

# BERRIEDALE and DUNBEATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held virtual on 29 March 2021

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

Highland Councillors, William Mackay.

Apologies, Jenna Irvine, Rebecca Davies Councillor Nicola Sinclair.

1/ Minutes of Meeting 15 February 2021 proposed by **FD** seconded by **DM**

2/ Financial Statement was passed by **BM** seconded by **FD**

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 (ongoing)

4/ Police Report: **JAG** read out report two incidents.

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 (ongoing)

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. **JAG** 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 Willie Mackay retired from the meeting. After a lengthy discussion members decided to support the amended scheme. New letter to Planning consultation reaffirming previous decision. A letter from Anson Macauslan about the C/C supporting the wind farm was read out but did not change the members decision.

13/Future Plans; **NB** stated that the chairperson was not decided yet for Development Trust.

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. Councillor **Willie Mackay** stated that he tried to get the enforcement officer to a meeting the answer was that due to Covid he could not travel out with his area (ongoing)

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. **NB** stated he had not been able to get in touch with Councillor Karle Rosie. (ongoing)

17/ Date of Next Meeting to be arranged after Election on 6<sup>th</sup> May

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. A QR code is now up and accessible from PN Stores.

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 **FD** has the matter in hand discussed budget with members. **NB** is to sort out the problem Members having to log into **G- MAIL** Address

21/ **JG** brought up the provision of charging points for electric vehicles in Dunbeath matter in hand with EV Management part of Highland Council we are on the list there is no timescale for this project.

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. The community council agreed that a sub group should be created with **FD** as chairperson to manage the project.

24/ Councillor **Willie Mackay** Thanked **JAG** and the volunteers that did a litter pick on the A9 from The Ord to Latheronwheel gathering over 100 bags of litter the place looked a lot cleaner.

25/Councillor **Willie Mackay** stated the Highland Council was to employ 10 part time rangers over the summer to monitor campers and caravaners that was abusing the area on the route 500. **JAG** asked why the council toilets in the like of Lybster and a few other places there closed you cannot get a pee in Lybster no wonder the place is being messed up.