



## **Birre Area Community Association**

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting 6th December 2006 At Birre Community Hall, 7:30 p.m.**

**Those present:** Richard Wright, Jackie White, Norman Kellas,  
Davy Winton (Treasurer), Rick Paul (Chair).

#### **Apologies:**

**1. Apologies for absence**

Anne Silcock, Donald Silcock, Mark White, Christine Wright, Gareth Wright, Jane Winton, Michael Eke, Jenny Eke, Robert Dinnie, Dorothy Dinnie, Karen Kellas, Anne Chandler.

**2. Minutes of previous AGM**

The previous AGM minutes were duly accepted, having been proposed by Richard Wright and seconded by Davy Winton.

**3. Chairman's Report**

I will start on a sad note. Earlier this year a good friend to BACA sadly died. Neil McConach was a staunch supporter of our association and helped us quietly and in the background in many different ways to function effectively.

We all miss him and our condolences go to Meg and family.

Following concerns expressed at our last AGM about the condition of the roads in Birre, BACA lobbied the council in January to get something done. After some to-ing and fro-

ing, Robert Dinnie met the council's Ralph Singleton resulting in the whole stretch of road from Mains of Balfour to the South Deeside Road past Birsemore being resurfaced.

In February, committee members and other volunteers helped spread the word in Birse about the proposed purchase of Slewdrum Forest. Knocking on doors, we managed an 80% response rate with a resounding 98% in favour. Well done all concerned.

In March we upgraded safety in the hall with the addition of emergency lighting that automatically comes on in the event of a power cut, and we now have a fire blanket in the kitchen.

In April, BACA organized a tree planting morning in Balfour Wood. Local youngsters produced and distributed posters and we managed to attract 22 bairns and an assortment of adults. Anne Silcock wrote an article which was printed in The Piper along with a photograph. It was great success.

Hall bookings have been quieter this year, but there have been Prayer Days, AGM's and Children's Parties. We consider ourselves privileged to have such a hall in community ownership. It is the perfect venue for the next item in my report – our annual summer BBQ.

This was very well attended despite being postponed for a week due to inclement weather. On a dry but cold day, we abandoned 'wet sponge throwing' and substituted 'smash the crockery', which seemed to go down well. We all ate and drank too much and then predictably failed in our attempts to outshine the youngsters at rounders. It was a fun day. Thanks to all who helped manage the kiddies games and kept the BBQ ticking over, and special thanks to Meg and Stuart for loaning us the use of their park again at such a difficult time.

At the end of October we held a very successful Pub Quiz down at The Boat. Some of the questions may have been a bit obscure but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The final round was 'Local Knowledge' and I was impressed with the depth of knowledge some contestants had about Birse. Anyone would think they'd lived here all their lives. Thanks to all who attended and donated raffle prizes.

After the Remembrance Service at Corsedardar last month, a further service was held at Birse Kirk. About 30 folks attended and were pleased to be served tea and biscuits in our pre-warmed hall afterwards.

Finally, I would like to express our thanks to Rab Paterson for a very generous donation to our cause, Liz Dinnie for a large donation from one of her regular plant sales, and B2C2 for a grant towards our insurance costs. We are most grateful.

In closing, BACA has had another good year. We feel we are positively contributing to the local community and are grateful for your continuing support.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer presented the accounts for member's scrutiny, and reported that due to two profitable events, namely the BBQ and the pub quiz, followed by two generous donations and a grant from Birse and Ballogie Community Council, BACA is in a healthy financial position and able to honour its commitments for the coming year.

#### **5. Election of Committee Members for 2004/2005**

The current committee members were all willing to be re-elected and were pre-proposed by Dorothy Dinnie and seconded by Robert Dinnie.

The committee members for 2007 are therefore:-

Christine Wright  
Jackie White  
Davy Winton  
Richard Wright  
Mark White  
Norman Kellas  
Rick Paul

#### **6. Any Other Business**

Concern was expressed over the condition of the wooden bridge over the burn near Davy's farm. Ownership was unclear, but it was thought that we locals should be able to repair it to a satisfactory condition. Rick will speak with Michael Eke.

It was decided to hold another quiz night towards the end of April or early May. Members decided that rather than have a pub quiz, we should hold it in the hall which will reduce costs and should encourage more local support.

The date for the annual summer BBQ was set at Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup>, this being the weekend before the schools break up.

Finally it was thought that, good as it is, the hall is too small for anything other than meetings, children's parties and the like. There is insufficient room to hold a caleigh for instance. Rick will contact our landlords, BCT, to ascertain whether grants would be available and whether the will is there for this kind of project.

The simplest extension would be to follow the roof line in an easterly direction to possibly double the size of the main hall, and it was thought that in line with the policy of community involvement, local labour could be used.

There being no further business, Rick Paul thanked all those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:00 p.m.