

## BAILIES OF BENNACHIE COUNCIL MEETING 22/2/16

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, John Nicol, Iain Ralston, Colin Shepherd, Rosemary Sievwright, Donna Taylor and Sue Taylor. Also present Sheena Lonchay and Alison Sutherland from BCT and Margaret Garden and Sandra Lowson from "Save Bennachie"

APOLOGIES from Jill Mathews, Neil Taylor and Steve Wright.

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING.

Minutes correction Doric Night date is 7<sup>th</sup> May not 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
JN Checked the condition of the compass rose on Mither Tap and found it satisfactory.  
Business cards have been done.

Report from BENNACHIE CENTRE TRUST (BCT). Sheena Lonchay (Chair), Alison Sutherland (Ranger)

The Trust consists of a Chairperson, Treasurer, 3 Aberdeenshire Councillors, a rep. from Education (Scott Calder), JN from Bailies and several advisers including Alison Sutherland (Ranger) and Calum Murray (FCS). The Trust is responsible for running the Centre and meets quarterly. Aberdeenshire Council is the landlord, responsible for keeping the building, wind and water tight. The Centre is staffed by wardens and rangers (ACRS)

FCS commissioned a Visitors Experience Survey 2 years ago from which it appeared that a café was required. Neither funding, (which comes from Aberdeenshire Council and a little from the shop and carpark fees) nor staff numbers were sufficient for that but it is now possible to buy hot and cold refreshments and seats are available indoors and out.

The next thing to be upgraded is the shop.

The Bennachie Operations Group (BOG) meets quarterly, 1 week before the BCT, and is staffed by wardens, rangers, rep from FCS and JN from Bailies. These are people in close contact with the public who visit the Centre.

There is now a website for the Centre, a touch screen will be available by 1<sup>st</sup> April and regularly changing displays are in place.

There is meantime nothing of interest in the Bailies Room and it will not be open to the public but it is important as space for (school) groups visiting Bennachie to meet Rangers, for storage space and for groups including the Bailies to meet in.

The Centre cannot be open in time for Easter 25<sup>th</sup> March due to staff time shortages  
Internet access would be an advantage not meantime available

Consider renaming the Centre to Bennachie Visitors Centre to avoid confusion with other similarly named businesses.

Action Point for CS coordinate a display in the Bailies Room to allow public access when not in use for meetings.

Action Point for BCT /BOG please send the Bailies a copy of meeting minutes.

Report from "SAVE BENNACHIE ALLIANCE". Margaret Garden and Sandra Lawson Dualling of A96 and its impact on Bennachie and surroundings. The alliance is against route option C and B. The website, Twitter and Facebook have all proved successful. 272 people have signed up, to receive a newsletter and the Facebook entry, has 1437 followers. The plan is to get good, impartial, information out on the sites, to prove Routes B and C, are not the best routes, for the A96 and to encourage support, from as many sources as possible. The Green Party are keen to support and considering the pre- election timing, other political parties may also be interested. (The Alliance has no political links) As suggested last time, the Save Bennachie Alliance, has responded to the "Special Landscapes" campaign and hope to contact local councillors. The next Public Meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, at Chapel of Garioch. Margaret Garden thanked CS for sending an article of excellent quality which was put onto the website. Any personal stories of why Bennachie is important, will be appreciated, also photos, poems? songs.

#### SENIOR BAILIES REPORT JC

Final amendments to be added to the Constitution, which will then be circulated to JN, CS and SJW for final checks, before being sent out, to the rest of the Council and if OK, it will then go to Dawn Brown. This group will also look at the Bailies Action Plan, including plans from the BLP.

The new Colony Leaflet is being planned, FCS have agreed to allow use of their new map on the leaflet, other content still to be agreed.

Branding – SJW sent out a PDF for council consideration. It was agreed that a change of logo was desirable, though most thought the hill outline should be retained. A strapline - Protect, Share and Enjoy found favour.

Action Point DT will email suggestions to SJW

The council agreed to reimburse traveling expenses of 45p per mile, to people publicising the Bailies, by giving presentations.

Hill wardens. HL and MT have this in hand. It was thought that the hill wardens and the staff at the Centre, could provide information on the wild life around, at different times of the year, for the hill users interest and for wild life recording.eg 2 things to look out for this month.

Action Point JC will add information on wild life sitings/recording, to the website /Facebook.

Action Point JN (at next BOG meeting) will try to get Centre wardens to help.? use the white board.

