

BERRIEDALE and DUNBEATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held virtual on 15 February 2021

Members Present, Neil Buchanan NB (Chairperson) John Gunn JG Secretary, Francis Allan FA, Fiona Donn FD, Bryan MacLeod BM, Donna Mathieson DM.

Highland Councillors, Nicola Sinclair and William Mackay.

Apologies, Jenna Irvine, Rebecca Davies

NB, asked Nicola Sinclair to take the chair for the election of Office bearers,

Election of office bearers,

Chairperson, Neil Buchanan Proposed by Fiona Donn Seconded by Bryan Macleod,

Vice Chair, Bryan MacLeod Proposed Francis Allan seconded by Fiona Donn,

Treasurer, Fiona Donn Proposed by Neil Buchanan Seconded by Francis Allan,

Secretary, John Gunn Proposed by Neil Buchanan Seconded by Fiona Donn

NB resumed the chair and thanked Nicola for conducting the election of office bearers.

1/ Minutes of Meeting 7th December 2020 proposed by **DM** seconded by **BM**

2/ Financial Statement agreed. **JG** stated that there was a donation from the collection Box at Dunbeath Harbour towards the flower tubs this amounted to £325.00 last year's 2019 was £200.00.

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. Nicola Sinclair said they had a Development Officer in place.

4/ Police Report; none to hand. Neil found in Spam folder. Now circulated

5/ Matters Arising; **NB** stated that the roads in the local area were in a terrible state of repair and that there was now a Caithness Spreadsheet of road problems and that we should shortly be able to access this and add our problems to it..

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 still had to submit an application for road signs and other signs to do with the Broch. (on going). Otherwise the project was complete.

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 (on going)

10// Bowl Micro Grants: there were two Micro Grants applied for both applications were approved.

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. Fiona Donn, Councillor Nicola Sinclair and Willie Mackay retired from the meeting. After a lengthy discussion members decided to support the amended scheme.

13/Future Plans; **NB** stated that Sue Steven was the Development Trust Chairperson

14// Carried on from previous meetings: Renovation of Derelict property at Market Hill Dunbeath (on going) Councillor **Willie Mackay** offered to have a meeting with Aidan Brennan enforcement officer North, Planning Manager Dyfid Jones and the developer. Aidan Brennan stated that the work requires 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) There was also a short discussion about the amount of development going on without applying for planning permission.

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 Councillor Nicola Sinclair said Councillor Karle Rosie from Thurso was a good contact to get things moving.

17/ Date of Next Meeting Monday 29 March 2021

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). **NB's** daughter has done an online app for the Dunbeath Strath Heritage

Trail and members that have seen it commented that this may be the way forward to put all the information about the villages on mobile phones. NB pointed out that programming mobile apps is time consuming.

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 FD asked for a budget to see if she could purchase a suitable computer. If all the members used the gmail account then it would be automatically saved and available for many years to come.

21/ **JG** brought up the provision of charging points for electric vehicles in Dunbeath **JG** to contact HC if this was possible. This is now in the hands of EV Management and CRT (on going)

22/ **NB** had submitted applications to BOWL and C&NSF for the Strath Booklet and said that the Community Council needed to sort its future applications out as the BOWL fund will soon be closing and we can only submit one application at a time.

23/ Playpark in Portormin Road Dunbeath **FD** tried to get a meeting of Parents but was unsuccessful. One person turned up. After a short discussion **FD** was to try again and see if she could get Parents together. She will also require landowner and lessee permission to redevelop the site.

24/ It should be minuted that the Community Council agreed to fund CVG via a microgrant if it was necessary for the transport arrangements for Covid-19 vaccinations. It turned out not to be necessary.

Date of next virtual meeting March 29th 2021