

BENHOLM & JOHNSHAVEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL (B&JCC) Minutes of Meeting
AGM No 50 Wednesday 10th June 2026 7.00pm - In Person Meeting at the Village Hall

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

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

Members of the Public: 4 present

Agenda Item		Action
1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	MB welcomed everyone to the AGM.	
2. APOLOGIES	Apologies from Linda Duncan (LD)	
3. MINUTES OF AGM No 49 JUNE 2025	The Minutes of AGM No 49 were proposed by CD and seconded by CH.	
4. ANNUAL REPORT	MB presented the Chairperson's Annual Report as follows: I would like to welcome you all to Benholm and Johnshaven Community Council 50th AGM I would also like to thank all members of B&JCC for their hard work over the past year and for the support and advice they have given me as Chair, thank you. Thanks, are also due to our ward councillors for attending our meetings and for the work they do behind the scenes to support the work of the community council and the advice they offer. Thank you. Also, thanks is due to Officers of Aberdeenshire Council who try to help us when they can, thanks. What have we done over the past year? Following an interim election three new members were duly elected and joined us, they are Adele Westwood, David Neil and Chris Greene. Sadly, Chris Greene had to step down from the community council earlier this year. We requested an increase in our maximum number of members from 9 to 12 The Area Manager, Tim Stephen, agreed to our request. Many applications for funding to carry out projects with most being successful, some not. Winter Lunches (supporting Community Café Group in providing these) Badminton for Juniors (supporting the initiative to provide badminton lessons for juniors) Continuing to work on new Storage Facilities for community groups. The War Memorial repairs to the wall and gardens are well underway and will be completed for Remembrance Day in November.	

	New steps on the Railway Path at Herds Crescent and repair Herd Crescent fencing have been completed. Work at tidying up and improving areas at Johnshaven Cemetery are well underway with some of the work completed by the Community Payback Scheme. The continuing provision of Poop bags for dog owners to pick up after their dog Successful campaign of lobbying, along with other community councils across Aberdeenshire, to have the decision to remove of certain grit bins reversed. It was suspended but we need to be watchful for the coming winter. New Notice Board for Johnshaven is in transit as of today and will be fitted on the wall at Johnshaven Village Shop in due course. The old notice board will be utilised by the village hall following refurbishment. Work on finding and fitting a replacement notice board for Benholm is underway. This project is more complicated than first thought. The community payback scheme has agreed to: Refurbish all of the wooden rights of way signs. Also, they have agreed to clear the overgrown parts of our rights of way paths. The overgrown bushes adjacent to the phone box have been cut back however, the stumps still remain and will require removing over the summer and Autumn. Speed Limits: The Community Council is continuing its work at getting a review and hopefully a speed reduction of the current 60mph speed limit on the A92 as it passes through Benholm and Johnshaven at certain locations. This project is proceeding but slowly. A request has been submitted to Aberdeenshire Roads Department to review both the speed limits on Baron's Pade, and the exit junction from Lathallan School. Coastal Erosion: The sub-group working on the coastal erosion in our area had a meeting (November 25) with Aberdeenshire Councils Flood Risk and Coastal Protection Officers and walked the coastline at Johnshaven looking at the erosion taking place. The aim was to gather data and information to help us plan what work is required on the coast. We asked for a survey and a quote for repairing the wooden fence along New Road and Milnes Wynd (parallel to the Community Garden) which was done. Unfortunately the grant funding application for this project was not successful. We will complete this project once we can secure funding. A joint project with the Community Garden Group to improve the access to the Community Garden is underway. This project is dependent on securing the funding to carry out the improvements. The never-ending campaign to have potholes attended to continues. I'd want to encourage all of residents to use the Aberdeenshire Website form to report potholes. Work has started on recruiting younger people to become interested in community activities. The Benholm and Johnshaven website has been created, and we continue to work on improving it and will continue to do so over the coming 12 months.	
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	In addition, many small task and jobs have been completed or are underway around Benholm and Johnshaven: cleaning of the bus stops on the A92, chasing up the replacing the damaged bus shelter at Johnshaven, small road improvements, chasing up the replacement of road name signs that are faded, etc. Planning Application: We continue to scrutinize and if necessary, respond to Planning Applications on behalf of the Community. We continued in our support and helping to prevent irreparable damage to Fetteresso forest by SSEN. Benholm & Johnshaven CC are represented at various committees: • Tullo & Twinshiels funding panel • Attending meetings of Kincardineshire Development Partnership (KDP) • Attending Aberdeenshire Transport Forum. • Attending Aberdeenshire Community Councils' Forum • Attending CCs against the SSEN proposals. Support for Other Groups and Organisations: The CC also supports other Community Activities e.g. the SOS (Save Our Ship) group, Community Garden, Coastal Path and the Community Café. We also support our Allotment group and help with oversight (thanks also to Emma Elliot and Craig Simpson). The lease for the allotments has approx. two years left to run and we will need to start work shortly on renewing the lease. We also continue to offer aid community groups with Planning Permission applications which reduces the fee payable. There remains much to do such as: • Recruiting new full members remains a priority and we have 4 spaces to fill as well as finding a secretary. • We need to work harder at improving our communications with residents. • Increase our use of social media.	
5. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS	CD presented the Treasurer's Report Financial accounts and activities of the Benholm & Johnshaven Community Council for the year ending April 2026. Financial Overview • Total incoming resources for 2025-26: £27,255, up from £5,305 in 2025. • Net movement in funds: £11,666, compared to £3,646 in 2025. • Balance carried forward: £21,136.35 as of April 5, 2026. Income Sources • Aberdeenshire Council Grant: £748 vs. £697.00 (2025).	

