

BENHOLM & JOHNSHAVEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&JCC) Minutes of Meeting
Business Meeting No 485 Wednesday 10th June 2026 7.00pm – In Person Meeting at the Village Hall

Present: Michael Bennett (MB) Chair, Charis Duthie (CD) Treasurer, Susan Madden (SM), Myles Beattie (MyB), Carol Hutton (CH), David Neill (DN), Adele Westwood (AW)

Aberdeenshire Councillors: Cllr George Carr (GC), Cllr Alison Evison (AE)

Members of the public: 4 attended meeting

Agenda Item		Action
1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	MB welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. APOLOGIES	Linda Duncan (LD)	
3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING No 478	MB went through Minutes of last meeting for accuracy. MyB proposed the Minutes and DN seconded them.	(SM)
4. MATTERS ARISING	a) Update on actions from Minutes 483 that are not on the agenda: Castle Street Wall – the damaged wall on Castle Street across from Adelaide Cottage has been repaired. Bus Shelter – the damaged Bus Shelter in the Square is to be replaced. Aberdeenshire Council are waiting on a response from the suppliers as to how long this will take to arrive. b) Community Policing Report MB reported that there was a new format to the Policing Report which was specific to different areas and the one for our area was more focussed on Benholm & Johnshaven. There were also useful contact numbers included. This is to be shared on B&JCC website. A member of the public reported on an alarming incident in the village in which someone had went missing. He had phoned 101 several times and got no response despite staying on hold for over 30 minutes. It was agreed that this was unacceptable considering the serious nature of the incident. Eventually it was decided to call 999 and the Police did attend. This information will be passed on to David Charnley. c) Roads & Safety New Road Fencing – the state of the fencing on New Road continues to be in an appalling state and as well as being dangerous it is an unsightly entry into the village. CD had applied to Tullo for funding to get this fence replaced but it was rejected as the fence was originally erected by Aberdeenshire Council and it was agreed that it should therefore be their responsibility to repair or replace. Again, it was pointed out that at some points there is a high drop down and with no pavement and a higher volume of traffic using New Road it is quite unsafe for pedestrians. Cllr.GC said he would pick this issue up and discuss with Council officers. Speed Limit on Baron's Pade – the speed of traffic coming down the Baron's Pade continues to be an issue. B&JCC have asked for the speed limit to be reduced to 20mph all the way down from the A92 into the village. Aberdeenshire Council said they would review the situation but have now said that nothing further can be done at present. It was agreed to keep pushing for change as there is more traffic using this road since the new houses were built, as well as the Lathallan School traffic which exits on to this road. SM also pointed out that now that the new steps from the old Railway Line Walk have been put in place lots more	(MB) (MB) (MB) (MB)

	people are using this route to get to Wairds Park and children are therefore at risk if traffic is coming too quickly down the Baron's Pade. AM said that she had discussed the issues of road safety in the village with the children at school and several had said that they were frightened to play outside on their scooters and bikes because of speeding traffic. AM said that she was keen for the children and the B&JCC to talk about this further and to try to come up with solutions together. d) Transport Benholm Mill Bus Stop – MB reported that there has been a delay in the proposed relocation of the Bus Stop at Benholm Mill until August. Timetabling of Buses – there have been a few changes made to the timetabling of the X7 and 107 buses. These have been shared on the B&JCC Facebook page. There have been complaints made about missing connections because of changes made and that there is no real logic to the times as sometimes both buses arrive at the same time. The new Ember buses are now also stopping at Johnshaven and these are proving to be popular as they are cheaper and more reliable – the do however have to be pre-booked and this is not suitable for everyone. New Buses – Cllr. GC stated that it has been proposed to spend up to £323 million on a new “Glider-style” public transport system called Aberdeen Rapid Transit (ART), backed by NESTRANS. He said that it was ridiculous to be spending this amount of money on Aberdeen City and for rural areas to not get the improved public transport system that it desperately needs. He felt it was important to be considering the needs of Aberdeenshire and not just Aberdeen as THE destination that people want to get to. It was also pointed out that previously nearly £14 million had been spent on a pioneering hydrogen bus fleet with refuelling stations at Kittybrewster and Cove – a scheme which was a total failure and a huge waste of money.	(MB)
	e) Finance Treasurer's Report CD shared Treasurer's Report at A.G.M. (see A.G.M. Minutes). There are £2604 of unallocated funds available for B&JCC reserves, activities and resources. MB urged B&JCC members to put in any expenses to get repaid from CD.	(CD)
	f) Conservation & Infrastructure Coastal Erosion – MB has had some responses from Aberdeenshire Council regarding issues of coastal erosion and has been redirected to some grant funding which might be available to help communities with coastal erosion issues. Cllr. GC said that there was to be work carried out to finish installing rock armour which had been started at Fore Street and to look at Beach Road issues. 2026/2027 Area Committee Paper, dependent on budgets, could potentially unlock some money reserves for coastal communities. MB said that the Coastal Erosion sub-group was to meet on 24th June. Johnshaven War Memorial – work is ongoing at the War Memorial, and the walls have been repaired and are being prepared for harling. SM pointed out that there are a lot of weeds growing at the moment in the old garden area and it is looking somewhat neglected and perhaps isn't the best impression to give visitors to the village. CD however stated that the Beedies were due to start back to finish the job in the next week. MB said that his contact would get the railings painted once work on the walls had been completed. Coastal Path Update – Funding from Tullo was not granted at last round of applications. MERCHAT are looking for volunteers to help with the development, maintenance and management of the Coastal Path and for Path Rangers.	(MB) (CD) (CD)