Stolen Tools. After local publicity, about the theft of the tools, many generous donations have been received, to help replace them, including a new lock and keys for the container. Thank you letters and calendars have been sent out to donors. Insurance was considered but the cost would exceed, the value of the tools. Protecting the area with CCTV, is also an option and adding a gate to the area, also being considered.

MEMBERSHIP WEBSITE and FACEBOOK Report DT. (copied from email)

## Membership 2892

6 new members since last meeting

3 x Deceased

4 x Life  
2 x Annual  
0 renewal changed to standing order  
1 x address changes

## Website

**Forum** Steve posted re Membership details updates no replies  
Bailies priorities for 2016 no replies

Both posts also put on FB page, 4 replies re membership details updated

**Events** Need info re Doric Eve for website

**E-mail** Various emails re tool theft, offering donations of money and tools

**Facebook** 492 likes (73 new since last month)

Post re stolen tools reached over 5000 people!

**Steve** Foreign Countries for Map of members

Argentina x 1	Hong Kong x 2	Sweden x 2
Australia x 29	Jersey x 4	Switzerland x 1
Bahamas x 1	Malawi x 2	Thailand x 1
Brazil x 1	Malta x 3	USA x 32
Canada x 24	Netherlands x 2	Zimbabwe x 1
Dubai x 2	New Zealand x 18	
France x 4	South Africa x 7	

These are members on database, not all receive newsletter so not sure how up to date addresses are.

AOB Kate Campbell has bequeathed a substantial sum to the Bailies.

## PUBLICATIONS and PLANNING Report AB

In April, preparations for the 2017 calendar will begin. Decision to be made. ? animals to be included in the photos. Call for photos from all sources.

Planning. Pittodrie Estate plan a new building, near their staff quarters. (JC informed us that there is a new Events Manager at Pittodrie, who she plans to contact).

No further information on the Cornabo planning request.

## EVENTS

7<sup>th</sup> March. Work party at Tillymuick. FCS will have cut the gorse and taken down the trees. Meet at Back o' Bennachie to walk to Tillymuick, as the road is unsuitable for cars, due to FCS tree felling. Personal cars used on FCS roads for work parties are NOT insured by FCS

18<sup>th</sup> April KL and ST doing a presentation to Dyce Oral History Group.

21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> April. FCS Land management plan consultation at Centre

23<sup>rd</sup> April Discover Bennachie at Centre. Bailies will have a quiz and a treasure hunt.

Action Point JC will get banners to Centre.

25<sup>th</sup> April Antoine Le Pretre will give a talk about the consultation at the Council Meeting.

7<sup>th</sup> May The Geordie Smith, Commemorative Concert, JC BC, RS will help. Tickets will be £6

18<sup>th</sup> June. JN will lead a walk to Bennachie Tops.

Other possibilities, Colony Walk, Mountain Rescue event, Quarry walk, Tree Identification.

## AOB

Funding request from BLP, (Archaeology), for tools - possibly £1300, including a first aid kit, but it was noted, that no one in BLP, had a first aid qualification!!

Yearly budget for research projects agreed at £2000.

Advice needed, about online selling price, of Landscape books 1 and 2. Meantime advertised at £6 for book 1 and £8 for book 2. It was agreed, if sold together, price will be £10 but individually, as before.

The tree to be planted in memory of Kate Campbell, will be sited in Danny Gordon's Widdie and will be done in April.

Action Point DT will inform the family

Just Giving Page DT will find out about setting it up.

Car parking permits need to be renewed, JC will organise.

## SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

AP for CS. coordinate a display in the Bailies Room, to allow public access, when not in use for meetings.

"CS asked Alison and Sheila to confirm that it would be alright for displays to be in place in the Bailies Room. Specifically, that the Bailies large 'pop-up' display could stand in the corner of the room and be used to host such exhibits along with the display cabinet and the display board behind the display cabinet. CS then asked Alison to confirm that she would not object to the display being there whilst the room was simultaneously being used by her or any of the other rangers either with or without children present. CS understood that this was acceptable to both Alison and Sheila. With those caveats understood CS agreed to work with others of the Bailies to organise displays which would be accessible to the public all the time the room was not otherwise being utilised

AP for BCT and BOG Please send a copy of your meetings minutes to the Bailies

AP for DT. Email branding suggestions to SJW

AP for JC Add info on wild life sittings /recording to Website /Facebook.

AP for JN At next BOG meeting, try to get Centre wardens to help with wild life siting /recording.

AP for DT Inform Kate Campbell's family of Bailies plans

Next meeting 28<sup>th</sup> March