	• The increase in 2026 is partly due to inclusion of the CC Insurance premium for 25-26 (£110) • Allotment Fees: £100.00 • Tullo-related grant income includes: War Memorial renovation (£9842); new CC Noticeboard by shop (£2489); Village Storage Unit preliminary work (£5734); Railway Path steps and fencing (£8273) • We have also opened a Savings Account: the interest from this partly offsets the new Bank Charges that were introduced by the Bank of Scotland. Expenditure Breakdown • Total expenditure for 2026: £15,589.38, up from £1,659 in 2025. • Major expenses include: CC Village Hall Hire (£132), Dog Waste Bags (£150), and CC Insurance (£110). The CC Insurance will be refunded by Aberdeenshire Council in our next Grant. • Of the Aberdeenshire Council grant, we overspent from CC reserves by £159. • So far, we have spent £14,681 on the Tullo projects with £11,656 remaining to be spent this year. • Surplus for the year £11,665, compared to £3,646 in 2025. Of this, £2604 are unallocated funds available for CC reserves, activities and resources. Grant Funds This year, we have been very fortunate to receive grants from the Tullo and Twinshiels Community Fund for • War Memorial renovation; • New CC Noticeboard by the shop; • Village Storage Unit preliminary work; • Railway Path steps and fencing (completed). Last year's Tullo grant projects (Winter Lunches (£2,980), Badminton (£673), Cemetery Tools and Shed (£754) have now been completed: • Winter Warmer Lunches, run by the Community Café group • Junior Badminton sessions, run by David Pittendreigh • Tools and shed to support the Friends of Johnshaven Cemetery In addition, over the past 8 years, we have spent nearly £9000 on Christmas lights, using funds from the Mearns Area Partnership and the Tullo and Twinshiels Community Fund, as well as a small contribution from CC funds. No further grants were sought in 25-26, but the Christmas Lights group continued their work with existing resources. We are very grateful to these funders and all the volunteers who provide their help, support and enthusiasm to enhance our community.	
6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR	CD reported that Pamela Gerard was to be asked to continue to audit B&JCC Accounts. This was proposed by MyB and seconded by MB.	

7. NEW COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS	MB reported that B&JCC were planning to try to recruit new CC members and to run a recruitment campaign over the next couple of months with the intention of holding an election in late July/early September. MB to discuss this further with Aberdeenshire Council. B&JCC propose to create and distribute a leaflet to all residents of Benholm & Johnshaven and to post on Noticeboards and via Social Media.	
8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS	The following office bearers are to remain the same: Michael Bennett (MB) Chairperson Charis Duthie (CD) Treasurer Susan Madden (SM) Minutes Secretary At present B&JCC do not have a Secretary and are trying to recruit someone for this role.	
9. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	Next AGM (No. 51) will take place on Wednesday 9 th June 2027.	
	Cllr. GC thanked B&JCC for their commitment and dedication.	

Approved: Seconded: Date: