



Berriedale & Dunbeath

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of 7th July 2025 in Dunbeath Community Centre, Dunbeath.

1. WELCOME

a. Attendance:

Community Council: Angus MacInnes (Chair), Francis Allan (Vice Chair), Jenna Irvine (Secretary), Donna Mathieson (Treasurer), Neil, Buchanan, Michael Sutherland, Mike Andrew Bailey

Members of the Community: John Gunn, Jon Simmons, Lynn Parker, A. Ellington, Sue Steven, Anne Macbeath

b. Apologies:

Community Council: Raymond Bremner (Cllr), Andrew Jarvie (Cllr)

c. Conflicts of Interest

Community Council: NB - Pylons

2. OPENING REMARKS

AMacI opened the meeting with thanks. He apologised for the delayed minutes due to technical issues. He proposed considering a new night for the monthly meetings to avoid clashing with Wick CC and allow councillor attendance—this will be added to the agenda. Laidhay Tearoom has reopened, and best wishes were extended. A new Laidhay Trust has also been established.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members of the public to be amended. Minutes were approved by MB and seconded by NB

4. POLICE

a. Police Report: No report received

b. Speed Display Sign: RB is communicating with Graeme Paget re this. No update.

5. COMMUNITIES & PLACE

a. Dunbeath Strath Bridge ownership: JI to ask Marjory and Billy at Dunbeath Estate for meeting.

b. Cooper's Path: As above. There was a discussion regarding this approach to determine if it aligns with the community's preferences. Further discussions will be held to gather additional feedback.

c. Broch Maintenance: It is unknown if grass has been cut here. Strath path is overgrown, AMacI to contact Criminal Justice as they have done specific areas previously.

d. Village Maintenance: DM confirmed this has been paid.

6. EDUCATION & LEARNING

MB noted that all Highland Council gym trails are closed to pupils over safety concerns, requiring independent inspection estimated at £1,000 per school. RB will be asked if HC will cover this cost.

7. HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

a. Defibrillator at Dunbeath Surgery: JI to complete grant award form for funds to be released.

8. INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY

a. Planning Applications: Three applications.

Ref:25/01725/FUL: No comments

Ref:25/02037LBC: No comments

Ref:25/02143/FUL: Objection to be submitted re already using without permission

b. Road Department:

- **Portormin Rd Barrier:** Email from RB states there is a new acting foreman and this on the programme of works and hopes to complete by end July.
 - **Roads:** The new acting foreman will inspect the highlighted roads, including Braemore road. Additional areas to be added are around the doctor's surgery and the road to Balnabruich Croft. RB has also noted repairs needed on Knockglass road and its pavements.
- c. **Harbour Department:**
- **Dolos:** RB email states he has a meeting with Joseph Mackay who is head of the Harbour Dept.
- d. **Bus Shelter Lighting & Seating:** RB states war memorial shelter will be replaced with a new shelter with seating within the current programme for new shelters. Council officers will look at northbound shelter at Laburnum if power or solar panels can be installed for lighting.
- e. **A9 No overtaking:** RB has meeting with Graeme Paget BEAR Scotland and will discuss.
- f. **Knockinnon Windfarm:** No update.
- g. **Pylons/Public Meeting:** RB has suggested a meeting with BDCC to discuss pylons. While a public meeting was considered, it was noted last year's meeting indicated opposition to pylons. BDCC will request more time to respond after the planning application is submitted and arrange a public meeting to gather community feedback.
- h. **CC Congress on Energy Infrastructure in Highland:** MB attended this and gave an update. He will forward all documents to BDCC members. Another event will be held on 12th August 2025 in The Kingsmill, Inverness. MB to share this invite and it was agreed a representative from BDCC would attend.

9. PREFORMANCE & GOVERNANCE

- a. **Dunbeath Christmas Lights:** The accounts have been received from the former committee. These will be checked privately by BDCC members after public meeting.
- b. **New Member:** One application received. AMacI will contact Liam Clancy and Phil Thomlison re correct procedure for the individual to be a BDCC member.

10. PROPERTY & HOUSING

- a. **Knockglass property:** RB states that house previously reported to having cars in garden – has been passed on to chief officer for housing and communities – will send an update in due course.
- b. **Cambell Ave Property:** Information received that there was flooding inside property. Highland Council are aware of the situation.
- c. **Gardens:** Some Highland Council property gardens need maintenance. Individuals who highlighted this were advised to contact HC to report.

11. RESOURCES & FINANCE

- a. **Financial Statement: BDCC:** This was circulated.
- b. **Future Funding Streams:** Hope to have date for Halsary Community Fund panel meeting later this week.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was circulated to BDCC members

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. There is still a typo on signage newly installed for paths in Dunbeath – the organisation who arranged this is aware and is in the process of rectifying this.
- b. A9 verges are causing obstruction to views in some areas – JI to contact BEAR Scotland

14. ACTION LOG: to be updated.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 8th August in Dunbeath Community Centre. AGM at 7pm, BDCC meeting 7.30pm.

Private meeting

Attendees: Community Council members as listed above

- 16. Dunbeath Christmas Lights:** Accounts and information received was looked at by all members present. Last activity on the accounts was 13th June 2025 and balance at this was £2856.88.

ACTION LOG

[illegible]