

## BAILIES OF BENNACHIE COUNCIL MEETING 30/5/16

The meeting was held at the Bennachie Centre and was chaired by Jackie Cumberbirch, who welcomed council members and guest to the meeting. Council members present were Ann Baillie, Brian Cornock, Barry Foster, Angela Groat, Harry Leil, Iain Ralston, Colin Shepherd, Rosemary Sievewright, Donna Taylor and Sue Taylor. Margaret Garden from " Save Bennachie " was also present.

Apologies were received from Jill Mathews, Andrew Wainwright and Steve Wright.

Matters arising from last meeting – none . Minutes were accepted as accurate.

UPDATE from MEMBERSHIP /WEBSITE /FACEBOOK DT

Membership 2889

0 new members since last meeting.

0 x Deceased.

1 x Life (gift from Bailies for tool donation)

0 x Annual.

0 renewal change to standing order.

0 address changes

2 x removed

Website

Forum - no comments

Events - up to date. Anything to add?

Email - Mike Neely phone number still on FCS website, under volunteering. Please remove ( who to contact )

Email from Bob Sharpe re litter on Bennachie. Bob and a friend collected litter from Back 'O Bennachie to Oxen Craig path. Took a photo for me to put on Facebook. AB and DT found a large bag full of rubbish behind a tree in Danny Gordon's Widdie. (possible litter awareness display at Centre )

AP DT to email Bennachie warden ? a display on rubbish as well as dog poo.

AP Check that there is an obvious sign on the bin for rubbish and dog waste

Review from Landscape History of BLP book 3

Bennachie and Garioch: society and ecology in the history of NE Scotland.

This well illustrated book is the third in a series reporting upon the work of a community project supported by U of A. Once again it reveals the skills developed by the local community, members and students of Keig School and covers Geology, flora and fauna, plus the evidence gained from field work (including the study of a local quarry) aerial photographs, historic documents and maps, and excavation – especially at Druminnor Castle, but also from two nineteenth century crofts and a farmstead. This admirable work will continue and will show the value of such a project involving local community to investigate the landscape history of a small area of NE Scotland.

Delia Hooke, University of Birmingham

Facebook 599 likes

Student Joe McConnaichie sent a link to a short video he made, on the history of the people who lived on Bennachie, now on Facebook

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PpdsKRMmFKA&feature=youtu.be>

AOB

Donation of £100 from Stocket Hill Walking Club Aberdeen ( emailed a thank you)

Cheque from solicitors of Kate Campbell's legacy received and paid into Bailies account.

Bailies Newsletter due. (? annual report) ? discuss with membership.

SENIOR BAILIE a volunteer needed before next AGM

PUBLICATIONS UPDATE AB

The new calendar (2017) has just gone to the printers and is expected to be ready by third week in June. 1500 copies ordered at a cost of £2313. Net cost £1.54 retail for £2.50 or £4.00 if bought directly from the Bailies. The calendar is dedicated to the memory of Kate Campbell and copies will be sent to her family. When it is ready for sale it will be advertised on the website and JC will organize a press release.

AP for AB?JC contact AW re advertising Bailies publications on Amazon

FCS UPDATE JC ( in NT 's absence)

Colony trail will be changed in September to prevent water damage

Pond path needs work involving a digger

Discovery trail to be made more user friendly for the disabled

Alison Sutherland has been getting volunteers wanting to help on Bennachie, she hopes to get some little jobs ( eg paint the totem pole )suitable for these people Coordination with Dan Cadle and work party people, needed.

SAVE BENNACHIE UPDATE MG

Scottish Parliamentary Elections have caused a lull in activity but meetings are now to be organized, with new local politicians. A representative attended a meeting of the Inverurie Business Association and found that they were very supportive and favoured the new A96 route going east of Inverurie. It is hoped they will join the alliance. Inverurie Community Council has been contacted. A contact sought for the Monymusk and Cluny Community Council, AB suggested Richard Fyfe. Other hill users such as Cosmic hill bashers, NEMT and the Scottish Mountaineering Council have signed up

Posters and flyers have been printed and distributed.

Postings and photos needed for Facebook and the website.

561 people now receive newsletters and 2116 like and follow on Facebook

## SENIOR BAILIES REPORT JC

The “Geordie Smith Commemorative” Doric Night Concert attracted more than 230 people. Money raised to go to Geordie’s favourite charities OAPs and Age Concern, (£650 each) the remainder will either be divided between them or spent on a trophy in Geordie’s name which the Garrioch Fiddlers could present annually

AB, JM and ST attended the meeting about the route for the new pylons The Bailies concerns were aired

BC raised concern over the amount of brash left after harvesting, JC advised that various methods of removal were possible but all were too expensive, though paths through it could be cleared if thought necessary. JC thought she might give a presentation in the future “Forestry for Non Foresters”

Cheques now available for outstanding expenses from JC

The Mountain Rescue event went well, a cheque for £500 was presented to them from the Bailies.

