

## BAILIES OF BENNACHIE COUNCIL MEETING 27/6/16

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

Apologies were received from Steve Wright.

Matters arising from last meeting. Minute amendments required - £650 not £600 to go to Geordie Smith's favourite charities. Only one type of membership to be available (Life,) WAS agreed and the cost would be £10.

JC still to contact Myrtle Anderson Smith.

### MEMBERSHIP, WEBSITE and FACEBOOK UPDATES DT

Membership 2887

0 New members.

2 Deceased.

1 Email address changed.

1 Postal address changed.

#### Website

Forum No comments

Events Up to date.

Email Various, sent on to appropriate people to action.

Post £100 donation from Mike Davidson..

- . Letter from James McKay's daughter, Barbara, enclosing a cheque for £1,000, from
- . him and thanking those involved, in his last ascent, of his favourite hill. He sadly died .
- . 5 days later on the 17<sup>th</sup> June.

Facebook 689 Likes ( over 90 last month alone) The tribute to James McKay was looked at by more than 13,000 people and was shared by over 40.

### PUBLICATIONS UPDATE AB

2017 Calendar – Dogs on Bennachie, is ready to go out to retail sources (Strachans, Inverurie Garden Centre, Kellockbank etc), JC will do a press release. Price, as last year, £2.50 retail for bulk orders and £4.00 directly from the Bailies. This year the calendar has been dedicated to Kate Campbell.

AW is preparing to use Amazon to advertise Bailies publications.

## TREASURES REPORT JC for SJW

The 2 working accounts, have a total of over £26,000, before recent donations and legacies have been added. Accounts have to be audited, before the AGM. SJW will organise.

## UPDATE FROM "SAVE BENNACHIE" MG

Both local MSPs have been contacted and are supportive.

Transport Scotland have had a delay at the Elgin link, which will affect the local plans, adding perhaps a year, onto the estimated time plan.

Perhaps the routes affecting Bennachie, could be removed from the map, before millions of pounds of public money is spent, engineering them.

Website has 11,000 views, 550 have asked for newsletters.

Facebook had 2,169 likes.

The "Save Bennachie" logo, has been photographed in America, Italy, France and the Galapagos Islands but not at the top of Bennachie !!

A short film is being planned, of parts of the road routes, highlighting problems, like traffic congestion at Thainstone.

A second batch of flyers have been produced, to be aimed at local Hotels and B&Bs and Car stickers and Banners are being considered, to bring the cause to the attention of local people, many of whom are still unaware of the problem.

## FCS UPDATE JC for NT

Bennachie centre has been busy with lots of school groups and Duke of Edinburgh Award groups

There has been vandalism at the Back o'Bennachie, a fire pit area has been used to build fires from benches!!

Colin Shepherd and Murray Cook plan to do some work with drones at Tillymuick between 9<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August.

## SENIOR BAILIE'S UPDATE JC

1<sup>st</sup> June JC thanked volunteers who helped to plant trees at Donview.

2<sup>nd</sup> June Family of Kate Campbell met at the Centre and were welcomed with refreshments, then shown the bench and oak trees, planted in her memory Thanks to all who made the day a success.

Also that day JC met Dawn Brown, for further advice on the new constitution.

6<sup>th</sup> June BLP meeting. A survey of the buildings at the Colony is to be used to compare with buildings at nearby estates.

12<sup>th</sup> June With help from Aberdeen Mountain Rescue JC and JN accompanied James McKay and some family members, to the top of Bennachie for the last time. He died 5 days later. The Bailies need to honour his memory in some way, suggestions welcome

27<sup>th</sup> June Thanksgiving service for James McKay at Kemnay Parish Church.

9<sup>th</sup> July JC and JM to meet Sheena Lonchy to discuss the Bailies role in the BCT

13<sup>th</sup> July As discussed at the BLP meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> June there is to be a meeting of people interested in the management of the Colony. Any Bailie interested will be welcome.

16<sup>th</sup> July JC, Alison Kennedy and Chris Foster, will lead a walk around the Colony.

## AOB

BF now has a copy of the Lidar results for anyone interested. It will be available on the computer in the Bailies Room.

During a dig at Druminnor BF found a small gold cross, despite lots of internet searches no information can be found to help date the cross. Suggestions have been pre 1550 or post reformation. It will be sent to the National Museum for their advice.

CS indicated that he needs help coordinating the BLP.

## AGM

Date agreed Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, at 7.30 in the "Fly Cup" in Inverurie, near Morrisons. Dawn Brown will be present, to guide the new constitution proceedings. No guest speaker this time.

JC has agreed to continue for another year, as Senior Bailie / Chair, if elected and if a deputy can be found.

JC has drafted the letter to go to all Bailies explaining the changes and inviting them to the AGM. After some amendments it will be sent out DT has agreed to find addresses, get envelopes and postage stamps and volunteers are needed to put them together.

Annual Report for the AGM, needs to be ready to go to print in August. A4, size with a glossy cover and about 12 pages. CS has agreed to put it together. Reports including photos, need to be with CS at the beginning of August.

JC – Senior Bailies Report.

SJW - Treasurers Report.

AB - Publications Report and an item about James McKay.

HL and MT – Work Parties.

ST and KL – Talks on Bennachie and photos of people looking at the Banners

JM - Special Landscape Areas.

CS and AG – BLP

MG - "Save Bennachie"

Back page information about membership, donations and legacies.

## WILDLIFE SURVEYS

FCS have agreed to do a habitat survey on the Bennachie tops.

JC and JM will repeat a bid for lottery funding (Postcode Lottery) to pay experts in identification to teach volunteers who can then disseminate their knowledge to others.

More cameras needed.

A coordinator needed, - discuss at another meeting

## EVENTS

- 2nd July Work party (Work on the screen at the back of the centre and painting the shed )
- 13th July Management of the Colony houses and new planting area near Shepherds Lodge  
“ (not for the public)
- 16<sup>th</sup> July Walk around the Colony (for general public)

## MISSION STATEMENT LOGO and STRAPLINE ST

After discussion it was decided that the MISSION STATEMENT would be –

“We care about BENNACHIE, its natural environment, history and culture - protecting this unique landscape for future generations”.

The LOGO would be shades of green or purple (to be decided at the AGM), in an elliptical outline.

The STRAPLINE would be, PROTECT, SHARE and ENJOY.

Next meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> July.