

BERRIEDALE and DUNBEATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held virtual on 7th December 2020

Members Present, Neil Buchanan NB (Chairperson) John Gunn JG Secretary, Francis Allan FA, Donna Mathieson DM, Jenna Irvine JI, Bryan Macleod BM,

A.G.M.

1/ Apologies: Councillor Nicola Sinclair.

2/Minutes of AGM meeting 3rd June 2019 Proposed by Francis Allan seconded by Donna Mathieson.

3/Chairman's Report. The flower project had been completed successfully and was much appreciated by locals and visitors. The broch project had been completed bar the signs and it was thought that around 2,000 people had visited it during the summer and the interpretation panel had been much appreciated. The Coronavirus pandemic had seriously impacted the community council's ability to deliver projects.

4/ Financial report NB presented Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31st March 2020 No comments received.

5/ Election of Office bearers had to be Postponed as there were no one to take the Chair.

General Meeting

1/ Minutes of 2 March 2020 were circulated Proposed by **JJ** seconded by **FA**

2/Financial Statement none available.

3//Caithness Community Partnership: Meeting held in Dunbeath Centre on Wednesday 20 November at 7.30. **NB** stated that (CVG) Caithness Voluntary Group are seeking funding to employ Development Officers. This was at an early stage and needed more information as to what their commitment was to be.

4/ Police Report; none to hand.

5// Matters Arising; **NS** stated that she had brought up the Achorn Bridge and it had been added to the list where a Design /method statement would be prepared **NS** added it to her list for Meeting with Roads **JG** stated the work has been completed over the summer, Matter closed.

6// John O Groats trail: No further progress.

7// Phone Box, A letter was sent to the Dunbeath Preservation Trust about the siting of the phone box outside the Lady's toilet a reply was received from Mr Ranald MacAuslan this matter is on hold at moment.

8/ Dunbeath Broch: **NB** stated that he had submitted a application for road signs and other signs to do with the Broch. (on going)

9/ Berriedale Braes Realignment; Main Contractor statement work is well on schedule. **JG** brought

up that vehicles were going up the footpath and making a mess of the path while trying to turn at the cemetery end BM to look into problem and bring it up with the relevant authorities **JG** also stated the Gate going into the cemetery had been repaired by Hugh Macleod and re-hung by David Henderson Thanks' go to both of them.

10// Bowl Micro Grants: there were two Micro Grants applied for over the closed period one had been approved the other one was rejected.

11//Footpath on old Brae; Carried over from previous meetings, (on going) **NS** to bring matter up with Roads. **NS** gave an update the holes were supposed to be filled. (on going)

12/ Bad Fearn Wind Farm Braemore Road Dunbeath. After a lengthy discussion members decided to take a neutral position on this application. Amendment to application which included less turbines and reduction in height new plans have not yet been circulated in the community.

13//Future Plans; **BM**, and **JI** stated that Proposals are moving very slowly in setting up the development trust. **BM** was hoping Anson MacAuslan would be moving towards setting up the organisation.

14// Carried on from previous meetings: Renovation of Derelict property at Market Hill Dunbeath (on going) **NS** to chase up and give response to members an e-mail from Aidan Brennan enforcement officer North said the refurbishment of the property does not give rise to significant planning concerns but does require Planning Permission and a Building Warrant **NB** stated that the residents in that area had received a letter informing them that the road was being closed The Highland Council and Dunbeath Estate were informed of the problem matter (on going)

15/ Dunbeath Strath Project. **NB** stated that there is work in progress (on going)

16/ Berriedale Broadband it would appear that Open reach is full of excuses about the progress of better Broadband connections in Borgue and Berriedale. **NB** stated it would be 2021 before any progress would be made despite all the blustering officials were having in the press about everyone having a reasonable Broadband Service. **NB** stated he thought that there would be no further development for some time.

17 Date of Next Meeting: due to the Pandemic no date was set.

18/ Village Leaflet and Web Site: **NB** had sent the write up to the developer but still had to send the pictures. He hoped to make the leaflet from the web site information (on going)

19/ Update on Community wind turbines at Knockinnon. Magnus Henderson no one present at meeting. (on going)

20/ **JG** brought up that he thought the C/C should have their own Laptop computer as it is using a lot of space on our own laptops plus windows 7 is no longer being supported by Microsoft this item is to be looked into by Fiona. **JG** to speak to Fiona

21/ **JG** brought up the provision of charging points for electric vehicles in Dunbeath **JG** to contact HC if this was possible (on going)

22/ **NB** suggested the possibility of doing a booklet explaining the Broch's and substantial number of items that are present in the strath this would cost about £10.000 and could be sold to raise funds, **JG** thought this should be done by the Heritage Centre. **BM** thought it was a good idea particularly

as a large number of visitors visit the strath. NB to develop with more information.

Microgrant

A subsequent meeting of the younger members decided to send a bouquet of flowers to every household in the community where someone was over 65 as a covid-19 cheer up. This to be agreed with Fiona Morrison. The young ones liaised to produce a list of households and a delivery schedule. If we missed anyone we can only apologise.