

BENHOLM & JOHNHAVEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&JCC) Minutes of Meeting

Business Meeting No 479 Wednesday 11th June 2025 7.30pm – In Person Meeting at the Village Hall

Present: Michael Bennett (MB) Chair, Charis Duthie (CD) Treasurer, Linda Duncan (LD), Carol Hutton (CH), Maureen Sangster (MS), Susan Madden (SM)

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

Members of the public: 8 attended meeting

| Agenda Item | | Action |
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| 1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS | All CC members introduced themselves. MB welcomed everyone to the meeting. | |
| 2. APOLOGIES | Alison Millard (AM), Craig Simpson (CS) | |
| 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING No 478 | MB went through Minutes of last meeting for accuracy. MS proposed approval of Minutes & CD seconded. | |
| 4. MATTERS ARISING | MB still to get back in touch with Aberdeenshire Council regarding the garden area of land behind the Masonic Lodge. The problem with rubbish deposited at the back of the Heritage Museum has been dealt with by the Benholm & Johnshaven Heritage Society and has now been sorted. LD to chase up bus shelter on New Road idea with the Transport Forum. Solution to the tight turn at Back Road on to Balandro Loan to be put to Aberdeenshire Council by MB. Bollards at Seaview Terrace/Back Road have been successful – feedback to Aberdeenshire Council is positive and this is good long-term solution. | (MB) (LD) |
| 5. FUTURE ROLES WITHIN CC & OUR WAY OF WORKING | With the sad news of the death of our Secretary Joann Beattie B&JCC need to find someone to take on this role. The role of Secretary within the CC is of key importance and it is hoped that we can get someone to take on this responsibility. In the meantime other members of B&JCC will carry out the tasks usually undertaken by the Secretary until someone new is elected. As reported at the AGM B&JCC will run a recruitment campaign over the summer in an attempt to get some new members with an election taking place in September. The lack of attendance at CC meetings is a continued concern and we need to look at ways to engage more interest in the work and role of the CC within our community. LD is stepping down in September but will continue as an associate member and she will continue to represent B&JCC at Tullo/Twinshiels Grant Award meetings and on the Transport Forum. MB will represent B&JCC at KDP meetings and at Aberdeenshire Council CC Forum Meetings. | (LD) (MB) |
| 6. TREASURER'S REPORT | The yearly Accounts for B&JCC were presented at the AGM by CD. At the end of the financial year the CC had £9470 in the account. This includes Tullo grant funds of £2,896.40 (Winter Lunches); £754.88 (Cemetery grant); and £124.39 (Junior Badminton grant). | (CD) |
| 7. PLANNING UPDATES | APP/2025/0734 Installation of Air Source Heat Pump 14 Milnes Wynd, Johnshaven, DD10 0JB No objections. However, these types of applications need to be carefully considered with regards to noise assessments and impact on Conservation Area. | (LD) (CH) |

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| <p>8. TULLO WIND FARM GRANT APPLICATIONS UPDATE</p> | <p>We applied to Tullo for 3 projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Creation of steps from Herd Crescent to railway path, from railway path to Waird's Park entrance and fence repairs on Herd Crescent. • 2. War Memorial wall repairs & tidying of garden area. • 3. Village Storage facilities. <p>We were granted the funds for the Railway Path steps and fencing, but not for the War Memorial wall repairs & garden area. We will look elsewhere for funding for this. The decision on the Village Storage facilities grant has been held over until September as the committee required extra information.</p> <p>SM asked why once again a heritage project had been rejected by Tullo (the resetting of fallen gravestones was rejected last year). The response was that the committee were of the opinion that funding for this should come from elsewhere such as the War Graves Commission or the Aberdeenshire Council Historic Asset Management Project (HAMP). CD to look into this further.</p> | <p>(CD)</p> |
| <p>9. ACTION POINTS & REPORTS</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9a SOS – Save Our Ship Update A Committee has now been formed to take forward the proposals to buy the Ship and to run it as a Community Pub. Discussions have begun with Plunkett UK which is an organisation that helps communities take control of assets and services that are important to them, to enable them to deliver wider social, economic and environmental benefits. They will help with taking forward the idea for the Ship to become a community pub – a business owned and controlled by people from within the community for community benefit. • 9b Coastal Erosion No further update on Coastal Erosion. MB to arrange a meeting with those who expressed interest in setting up a Coastal Erosion sub-group to look at what can be done to prevent further damage to our coastline. • 9c Dog Fouling This continues to be an issue – the area on the Old Railway Path behind the school is getting worse not better despite the fact that there are signs, free dog poo bags and bins at both ends of the path. MB investigated who owned the land in this area and it was found to be owned by Aberdeenshire Council who had purchased the whole area when Station Place was getting built. B&JCC will continue to supply dog poo bags and to monitor the situation. • 9d Rights of Way Clearance This has still to be pursued further with Community Payback Team being contacted again. | <p>(MB)</p> |
| <p>10. UPDATE FROM ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCILLORS</p> | <p>Cllr GC reported that the period for consultation on 20mph legislation has now ended. The aim is to make 20mph the norm in appropriate areas, while maintaining strategic routes at 30mph. The introduction of 20mph limits involves a statutory process, including public consultations and the creation of speed limit orders. Public consultation is a crucial part of the process to gather feedback from residents and road users. It is hoped that the reduction of speed limits to 20mph will make the roads safer for all road users.</p> <p>Cllr GC reported that the “Councillors Walk” will take place on Sunday 29th June starting at Bervie & walking to St Cyrus along the Coastal Path.</p> | |

