



BALLOCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF MEETING ON 15 JUNE 2022

1	Members present: M Stuart, L Williams, P Sharp, I Williams, R Arkell, G Spalding In Attendance: Cllr Robertson, Mr Robertson, Mr D Johns Apologies: Cllr M Reid
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting 18 May 22: Proposed: R Arkell Seconded: P Sharp
3	Matters Arising: Field by Village Hall: This is now extremely overgrown with small trees and is causing some concern. IW has written to the HC regarding clearance and has been told it is “with education department”. However this affects more of the community than just the school. Action: IW to follow this up at the Balloch Community liaison meeting. Platinum Jubilee: The initial proposals for a low key event at the village hall have been postponed to September, with the idea that it will be a larger event with greater community involvement.
4	Chapelton See below
5	Highland Councillors’ Report: Culloden Academy: Refurbishment of some parts of the schools will be starting in the coming holidays. However, some elements of the original expansion plans will not now go ahead due to lack of funding and increased costs. This has caused considerable discontent as the project has dragged on for several years resulting in escalating costs and the resultant dropping of elements. Liaison with the Stakeholder Group, which has representatives from the community, has been poor. GS has asked for a public meeting to be held, possibly in the first week of term to address these issues. Action: Cllr Robertson is to follow this up and IW to email relevant parties including Culloden CC and Donna Manson, Chief Executive of HC. Highland Council is now a joint SNP / Independent administration.
6	Chair’s Report. Balloch Web-site: This is now in hand and being developed by Lauren McKenzie. A discussion regarding the web address opted in favour of “ballochcommunitycouncil.co.uk”. IMDFDP – considerable discussion regarding this, mainly focusing on the future use of the old Longman landfill site. Current proposals are that this should be used for business and light industrial development including a waste to energy plant. Conclusions were that this may be more appropriate for another site and the Longman former landfill site become a city park. Other points raised were: Lack of leisure facilities for E Inverness. Extension of Raigmore hospital, but restriction of parking there. This is the main hospital for the Highlands, so what provision is proposed for patients travelling from remote areas who may only be able to get there by car? Development of E Inverness – increased housing is constrained by limited facilities (schools, road infrastructure, medical facilities). The proposals appeared to put the onus for solving these issues on the developers. Environmental Issues – greater emphasis needed on limiting underwater noise pollution as this has

	considerable adverse impact on marine life, including the resident dolphin pod, fish and is believed to be a contributing factor to several whale strandings in recent years.
7	Treasurer's Report. The HC grant for 2020/21 of £546.82 has now been received.
8	Secretary's Correspondence. A96 Dualling Consultation: The stretch between Inverness and Nairn is not included in this consultation, but BCC felt a response reinforcing their view was desirable. The questionnaire centred on environmental impact with sections on bus / train / cycle routes. LW responded reinforcing BCC view that whilst desirable, there is a need for amelioration elements to reduce noise / light pollution adequate safe crossing places for non motorised transport (i.e. footpaths / cycle paths etc). Mitigation to reduce wildlife fatalities and ensuring habitats are not needlessly destroyed, including mature trees. Secretary's remuneration: This was waived while we were unable to hold meetings, but was reinstated for the last half of 2021/22 (£125). As has been the custom, it was proposed that this be split between several people who carried out these duties during that time when the secretary was unable to attend a meeting. Those members have declined this offer and the secretary has accepted a notional £50 for this period.
9	Any Other Business: GS asked whether BCC were able to pay the insurance of £473 for the Playpark for the coming year. It was agreed that this could be done for this year. As BCC is now receiving less in grants than its annual expenses, it is unlikely to be able to bear this cost in future years. This was discussed at the last meeting when it was suggested that BVT could raise the funds through events such as bake sale / gala etc.
10	Date of Next Meeting: 20 July 2022 Meeting Dates: 21 Sept; 19 Oct; 16 Nov