



**Minutes of the Braemar Community Limited Annual General Meeting 2019  
28th November 2019 at 6.30pm at the Bothy, Braemar**

**Present:** Simon Blackett (Chair), Doreen Wood, Dave Chandler, Jim Stark, Aimi Blueman, Dorothy Ramsay, Doug Bruce, Andy Anderson, Brian Wood, Idris Bozyl, Georgina Errington, John Macpherson, Neil Caple, Annie Stonebridge, Heather Bain

**Agenda Item:**

**1. Apologies**

Trevor Garlick, Jeff & Claire Gaskin, Rhi and Rob Turner, Aileen & Peter Lawrence, Dave Evans, Maggie Mackay, Anna Fraser, John and Kathleen Kinsella, Liz Robertson, David and Carol Mitchell, Peter and Joan Mulvey, Glen and Maggie Perkins, Sheila Anderson, Dale Johnson

**2. Minutes of the AGM 22nd November 2018**

Minutes of last year's AGM were distributed prior to the meeting. The Chairman outlined the salient points. Proposed by Andy Anderson and seconded by Doug Bruce. The 2018 AGM minutes were approved by the meeting.

**3. Matters arising from the 2018 minutes.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes

**4. Chairperson's Report – Simon Blackett**

The Chairman reported it had been a good season at the Castle with numbers (around 14,400) up on the previous year. He thanked Georgina, Hanane, Anna and Magnus plus all the volunteers for their hard work. It is proposed the castle will be open for one more season then will close for works. In 2020 it is hoped to maximise income but reduce expenditure to help with the closure period.

Raising the Standard, the first interim review has been passed and now moving onto the final application. Many people are assisting with this including the in house team Annie, Catriona, Katherine and Nadine. Fundraising is ongoing and has included comedy nights, Christmas cards, attending the Christmas fair, delivery of cards, raffle and Marilyn's pop up shop which raised £1,400.

BCL is also has responsibility for Auchtavan which has four open days pa, bridges (Monega and Society), the community office.

BCL also has interest in the Hydro scheme and Mountain Festival which will be held again in 2021.

More recently BCL is leading on a potential housing project behind Kindrochit Court/Rucksacks.

Hanane is looking to update the Castle website.

The Chairman gave examples of projects starting with BCL, now going alone and invited ideas for new projects people may wish to bring to fruition.

Brian Wood was invited to update the group re the Local History Group. The group have had a wide range of speakers over the last year, speakers in the New Year will include Alistair Cassie, Peter Fraser and Simon Blackett. History walks in the village had seen a decline in numbers and income which may be linked to the closure of the Invercauld Arms. Doug Bruce and Hanane Ortega have



undertaken weekly promotional meetings at the Craighdarroch Hotel which continues to help. The group has also been working with Maureen Kelly on a 4 page booklet designed to be a historical introduction to the village.

Doug Bruce expressed concern about the impact of the castle closure on the village; Doreen explained the castle would still have a presence, there would be a video blog, people would be able to walk around the grounds and hard hat tours were being explored.

## **5. Financial Report – Dave Chandler**

A full set of accounts ending 31st March 2019 were distributed by email prior to the meeting. D. Chandler also distributed and explained a summary of the accounts and responded to the questions raised.

Total income on unrestricted funds was £156,294, total expenditure on unrestricted funds was £142,646. More money had been spent on employment of consultants.

Money from the Hydro scheme was distributed through BCL (£5,000 in 2019).

Expenditure on salaries had increased in 2019 with employment of students and the retention of Hanane part-time through the winter.

Money needed to be reserved for the estimated 1.5 years of closure.

The Chair thanked Dave Chandler for his work on the BCL accounts.

The resolution to receive and adopt the Directors report and audited accounts was proposed by Jim Stark and seconded by John Macpherson.

## **6. Appointment of Auditors**

The resolution to re-appoint Anderson, Anderson and Brown as auditors of the Company and their remuneration fixed by directors was passed unanimously.

## **7. Appointment of Directors**

Glen Perkins to retire by rotation but has indicated his willingness to stand again for office. The resolution to appoint this director was proposed by Dave Chandler and seconded by Doreen Wood.

## **8. AOCB**

John Macpherson highlighted the possibility of archaeology of interest around the castle still to be explored and that the castle had an archaeologist amongst its team.

Dorothy Ramsay noted the development of the tourist hub, this is to be in the mews and Sarah Hubbard and Pete Mulvey are the main contacts for this phase.

Doug Bruce again raised concerns that BCL were proposing to lead, in the near future, a substantial housing development project behind Kindrochit Court / Rucksacks.