

BERRIEDALE and DUNBEATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held in Dunbeath Community Centre) on 8th March 2022

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

Councillor Willie Mackay.

Members of the public:- Lea Cormack, Victor Cormack, Anne Macbeath, James Macbeath.

1/ Apologies:- Frank Sutherland

2/ Minutes of regular meeting held on February 7th 2022.

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

4/ Financial Statement, 07.03.2022

Current Account Balance	£1,302.15
Income	
Interest	
Balance	£1.302.15
Development Account Balance	£8375.55
Expenditure	
Returned Youth Money	£1,000.00 outstanding
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	£121.01
Balance	£121.01
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** added Braemore Rd. **WM** said the pothole machine was due in the county this month and he will forward our concerns. **WM** said the machine was not as expected. It only cut the tar out of the hole put a line of tar round the edge with a man having to fill the hole and roll it.

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 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). **VC** said the box would be moved.

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. They returned with the police but did not manage to remove the strainers.

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 April 5th 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 a 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 was held on 23rd February. The land transfer request was agreed. The community council felt that its views were not properly represented by Ewen Mackintosh and that Raymond Bremner had done a disservice to the community council. Raymond Bremner to be asked to the next meeting to explain himself and Ewen Mackintosh to be contacted also to explain why he did not represent the community councils views correctly.

29/BOWL Panel Meeting. The Dunbeath Centre application for £20,000 was discussed and NB read out the community councils (excluding **JAG**) views on it. There then ensued a 40 minute robust discussion and a vote was taken which ended with the application being carried but with constraints Also CVG had 2 proposals in for supporting development trusts down the east coast with a development officer. One for 2 years for John O'Groats and Sinclair Bay and one for Wick, Tannich and Berriedale and Dunbeath for 1 year. As this 2nd one was obviously limited to 1 year by Wick running low on funds NB suggested that Berriedale and Dunbeath would take Wick's day on the second year giving them 1 day in year one and 2 days in year 2. FS stepped in stating that as a Dunbeath member he could not support this and **JAG**(a community councillor representative) immediately jumped in supporting him. So we only got 1 day for 1 year. When asked why he did not support his chairman **JAG** said that he did not understand the motion. The community council held a vote and agreed to ask CVG to put a new application in for 2 days for the second year.

29/ Harbour Wall. Council still to decide whose responsibility it is.

30/ 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. A draft list was produced and members were going away to add to it.

31/The meeting closed at 9 P.M.