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| | <p>Cllr AE reported that she had attended a drop in event at Kinneff Hall at the beginning of June and had seen some very interesting public health information for Mearns North & Inverbervie. The new noticeboards at Bervie Health Centre which provide health and wellbeing information are an excellent way of encouraging people to be more aware of how they can help improve their physical and mental health.</p> | |
| <p>11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 40mph speed limit on A92 from Benholm Mill to Balandro Cottages MB & CD have both written to Aberdeenshire Council regarding the possibility of there being a reduced speed limit on this stretch of road for the following reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New housing development at the Beeches, Johnshaven – 70 new houses built and this has a considerable impact on the number of cars coming in and out of the village on a daily basis. 2. Increased traffic on the A92. 3. Local businesses – attracting more people to the village and also increase in traffic delivering/collecting goods. 4. Significant increase in the number of delivery vehicles coming in to the village since Covid and this has not decreased at all. 5. Mill of Benholm – significant increase in number of visitors and traffic using the Mill of Benholm exit on to the A92 and the expectation is that the number of visitors will continue to rise. 6. Lathallan School Entrance – traffic going in to the school entrance is a real concern as there can be a queue of cars waiting and cars come round the corner too fast not expecting there to be a queue of traffic. Also, there is no signage to say there is a school entrance or to slow down for turning traffic. 7. More cyclists using the road and there are many drivers who do not consider the safety of cyclists on the road. 8. The standard of driving on the A92 is getting worse with lots of speeding and reckless driving. <p>Joann had started to try to gather statistics but had got no response from Aberdeenshire Council or the Police – however B&JCC are aware of a significant number of accidents and near misses on this stretch of road and will therefore be pushing for change.</p> <p>Recently an area at the Dunnottar turn off at Stonehaven has become a 40mph zone and B&JCC are of the opinion that the stretch of road we are talking about from Benholm Mill past the top of Johnshaven is equally dangerous and therefore requires equal consideration from Aberdeenshire Council for speed restrictions to be put in place.</p> ● Defibrillator at the Masonic Lodge It was pointed out that if the sale of the Masonic Lodge goes ahead then we will have to look at relocating this defibrillator. ● Willow Trees Cut Down Residents are annoyed that two willow trees have been cut down in a garden on Main Street. There was a planning notice for the trees being cut down but there was nowhere for public consultation or comments to take place. Tess Whyte MSP became involved after residents got in touch with her but the trees were still cut down by Landscape Services Department of Aberdeenshire Council. The reasons given by Aberdeenshire Council were that one was too close to the oil tank and the other had to be removed to erect a new boundary fence to enclose the garden for tenant and family. | <p>(LD)</p> |

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| <p>12. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC</p> | <p>B&JCC Website – a resident asked if this was still going to be going ahead as he knew someone who might be able to assist with this. MB to look into this further.</p> <p>Abandoned cars – these are still in place and residents would like to know when they will be removed. One has had a Council aware sign on it for months.</p> | <p>(MB)</p> |
| <p>13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> | <p>Next Meeting: CC Business Meeting 480 - Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.</p> | |

Approved: Secoded: Date: