

# BERRIEDALE and DUNBEATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of Meeting held in Dunbeath Community Centre) on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Members Present, Neil Buchanan NB (Chairperson) John Gunn JAG, Francis Allan FA, Donna Mathieson DM, Jenna Irvine JI,  
Councillor Willie Mackay.

1/ Apologies:- Frank Sutherland

2/ Minutes of Regular meeting held in Dunbeath Community Centre on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 were discussed. **JAG** asked why did they only contain some of the emails between the centre and community council. **NB** replied that it was only the ones that were pertinent to the ensuing discussion that were relevant.

Minutes proposed by **FA** and seconded by **JI**.

3/ Minutes of regular meeting held on Skype on December 6<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Minutes proposed by **FA** and seconded by **DM**.

4/ Financial Statement, 06.02.2022

Current Account Balance	£1,301.99
Income	
Interest	.16
Balance	£1.302.15
Development Account Balance	£8874.55
Expenditure	
Charlie Reid Microgrant	£500.00
Returned Youth Money	£1,000.00 outstanding

Income During Month

Interest	£1.30
Balance	£7375.55

Of which Micro Grant money

Of which Flower pot money £1,088.75

Of which Broch money £1,724.00

Web Sites £2,150.00

Youth Group £955.40

Balance £1,457.70

Village Warden Account Balance £120.99

Interest £0.02

Balance £12.01

Total Assets £8799.01

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 **WM** stated everywhere he went there was nothing but complaints about the state of the roads. **NB** had contacted **WM** to say that the old A9, Portormin Rd and the entrance to the village now had potholes that would damage cars. **FA** added the road off the big turn and **JAG** Jadded Braemore Rd. **WM** said the pothole machine was due in the county this month and he will forward our concerns.

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, Because the path was very muddy.

8/ Phone Box, A letter was sent to the Dunbeath Preservation Trust about siting of the phone box outside the Lady's toilet a reply was received from Mr the 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. (ongoing)

9/ Dunbeath Broch: **NB** stated that he still had to submit a application for road signs and other signs to do with the Broch. (on going). Otherwise, the project was complete.

10/ Berriedale Braes Realignment; **NB** stated there was very little soil on the surface of the embank and not a lot growing on it, he was to inspect.

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)

13/ Bad Fearn Wind Farm Braemore Road Dunbeath. Was refused under delegated power now going to an Appeal against the decision.(on going)  
There was also a Planning application for an Anemometer Mast members decided to support the application.

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. **WM** said he had been in contact with roads to have the strainers removed immediately (on going).The council had tried to remove the strainers but were assaulted so went away and will return with the police in attendance.

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. **NB** stated he was having problems getting quotes in from contractors but had at last received one. He was waiting for a second..

16/ Berriedale Broadband. It would appear that Openreach 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. **DM** stated there is one family that moved into the house next door and asked BT to change their Broadband over and they refused as Openreach would no longer service copper cable connection. **DM** stated Berriedale made the television last week as the worst reception in Scotland. **NB** is going to get in touch with Maree Todd our MSP.

17/ Date of Next Meeting March 8<sup>th</sup> 2022.

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

19/Community Council Laptop. (on going)

20/ **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.

21/ Playpark in Portormin Road Dunbeath, a meeting was held on 29 November 2021 in The Bay and a Development Trust is now setup taking this matter on board.

22/Jubilee Event: **NB** stated that due to capacity problems there were not enough people to organise and run the event.

23/ AOCB, It was agreed that we should look at sorting out the mess at the pond at the mill using the £500 from the council.

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. **JAG** read out an e-mail from S.E.P.A stating they had made contact with the owner and encouraging him to tidy the premises up.

27/**WM** raised a matter about planting a tree for the Queens Jubilee 70 years on the throne this is to be looked into. **NB** wanted to know how many trees and who was paying for them **WM** expected the Community Council to pay for the Tree. See note about pond at mill.

28/The Dunbeath & District Centre. The CAT application is going to be held later in February. Under questioning from **DM JAG** admitted that anyone who wanted one could get a meal at the Centre without satisfying any criteria.

29/ New Members. A discussion took place regarding new members and it was decided to produce a list of what the council had done for the area to demonstrate that it could develop the community.

30/The meeting closed at 8:45 P.M.