	Community Garden Update – AW met with Community Garden Group & Casper Lampkin to discuss solutions to improving access from Station Place. Also looking at finding funding to get damaged fence down the Backie (Milne's Wynd) repaired or removed.	(AW)
	Johnshaven Cemetery Improvements – MS not at meeting tonight. AM said the children from the school had been painting rocks to get put in the Cemetery Garden area which MS has been tidying up.	(MS)
	Good Housekeeping	
	Dates for B&JCC Meetings – MB had distributed proposed dates for future B&JCC meetings for consideration. Everyone agreed dates were fine and MB asked CD to book the Village Hall for these dates.	(MB) (CD)
	Village Storage – still no further information on sale of the Masonic Lodge and therefore everything is still in storage there for the time being. There is to be a meeting on 30 th June to discuss next steps on new storage unit for the village proposed for Wairds Park – this will be to engage someone to design and get plans drawn up, to apply for planning permission and to gather quotes for work. Then a further application for funding will have to be submitted to get the work done.	(CD)
	Younger People Recruitment – DN has spoken to a number of younger people about joining B&JCC but so far nobody has shown much interest. DN will continue to try to spark some interest with younger members of the community. AM said that children from the local school are keen to share their ideas and get involved and this needs to be explored in more detail.	(DN)
	Community Resilience	
	Allotments – The allotments are all looking great and being used well by allotment holders. The lease on the allotment land is due to expire soon and this will need to be looked at with David Alexander and a solicitor.	(MB)
5. CORRESPONDENCE NOT ON AGENDA	Update on the Ship Hotel – latest email gave an update on the progress being made by The Ship Inn Johnshaven Ltd. Co-operative and Community Benefit Society Number 9624. A full building survey and architect's survey have both been completed and this has given the Ship Crew a clear understanding of what needs to be done at the Ship. They have been working closely with the team behind the Montrose Playhouse project to ensure that any future work is sympathetic, sustainable and true to the character of the building. Thanks to the generosity of the community, supporters and recent fundraising nearly enough money has been raised to secure the purchase of the building – there is to be a final push to raise the remaining £15,000 needed. There will be a public meeting soon to share the plans, give updates and share the vision for the future of the Ship. Official membership and share options will also be available at the meeting.	
	Community Resilience Grants – MB will pass on information about grants to the Village Hall Committee and information about solar panels to help with community resilience. There are online training sessions for Community Resilience coming up soon and MB will share the details.	(MB)
6. PLANNING UPDATES	SM reported the following planning applications: APP/2026/0789 – 1 Seaview Terrace, Johnshaven, DD10 0HF. Retrospective Planning Permission for erection of a replacement shed. B&JCC saw no reason to object to this application although it was noted that it was bigger than what had been there originally.	(SM)
7. NEW BUSINESS	No new business.	

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS	Cllr. GC said that there needs to be more flexibility between Aberdeenshire Council officers and local communities. Community Councils are trying their best to act in the best interests of their community and concerns deserve to be listened to respectfully by council officers. A member of the public asked about the single-lane system managed by traffic lights on the A92 Jubilee Bridge in Inverbervie as it had been frequently stuck on red both ways causing chaos on the road through Inverbervie. Cllr. GC said new lights had just been put in place. It was also pointed out that the flashing speed lights at St Cyrus, Inverbervie and Kinneff were often not working. Cllr. GC said there were no plans to repair or replace them once broken. Cllr. GC spoke about the ONE SeedPod, a bright pink food and drink innovation hub located at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) Craibstone Campus, a five-minute drive from Aberdeen Airport. The £27 million facility is a centre of excellence designed to support food and drink innovators, start-ups and expanding businesses. Cllr. GC spoke about the Local Development Plan which is used to determine planning applications and to zone land for development or protect land for specific use. The Development Plan can be viewed online. There is also a Participation Statement which explains how Aberdeenshire Council will engage and consult with individuals, communities and other stakeholders in the production of the development plan. Cllr. AE stated that Bervie Community Council had published their Place Plan in February 2026. B&JCC had previously worked on this but nothing had been done with the information gathered due to changes in the group. Cllr. AE said that it was useful as it helps communities to think about how to make a place better, agree priorities and take action. SM spoke about the state of the verges and the roadside/pavement along the edge of the A92 which are now covered in weeds and in some places completely overgrown making it difficult to walk or cycle along. Previously this had been cleared by members of the community with Aberdeenshire Council promising to keep it clear, but this has not happened. Cllrs. claimed again that the reason is that there is not enough staff or money to do it. SM also pointed out that she had observed the grass cutting in the graveyard had required two trips by council staff – two vehicles and five employees. Surely this is a waste of money on fuel and wages when it could easily be done in one trip – perhaps they could clear the overgrown verges and pavement instead of one of these trips	
9. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC	EV Charging Points – a member of the public asked if there were any plans for EV charging points to be installed in the village. At present there are not but this needs to be explored further. Defibrillator for Mill of Benholm – a member of the public stated that Benholm Mill had tried to get a defibrillator installed but had apparently been refused permission from Aberdeenshire Council. The public would like to know why this happened as it is a very busy place and surely it would be a good thing to have.	
10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING	Next Meeting: CC Business Meeting 486 - Wednesday 12th August 2026 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.	

Approved: Seconded: Date: