

BERRIEDALE and DUNBEATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held virtual on 2nd August 2021

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

Highland Councillors, William Mackay.

1/ Minutes of Regular meeting 7 June 2021 was proposed by **DM** Seconded by **BM**

2/ Apologies, None.

3/ Police None.

4/ Financial Statement, 07.06.2021

Current Account Balance	£832.08
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Income

Interest	£0.12
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Covid Grant (Bowl)

Highland Council Grant	£469.64
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Expenditure

Secretary

Zurich Insurance

Balance	£1.301.60
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Development Account Balance	£11.031.60
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Expenditure

Microgrant Dunbeath Community Centre £500.00 outstanding

Greens Nurseries

Income During Month

Interest	£1.54
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Balance	£10.533.14
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Of which Micro Grant money

Of which Flower pot money	£563.75 Plus £525.00 Harbour Collection Box
Of which Broch money	£1.724.00
Web Sites	£2.150.00
Youth Group	£1.955.40
Balance	£4.139.99
Village Warden Account Balance	£120.94
Interest	£0.03
Balance	£120.97
Total Assets	£11.955.95

5/ 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 Officer Willie Mackay said they had a Development Officer Mr Alister Jack. (ongoing)

6/; **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 Willie Mackay stated everywhere he went there was nothing but complaints about the state of the roads he also said there has been quite a lot of surface dressing done in the County. (ongoing)

7/ John O Groats trail: No further progress. **NB** stated that the bracken and vegetation has made the trail near impossible to walk and most of the walkers were keeping to the road.

8// 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. **NB** stated he has local adverts in Box. FA suggested there should be a shelf for people to leave and collect leaflets.

9// 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

10// 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)

11/ Bowl Micro Grants: no applications.

12/Footpath on old Brae; Carried over from previous meetings, **WM** to bring matter up with Roads. FA stated the most of the holes were being filled in with local muck. (on going)

13/ Bad Fearn Wind Farm Braemore Road Dunbeath. Awaiting Planning Decision. **WM** to investigate and report.

14/ Future Plans; **NB** stated that the chairperson was not decided yet for Development Trust. **BM** try and find out why they have not made any progress and report to next meeting.

15/ 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 Willie Mackay stated it was now a civil matter (on going)

16/ Dunbeath Strath Project. **NB** stated that there is work in progress and he was hoping to have meeting with path officer shortly.

17/ Berriedale Broadband it would appear that Open reach is full of excuses about the progress of better Broadband connections in Borgue and Berriedale suggestions were made to get in touch with 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)

18// Date of Next Meeting 6th September 2021

19// 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.

20// Update on Community wind turbines at Knockinnon. Magnus Henderson no one present at meeting. **JAG** stated that there was a new application for a meteorological mast on this site he circulated by e-mail members decided to support the application. (on going)

21//Community Council Laptop **FD** stated she has the laptop and would forward on to **NB** to install necessary files, Members also had problems logging into the G-Mail address. (on going)

22// **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.

23// **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. A revamp was to be undertaken.

24// Playpark in Portormin Road Dunbeath. The community council agreed that a sub group should be created **JI** stated that she was hoping to have a meeting with all concerned to get project moving.

25//Moray West Wind Farm: we received a consultation from Highland Council Planning for a increase the width of the blade from 6m to 6,6m and remove reference to the developments maximum generating capacity in the description of the development. Members wish to object to this Variation as Caithness would be surrounded by a corridor of steel.

26//Vodafone: **NB** presented a e-mail from Vodafone stating that a small OpenRAN 4G site in Knockglass road has been connected first in Scotland this would do away with the mast on Dunbeath Hotel and Old police house.

27//Jubilee Event: **NB** was keen to see this event go ahead next year he stated he had 3 volunteers to help run this event.

28//Halsary Wind Farm: **NB** presented forms and guidance on money that is being offered to the Community £7.500 per year to 8 community council areas **JAG** thought this is not a good idea as several C/C areas has lots of money coming in from several wind farms and are not able to spend it **NB** stated this is just seed corn money **JI** and **DM** is to be the representatives from our C/C.

29/ AOCB, **NB** stated he received £500.00 from Highland Council he thought it would be a good idea to plant trees in the Community, Members were asked to come up with suggestion where trees could be planted one of the areas was the left hand side of the new brae next to the field back from the visibility splay of Neil Gunn road **BM** to find out if this was possible and report back.

JAG brought up the mess at Castlehill shop nearly impossible to get to post box the site is covered in old cars vans ETC a total eyesore on coming into the County of Caithness, suggestion the write to SEPA and Environmental Health. There is also stone steps falling on to the A9 at mains cottages Dunbeath. **BM** to attend to.

30/ Footbridge at Portormin Rd. the community council reported their concerns about the safety of the footbridge in June to the Highland Council. A lot of rust underneath. 2 engineers came and inspected the bridge and deemed that at this time the bridge was safe.

A suggestion was made to write letter of Thanks to Michel Sutherland for keeping the playing fields looking the best it has been in years, also letter to go to John Irvine, Gordy Bain and their helpers for keeping the community grass cut and tidy.

WM stated there are 5 candidates standing for election in our area on 12 August. He also attended a minnie Highland Games in the playing fields and awarded every one a medal, he said the children were the best he had ever worked with.