

BAILIES OF BENNACHIE COUNCIL MEETING 25.01.16

The meeting was held at the Bennachie Centre and was chaired by Jackie Cumberbirch, who welcomed Ann Baillie, Brian Cornock, Barry Foster, Angela Groat, Harry Leil, Jill Mathews, John Nicol, Iain Ralston, Colin Shepherd, Rosemary Sievewright, Donna Taylor, Andrew Wainwright and Steve Wright. Also present Neil Taylor (FCS) and Margaret Garden and Mark Worsley from "Save Bennachie"

Apologies received from Sue Taylor.

Matters Arising from last Meeting
Minutes accepted as accurate

SENIOR BAILIES UPDATE JC

Material circulated to all Council Members prior to meeting – Updates from AB, DT, NT and AS, Minutes from BLP, Report from CS, Action Plan from BCT, the Bailies Action Plan, Mission Statement from Save Bennachie, copy of a bank statement from a Bailies Account and a first draft for a proposed business card.

Points arising from these-

Progress needed towards providing a memorial seat / perch for Kate Campbell. A donation of £500 has been received from Kitty Fyfield

Action Point NT will raise request again with FCS including the suggestion of placing a memorial plaque inside the Centre instead of on the seat.

ST would like funding from the Bailies to attend a fund raising event, looking at grant applications. Bailies agreed to pay £25.

AB has indicated that she will continue to check for planning application relevant to the Bennachie Area

Further discussion on other matters later.

WORK PARTY UPDATE HL

It was discovered before the meeting that the Tool Shed had been burgled, the lock cut and approximately £700 of tools stolen. Police have been informed. SJW will check if tools are covered by insurance. JC will prepare a Press Release and DT will update website and Facebook. A new lock will be purchased (lock and key rather than a combination lock)

PUBLICATIONS and PLANNING UPDATE AB

2016 Calendars have all been sold, approximately £1,850 still to come in.

Strachans in Inverurie took 450 in all.

KL wants a reprint of the Membership Leaflets

Michael Everett wants help with research into his family history including the Essons
Kitty Fyfield 's request for a memorial for her cousin Kate Campbell has not progressed as anticipated. Kate was an active Bailie (work parties) and a donation of £500 has been received.

MEMBERSHIP, WEBSITE and FACEBOOK UPDATE DT

Membership at 25/1/16 2889

1 new life member since last meeting.

Website

Forum – no comments

Events – up to date

Emails – redirected as appropriate. "Save Bennachie" have requested photographs to put on their website.

Facebook registered 419 likes (32 new in 1 week) people are now commenting and sharing photos and our posts.

FCS UPDATE NT

(Neil Taylor originally from Inverness joined FCS in September after working for 8 years with FC in County Durham)

Repairs of flood damage begins Monday 25/1/16 at the carparks at Donview and Back O' Bennachie and on the Millstone Hill trail and the Colony trail, the work will last up to 3 weeks Interpretations progressing with the new panels and leaflets

Back O' Bennachie toilet block repairs are ongoing, aiming to be open by 18th March, as is the replacement foot bridge

Harvesting at the Back O' Bennachie is due to start but will not affect the paths.

A Spring Foraging Event is planned for 10th April, run by NT and the Council Rangers.

Consultation dates for Land Management Plan will be 21st- 23rd April and the Discover Bennachie event will also be on 23rd April

Due to financial constraints, the Gordon Way paths, will not be maintained by FCS, other than where they coincide with FCS paths.

Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Update Alison Sutherland. (copied from email)

