

# Blair Atholl & Struan Community Council

In Person and Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Tuesday 7th November 2022 at 7.30pm

## MINUTES

**Present:** Present: Vivienne Cree (Chair), Tina Peattie (minutes), Fiona Gordon, Miranda Stevens, Giles Stevens, Councillor Mike Williamson, Heather Perry, Alistair Smith (Heartland Multimedia), Andrew Bruce-Wootton (Atholl Estates), Carol Cassie, John Martin, Craig Kershaw and Deborah Kershaw.

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Xander McDade, Cllr John Duff, Police Scotland

### 2. Minutes of Meeting of 13 September 2022 - Corrections

No corrections – minutes accepted.

### 3. Matters Arising:

#### a. Death of Donald Isles

MW said Donald was someone who had linked all of the local organisations however once they are not there anymore, there are a lot of gaps to be filled. All those present gave their acknowledgement and thanks to Donald.

#### b. Highland Action Partnership representative

MW gave an overview of the role of the Highland Action Partnership. VC urged the need to have local representation on this group but a notice on the TAG website had not brought anyone forward.

HP raised the issue of roads and signage and advised that House of Bruar still requires signage urgently. MW advised this is already on the council priority list and will be looked at when they are able to do so as the list changes all the time.

#### c. Bridge of Tilt Hotel works inspection

Cllr John Duff emailed VC to report that the Planning Enforcement team had visited the site and taken photos and carried out an inspection (see update from JD below). JD will keep the CC informed of any further updates.

#### d. Repair to bridge over River Tilt

Cllr JD reported that a permanent fix is being looked at and it is in hand to be sorted as soon as the council can arrange it. JD will keep community council advised on progress (see Appendix below).

e. Blair Atholl Community Action Plan

VC reminded those present that in January there will be an action plan process similar to the one Pitlochry completed last year. Community organisations will be coming together and doing a lot of consultation with the villagers from both communities to talk about what they feel are the important issues going forward.

f. Blair Atholl Branch Surgery

Cllr JD reported that the Integration Joint Board have discussed the surgery issues and looked at the report and has now asked for an equalities audit to be completed (see Appendix below). VC stated that Atholl Estates completed a lot of work to bring back to standard, however, the main stumbling block seems to have been that Atholl Medical Centre does not have enough doctors. The CC has pushed this issue including a lot of publicising by AS from Heartland. MW was asked if he had any further information on when the final decision would be, but he did not.

g. Flu Vaccinations

VC stated that at the last meeting, it had been agreed that we should ask that flu vaccinations should be carried out locally. However, events overtook us and NHS Tayside already had a system in place for flu vaccines this winter and we were too late to intervene.

#### 4. Finance

Nothing new to report except that Louise Fisher was finalising the accounts for the last year before handing over to the new treasurer, GS.

#### 5. BASCC Outreach and Publicity

VC said she felt strongly that our connection with the community is not as strong as it could be – people do not know what we are doing on their behalf. Previously the BASCC had given the Atholl Glens £500 towards the setup of its website. It displays minutes of our meetings, as does Heartland on its Community pages (it shares information from six CCs locally). VC has also been writing notices for the *Atholl Quair* and *Pitlochry Life* monthly magazines, and these are an important source of information for those who do not access information online. But is this enough?

Views were invited from attendees and MS and GS offered to set up a Facebook page as they have previous experience of doing this. VC thanked them for their offer of help. It was agreed that they should go on to do this. Meanwhile, VC has been working with Alistair Smith from Heartland who is currently seeking funds for building a CC website for us. HP suggested that our minutes could also be displayed on notice boards, and she offered to discuss this with the village hall committee, because they are about to get new noticeboards as part of the village hall refurbishment.

#### 6. The Atholl Glens

A new TAG representative is required and FG has agreed to do this. VC will update Rhona Metcalfe from The Atholl Glens.

#### 7. Resilience Group

VC advised that GS has agreed to be our link with this group. He will meet with Tony Dowson and report back at next meeting.

**8. Blair Atholl & Struan Initiative representative**

A BASCC rep is required for this, VC has agreed she is happy to take this on as she is already a trustee of the Initiative.

**9. Heartland FM**

AS congratulated VC on her appointment as chair and the rest of the team. He reported that Heartland FM has been nominated for a national award for community radio station of the year. Heartland is committed to community involvement; anything newsworthy can be emailed to [news@heartland.scot](mailto:news@heartland.scot). Any events or charity events can be given free publicity using the 'What's On' section of the website. They also have a digital community type magazine Iris on the website use [magazine@heartland.scot](mailto:magazine@heartland.scot) to contact them.

AS added that Heartland FM is part of community resilience for the area. They recently upgraded their power supply batteries and a generator so that they can continue broadcasting longer as required in times of power outage.

**10. Cairngorms National Park Association**

A number of CC members attended the CNPA open event on 25 October. It was not clear what the next steps would be so hopefully we will hear from Cllr XMCD at a future meeting.

**11. Update Reports – Councillors**

MK reported that Perth and Kinross Council is looking to try and make £30 million of cuts which will impact services across the board, remembering that cuts have already taken place over the past 12 years. A full council meeting takes place on 8<sup>th</sup> November which will include important papers on Child Poverty and the Climate Agendas.

AS asked a question as to whether there have been any issues with the Corporate Survey Plans 2023 as he personally completed it and got to last page and it crashed. MW not aware of any issues but will look into this.

**12. AOCB**

FG reported that she had discussed the issue of getting Wi-Fi in the village hall with Neil Mackintosh, and had advised him of what steps he needed to take now to move ahead with this. FG has also offered to get quotes once the village hall is registered with BT; as a charity, this would not be costly. AS advised that Heartland had previously discussed this with Donald Isles, and said he would be happy to help as they have expertise in this area. VC advised that this is a village hall matter, but said she was pleased that the CC (and Heartland) could offer support and advice on this.

**13. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 10 January 2023 at 7.30pm**

## **Appendix**

### **3c Bridge of Tilt Hotel**

Planning Enforcement has opened an active Planning Enforcement Case against the owner. The Planning Enforcement Officer recently visited the site and has taken a series of photographs of the works. She has noted that there have been alterations to that in the planning permission and is meeting with the planner to record exactly the changes which have been made. Efforts to meet with the owner have been unsuccessful to date but once the comparison is complete, Planning Enforcement will be taking the case forward with him. If any further works are carried out meantime, I would be grateful if you could let me know.

### **3d Bridge of Tilt repairs**

The Structures Team are regularly inspecting the temporary fix. The concrete bags in the void remain intact, however, the tarpaulin cover has proved less robust and will be replaced when water levels allow. In terms of a permanent fix, the team are awaiting the recruitment of an additional engineer who will design more substantial scour protection for the piers. To ensure the depth of protection needed is adequate, and to check that the alterations would not cause any problems further downstream, the structures team are commissioning an analysis of the river. This involves surveying the area, modelling the flow and catchment with the predicted rainfall/climate change, etc. This work will be commissioned next month for completion early next year. Once that has been done, the redesign work will be completed and the works then put into the programme for 2023.

### **3f Blair Atholl Surgery**

The matter was the subject of a report to the integration Joint Board (I copied you into the report). Various comments about the practice's approach to the closure were made by colleagues, however, the Board accepted the reasons around closure of the branch surgery. However, required the practice to carry out an impact assessment for the closure and look at community transport opportunities prior to it being considered for a final decision by the NHS Tayside Board.

**Cllr John Duff**

**7th November 2022**