Closures and Insch Protest Petition**

No official communication with BCC about closure. Press and BBC publicised the list of libraries to be closed. Councillors awaiting briefing. JT has sent in Freedom of Information request asking for usage figures and the cost savings anticipated by the closure. Live Life Aberdeenshire have 14 days to respond. 981 people have signed the petition to date. Petitions of over 300 names have to be discussed by Aberdeenshire Council and a request can be put in to speak. Closure anticipated mid Jan. Subgroup formed – KS, JT, DW.

##### **b) Roads and Transport**

Concerns raised about schools days lost through closure due to road conditions. Farming community do an excellent job of keeping roads cleared in rural areas. Insch build out will be discussed at meeting next week. FM wrote letter to Amey regarding snow gates at Glens of Foudland on A96. A96 statement will be out end November.

#### **5. BCC Business**

- **Finance** – £3900. Defibrillator money to be transferred to BCC and BCC will be responsible for defib thereafter. Fire Station to pay electricity. Laptop to be replaced.
- **Resilience** – DM to join resilience subgroup.

- **Newsletter** – to be published Friday 13 December. Items to include Insch Library closure, CAP, resilience and FORK.
- **Social media** – busy with Correen Hills windfarm, schools infographics, Insch Library and Electricity/Energy consultation.
- **CoOption** – Fiona Heinonen was unanimously coopted as an Associate Member representing Bennachie Leisure Centre, a community partner, and join the CAP subgroup.

## 6. BCC subgroups:

- **Health and Social Care** – FM attended NHS G annual meeting. FM made submission to Engage Aberdeen on AHSCP Strategic Plan 2025 onwards. FM reported back on Alex Burnett MSP's press release in which NHS G proposes to centralise all GMed services. FM and FOIH aiming to meet with NHS G, and with IJB. FM attending next meeting of Friends of the Jubilee Hospital Huntly with a view to joint working with rural services.
- **Bennachie Area Community Action Plan** – 4 November – meeting of stakeholders. Meeting of interested parties is planned – Bennachie Leisure Centre, FOIH, Church and others. Local association and hall committees are to be asked if they want to be involved in a development trust for the BCC area. Draft structured version of report will be available beginning December and will be circulated to all BCC. Local Place Plan funding application for £500 to small grants fund has been successful and BCC will match fund.
- **Correen Hills Windfarm update** – 390 responses to survey to date. Results to be circulated. CASHwig newsletter published 24 November. Turbine heights have been reduced and battery plant has been removed. No information on export infrastructure. Planning application will be submitted March 2025. Developer wants to meet the 3 CCs which are working jointly.
- **BCC Paths Group** – no update on funding application.

**7. Chapel of Garioch** – Pop Up Pub 29 November. Generator about to be delivered. Feasibility study for hall underway. R100 – feedback needed on progress.

**8. Culsalmond/Colpy** – community have had meeting with architect and business consultant. Awaiting architect's report which will be followed by a community consultation. The hall is a good location for a resilience hub as close to snow gates.

**9. Durno/Whiteford** – problem with misuse of cones on bridge at Whiteford. AM to check with Roads to see what the plans are for the bridge after the bridge survey. GB updated BCC on Food Waste Project in the village hall and which will be starting in Whiteford. Volunteers work with Tesco collecting food close to sell by date. The food is offered free to the community. No food is wasted – if not used in the community it goes to animal feed. Need to be a registered charity and have a person holding a food hygiene certificate to run a Food Waste Project.

**10. Leslie** – no report.

**11 Oyne** – Archaeolink building is being marketed for sale by the developers. Remainder of site is subject of a preplanning enquiry. OCA coffee morning 30 November to discuss and promote CAP; Archaeolink plans for village – carparking, recycling, bus stop; digital engagement; paths.

**12. Premnay** – DW to progress resilience. DW to tackle problem of log lorries speeding in the area.

**13. Rayne** – FORK meetings postponed till 26, 27, 28 November. Will demonstrate community engagement.

**14. Insch** – problem with anti-social behaviour has settled since a police visit. Christmas shopping night 14 November had a good turnout. Lights and tree will go up in the next couple of weeks.

**15. Planning & Consultation** – 5 applications this month for BCC area. GH has commented on each application. If further information is required the case officer for each application should be contacted.

Battery storage application – public meeting at Meikle Wartle on 4 December. Precedent has been set by Rothienorman Battery Development. New development could impact on Wartle Moss and will need an Environmental Impact Assessment. There are concerns about the method used transmit power, safety of thermal runaway and noise from cooling fans. BCC members are encouraged to go to the public meeting and there will be slides which can be shared.

**16. Date of next meeting is Monday 27 January 2025**