

Birse and Ballogie Community Council

Meeting at Birse Hall on 15 June 2026

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting

1. Attendees

Present: - Dave Bracegirdle (DB), Eryn Inglis (EI); Sam Colley (SC); Duncan Caird (DC)
David Williamson (DMW) (Chair)

Apologies:- Yvonne Allan (YA); Davie Winton (DW)

2. Minutes of Meeting on 20th April 2026

These were proposed by SC and seconded by EI

3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer DW was not present but had provided a report summarising the position through to 31st March. The Balance in hand was £2459.58. These accounts will be audited and then submitted to Aberdeenshire Council.

4. Aboyne Bridge

DMW updated the committee on the developments since the last meeting on 20th April. On 27th April an online meeting was held with Aberdeenshire Council (Tim Stephen, Phil McKay) primarily to discuss the TOR (terms of reference) for ABAC (Aboyne Bridge Action Committee). ABAC committee has been established in conjunction with MDCC (Mid Deeside CC), FAB (Fix Aboyne Bridge) and ABA (Aboyne Business Association) to provide a focal and communication point with Aberdeenshire Council for all issues relating to Aboyne Bridge. There was general agreement with the TOR but further comments were sought within Aberdeenshire Council. Following that meeting discussions were held with MDCC, FAB and Aboyne Business Group to nominate individuals and establish ABAC. On 21st May the first ABAC meeting was held:-

- Dale Kitching FAB
- John Stodter FAB
- Martin Ogden MDCC
- Claire Bruce MDCC
- Alastair White – Aboyne Business Association
- David Williamson - B2C2

At this first meeting Dale Kitching agreed to chair and Alastair White agreed to be secretary. ABA were promoting the implementation of a survey to understand the overall impact on the community. A meeting with Aberdeenshire Council was proposed and the date chosen was June 17th. The proposed agenda for this meeting would be:-

- Principles of ABAC engagement with Aberdeenshire Council.
- Forward timeline

- Delivery programme
- Governance

B2C2 has two potential slots on ABAC. DMW undertook to continue to keep the B2C2 committee informed. DMW was willing to continue representing B2C2 on ABAC, however DMW was very willing to step aside from this role should any of the committee wish to become involved. The next ABAC meeting will be on 28th July.

5. Ballogie Nursery

Whilst there is no confirmed threat to Ballogie Nursery, the concern is that we might expect a further attempt to mothball or close in summer 2026 or later. B2C2 have continued to work this issue with Finzean CC and the local PTA. It had previously been agreed that we should take every opportunity to speak at the council debates to ensure that the issues facing Ballogie Nursery and Finzean school were considered. The associated concern is the knock on effect of a possible closure of the nursery on Finzean school and the longer term impact on the overall community. Sam Colley spoke at the council meeting on 30th April and Guy Haslam (Finzean CC) spoke at the subsequent meeting on 21st May. Guy Haslam's understanding from this May meeting was that Ballogie nursery was now not under immediate threat of closure. The general feedback he received suggested that our representations at the council meetings had indeed been successful at highlighting our concerns and maintaining focus on Ballogie nursery.

6. Parking/ Congestion at Potarch

As discussed in previous meetings, on certain days during this summer's hot weather period, the Potarch area attracted a very large number of visitors. A meeting had been arranged with the Principal Landscape Services Officer in mid November. This meeting was called off due to snow. A second attempt was planned for 8th January but due to snow it was held online. The notes and actions from that meeting are still awaited and DMW agreed to follow up. In view of the time elapse, DMW had proposed that a further meeting to discuss the way forward will be requested.

ACTION: DMW

7. Potarch Toilets

The provision of adequate toilet facilities is seen as an essential element for the Potarch green amenity. These are currently provided using a Portaloo. The permanent toilet block at Potarch has been closed since 2010. The issue was discussed in depth at the previous meeting and we now understand the status. There were no immediate ideas about how this could be taken forward.

8. Emergency Resilience

There had been no major incidents in the previous period. In November there was a drill to test out radio systems. In the event this test was not entirely successful. It was

useful in highlighting deficiencies. It was agreed at the time that the drill be repeated but this has not happened. It was agreed that we need to test our systems in the “quiet” period. DB took an action to organise a repeat test in the coming period.

ACTION DB

9. Defibrillator Maintenance

B2C2 has three defibrillators in the community. B2C2 remain committed to finding the funding to maintain defibrillators. Aberdeenshire council have been clear that we should not use the Administrative Grant for maintenance of defibrillators. New pads and a new battery had however been purchased for the defibrillator at Birse Hall using funds already held in our account. Two sets of pads had also been purchased for Ballogie. B2C2 will continue to seek funding for these replacements.

ACTION DMW

10. Neighbourhood Watch

The WhatsApp group continues to mainly work well. Currently there are 79 subscribers and it has proved to be useful in engaging the community to provide action on areas of concern. There had been recent concerns that certain individuals were using this group to promote their own activities which were verging on an abuse of this system. SC agreed to look at guidance for the system use.

ACTION: SC

11. Communications

a. Notice Boards

B2C2 now operates 3 notice boards:-

- Aboyne Bridge
- Ballogie Nursery
- Potarch green

b. Facebook

No new actions re Facebook. Helen Jackson continues to successfully operate B2C2 Facebook site on behalf of B2C2 committee. Helen’s continuing support is much appreciated.

c. Website

A WIX subscription has been taken out to enable development of a new website. The new website is still under development.

ACTION DMW/DC

12. Police

B2C2 had received the Marr Community Policing Team spring 2026 report and this was distributed to the B2C2 committee email listing. The single comment on this report received from the community was positive as was the general opinion of B2C2 committee.

13. Next Meeting – Monday 24th August 2026 at 1930 Birse Hall

14. Proposed Future Meeting Timetable – all 1930 at Birse Hall

- 24th Aug 2026
- 2nd Nov 2026
- 11 Jan 2027
- 1 Mar 2027
- 3 May 2027
- 28 Jun 2027