- Bailies to input information on **Bennachie only** in the "Outcome Column" only of the Annual Report from Nov 2014-Oct 2015 under the relevant "Project Reference Numbers", these coincide with the Visitor Experience Plan, this information is required for the Bennachie Centre Trust Annual Report, send an Action Plan for Nov 2015 –Oct 2016 as a separate word document eg: *Bailies to do 10 work parties on Bennachie – email to J Lythgoe as soon as possible (any wording input in the outcome column please use a different font colour to assist Jan)*
- *The exhibition planner is getting pretty firmed up now so this is the final final chance for any Bailies contributions.*
- *Invite Bailies to be involved in Discover event on 23rd April 11.00am – 3.00pm– to promote themselves and what they're planning for 2016. Would like a programme of timed activities that we could promote so contributions needed – email J Lythgoe.*
- *Opening for 2016 – 1st April – 30th October, remember to continue with the booking system for the meeting room.*
- *Are Bailies planning re-connection of broadband in the meeting room?*
- *New Bennachie Centre Trust website – there will be a link to the Bailies website but I can also list any of their Bennachie events within the events page – would need info sending through –email J Lythgoe.*
- *Can Bailies think about musical Sunday afternoon sessions or something along that lines to use their entertainments licence?*
- *Volunteers required for bird box making event at Bennachie Centre on 20th February at Bennachie Centre from 1pm-3pm, Jackie has confirmed that she can help – anyone else?*
- *GW walk in September – have not advertised it in Ranger Service events leaflet as at the time of finalising this leaflet was unsure of condition of GW, however still keen to go ahead with this event if path conditions allow with help of any volunteers from the Bailies, if any Bailies out walking then any update on condition of this route would be much appreciated – email garioch.ranger@aberdeenshire .gov.uk*

The "SAVE BENNACHIE" Alliance. Representatives Margaret Gordon and Mark Worsley attended the meeting.

Their Mission Statement can be seen on their website (www.savebennachie.com)

They are a limited life group with the aim to engage with individuals, groups and organizations, to demonstrate that it is inappropriate to site the A96 dual carriageway in the Bennachie area.

The Bailies are supportive of their cause and will help where they can, including sharing information about Wild Life and Archaeology in the area. CS agreed to write a piece for them and they would like some photos of the hill

Action Point JC will send DT an email supportive of "Save Bennachie" to post on website

SPECIAL LANDSCAPES AREA

JC wants comments on material sent from the Council ASAP

What to call the area, are the boundaries in right place and are there other qualifying features?

BENNACHIE CENTRE ACTION PLAN

Production of this document was suggested in the Visitors Experience Survey

Bailies plan to redo the Colony Leaflet and add the position of the Gough Stone to a map.

Action Point JN to check the state of the Mither Tap compass rose

Aim to get funding from Leader or Heritage Lottery with a combined plan of things needed to be done by groups - Bailies, FCS, BOG, BLP

BAILIES ACTION PLAN

Constitutional Objectives

Council member's area of interest

Publications

AB and AW

Planning Applications

AB

Wild life

JM

Work Parties

HL and MT

Hill Wardens

not finalised

BLP

CS, BF, ST, AW and AG

BCT and BOG

JN

Events

all

Action Point JC will fine tune Action Plan and recirculate for comments. Needs to be agreed by the end of February.

BUSINESS CARDS and ADVERTISING LEAFLETS

A card is available designed by BF but CS has added a bit of text to the back

Action Point CS will look into getting a business card printed.

Action Point SJW check the Membership leaflet and Colony leaflet for uniformity.

MEMBERSHIP

Though the total is 2889 it is unclear of true following as many of that number are members who paid £1 for life membership in the early days and are not contactable.

Annually around 800 newsletters are sent out by post and approximately 180 sent by email 160 people paid annual membership in 2014 which is a drop of 60 from previous year.

This is unsustainable something must be done!

Ideas put forward

Keep in touch with current members by email, newsletters, encourage them to keep supporting us, ask them for support for projects, ask what they want the Bailies to do, on their behalf. Set up a "Just Giving" page.

EVENTS

8/02/16 Bennachie Centre 7 pm Bennachie Landscapes Project Committee Meeting
20/02/16 Bennachie Centre 1pm -3pm Bird Boxes
22/02/16 Bennachie Centre 7pm Bailies Council Meeting
23/04/16 Bennachie Centre 11am -3pm Discover Bennachie
07/05/16 Inverurie Town Hall Doric Evening

Summary of Action Points

NT to raise the matter of a memorial seat/perch with FCS again.

JC send an email to DT supporting "Save Bennachie" to post on the website.

JC fine tune the action plan and recirculate

JN check the condition of the compass rose on Mither Tap

CS arrange printing of business cards

SJW check membership leaflets and colony leaflets for uniformity.

Next meeting 22nd February