

BERRIEDALE and DUNBEATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held virtual on 4th October 2021

Members Present, Neil Buchanan NB (Chairperson) John Gunn JAG Secretary, Francis Allan FA, Donna Mathieson DM.

Andrea Wotherspoon Highland Council (Policy and Reform) Councillor Willie Mackay Joined the meeting at 7.45 pm

Members of Public: Frank Sutherland (After the meeting closed it was discovered he had joined the meeting without turning his camera on or informing the secretary or chairman he was present).

1/ Apologies, Rebecca Davis (Police)

2/ Minutes of Regular meeting 2nd August 2021 was proposed by **DM** Seconded by **NB**. **FA** brought up a point that the minute did not include all of what he had said about **NB** writing letters in the name of Berriedale and Dunbeath Community Council in item 13. **NB** asked this discussed later.

3/ Police report was submitted and circulated to members no incidents.

4/ Financial Statement, 06.07.2021

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
Balance	£10.533.14
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

This Financial Statement is the same as last month as there were no transactions. **FA** asked if the Micro Grant Cheque had been paid **NB** stated the Cheque was with the Hall Treasurer.

5/ **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 **WM** 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. **WM** asked if members were shown the schedule of road repairs and where they were to be carried out, **WM** to get councillor Raymond Bremner to forward a copy so that members can see the progress. (ongoing)

6/ 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.

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. **NB** stated he has local

advertises in Box. **FA** suggested there should be a shelf for people to leave and collect leaflets. (ongoing)

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; **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 **BM** stated there has been a works order through for a drop bollard to be installed. (on going)

10/ Bowl Micro Grants: no applications.

11/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)

12/ Bad Fearn Wind Farm Braemore Road Dunbeath. Was refused under delegated power now going to an Appeal against the decision.

13/ Future Plans; **NB** informed the meeting that the Development Trust has folded due to lack of support.

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 **WM** 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 **WM** stated it was now a civil matter. **WM** said the roads department was taking the matter in hand as two strainer posts were installed close to the road edge to make it awkward for vehicles to get through. (on going)

15/ Dunbeath Strath Project. **NB** stated that there is work in progress and he had had a meeting with the path officer and was waiting for quotes for the works.

16/ Berriedale Broadband. It would appear that Open reach has put the matter back to 2026 **NB** stated that affected all of the houses down in Berriedale as they could not get a decent broadband connection or mobile signal people were moving out of the area and the houses were being used for holiday lets.

17/ Date of Next Meeting 1st November 2021

18/ Update on Community wind turbines at Knockinnon. Magnus Henderson no one present at meeting.

19/Community Council Laptop. Members have problems logging into the G-Mail address **JAG**, and **DM** cannot get logged in (on going) **NB** to get laptop and install all the necessary files and E-Mail address.

20// **JG** brought up the provision of charging points for electric vehicles in Berriedale and Dunbeath matter in hand with EV Management part of Highland Council we are on the list there is no timescale for this project. **WM** to try and find out information when we are likely to have them installed.

21/ **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. This matter is held over in the meantime.

22/ Playpark in Portormin Road Dunbeath. The Community council agreed that a subgroup similar to the Christmas Lights group should be created. **NB** stated that **JJ** held a meeting on Sunday 5th September with all concerned to get project moving

23/Vodaphone: **NB** presented a e-mail from Vodaphone 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. Matter on going there is still poor mobile reception in areas of Portormin road. (on going)

24/Jubilee Event: **NB** was keen to see this event to go ahead next year he stated he had 3 volunteers to help run this event. He also stated he had recruited a cook. **NB** stated that he had applied to Bowl for a grant to fund this event.

25/ 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.

26/ **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. Letter was sent to SEPA explaining the situation and I received a reply stating they were writing to the occupier and landowner asking them to tidy the area up **WM** suggested we write to the Planning Department. (on going)

27/**FA** raised a matter about a quote that **NB** used in an e-mail to members about the wind farm appeal stating that **FA** misled members about the wind farm would be visible from Berriedale to Dunbeath on the A9. **FA** stated he never stated such words **NB** apologised if he had miss quoted the discussion.

28/**JAG** read out an e-mail from Bryan Macleod stating he wished to step down from the C/C with immediate effect.

29/ Housing in Achorn road Dunbeath:- **NB** wanted to know why **JAG** had not informed the community council of the change of plan. He replied it was up to the chair person. An addendum to the minutes of the timeline on the Achorn Rd site is attached with the minutes.

30/ **FA** raised the point why we are not reverting to having meetings in the hall **NB** and **WM** to find out if we could do this.

31/**WM** raised a matter about planting a tree for the Queens Jubilee 70 years on the throne this is to be looked into.

WM also stated the Council has a new Ward Manager Mr Mackenzie Sutherland in post for one year.

Addendum to Minutes of 04.10.2021

Timeline concerning the land at Achorn Rd

June 2016

Willie Mackay went away to see if Highland Council still owned it.

November 2016

Letter sent by JAG too Highland Council

BERRIEDALE and DUNBEATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

John A Gunn Strathview House Dunbeath Caithness KW6 6EG

Anne F David,
Solicitor,
Highland Council,
Glenurquhart Road,
Inverness,
IV3 5NX.

Date 15/11/2016
(gunnstrathview@btinternet.com)

Tel 01593731342 (07752655479)

Dear Madam,

Plot of Land at Achorn Road Dunbeath Caithness.

I refer to a query you sorted out about the title this plot of land for Councillor Willie Mackay. It is at the rear of the Day Centre and the sheltered housing complex that used to belong to Kirk Care, We have been years trying to find out who was the owner of this plot as the Highland Council had already granted Outline Planning Permission about 20 years ago,

As a Community Council we would like to see the site developed with a single storey semi-detached block of two bedroom houses suitable for retired couples that may have family visiting them, Would it be possible for the C/C to acquire this site with a view to finding a suitable organisation to take the proposal forward and see the site developed.

I look forward to a favourable response.

Yours Faithfully,
John A Gunn C/C (secretary)

December 2017

NB had a meeting with Mr Pabio Mascarenhas on the 9th November as he was in the county on other business and the outcome of this was that the C/C could not go for an asset transfer request unless they set up an organisation of more than 20 members and registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The community council then asked JAG to ask the day centre to look at developing sheltered houses on the site as they were the only organisation that could satisfy the criteria.

January/February 2021

John said they were looking at the FIT system as had been done in Invergordon.

October 2021

New Day centre plan appeared.