2<sup>nd</sup> June JC to meet with Dawn Brown to finalise new Constitution.

Alison Sutherland (AS) pointed out to JC that the next meeting of the BCT on 13<sup>th</sup> June will not have a Bailie Rep as JN has resigned ST will attend this time but volunteers needed for future meetings.

AP JC will check if the Bailies got a copy of the last BCT meetings minutes.

AS will coordinate with Dan Cadle and HL re little jobs for volunteer helpers

Lidar Presentation at Aberdeen University on 23<sup>rd</sup> May was attended by BF,BC and IR and highlighted many features of interest. A disc of the information will be available which can be added to the computer in the Bailies room for future BLP work.

Next BLP meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

## EVENTS

2<sup>nd</sup> June AB, DT,HL and JC will host a gathering of Kate Campbell’s relatives, (25 – 30 people) AB will arrange refreshments in the Bailies room from 11.30, JC will provide parking permits and DT and HL will guide them to view the Oak trees and the bench in Kate’s memory. JC will take photos of the event The Bailies will fund the cost of refreshments £100.  
14<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> June JC will give a talk on Bennachie, to the Insch Beavers, who plan a walk on the hill.

?14<sup>th</sup> June Possible walk on Bennachie with James McKay JC has booked a 4x4

18<sup>th</sup> August ST and Ken Ledingham (KL) will give a presentation to New Machar Women’s Institute

16<sup>th</sup> November ST and KL will talk to the NE Scotland National Trust meeting at Haddo House.

AP JC will contact Myrtle Anderson Smith re archiving.

## DISCUSSION ON CHANGES TO THE BAILIES MEMBERSHIP ST

After a meeting with JC and DT originally to discussing better marketing strategies for the Bailies such as improving the logo (CS), producing a mission statement (ST) and producing a better newsletter/annual report, further discussion led onto related topics -

- 1 - Membership Categories (Membership has been declining)
- 2 - Fees/ income.
- 3 - Value for money to the members.

## HISTORY

In the 1970's when the Bailies were started Membership (life) cost £1 and members were given a Welcome to Bennachie booklet. In 1995 Membership (life) was increased to £5 and a family membership (life) £12 was introduced. In 2004 annual membership was introduced costing £5 and Life membership increased to £100. Since the start all members have been sent a newsletter, an invitation to the AGM and the picnic, and also been encouraged to support the Bailies by buying their publications and other available merchandise

To be successful in the future the Bailies need -

Better marketing to attract new members

A new Logo

Moving from a newsletter to an annual report.

## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Discussion about how to get a more accurate total, or perhaps 2 categories, active and passive.

Dispense with all categories except life membership and hopefully persuade all annual members to become life members

## FEES

Life membership to be £10 or £20 but called membership ( not life membership) with a possible time scale of 20- 25 years. Members who require a printed copy of the new annual report must pay separately for it. All members with an email address would be sent a free copy in PDF form. All members would also still be encouraged to support the Bailies by purchasing publications, giving donations or leaving legacies.

## WHAT DO MEMBERS GET FOR THEIR MEMBERSHIP FEE?

Primarily the knowledge that they are protecting Bennachie by supporting the work and projects outlined in the new constitution.

An annual report of superior quality (which may not be sent out by post, to original £1 and £5 life members if contact cannot be established)

It was agreed

That JC would draft a letter to be sent out in August, to all members, explaining the proposed changes and inviting them to the AGM.

That an annual report would be produced instead of the newsletter

Only one type of membership.

Cost of membership to be £10

Cost of the printed annual report ? paid for by members with no email or paid for by sponsorship.

Concerns

Possible loss of income.

Possible loss of members.

Extra work involved in fund raising.

Are these new options allowed in new constitution JC to consult Dawn Brown

Discussions will continue at the next meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June

#### SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

DT to email Bennachie Wardens about rubbish on the hill ? Prepare a display on rubbish as well as dog waste.

JC to check if there is an obvious sign on the bin for rubbish and dog waste

AB or JC to contact AW re advertising Bailies publications on Amazon

JC to check if Bailies got a copy of the minutes of the last BCT meeting

JC to contact Myrtle Anderson Smith