

# BERRIEDALE and DUNBEATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of Meeting held in Dunbeath Community Centre) on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

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

Members of the public:- Anee MacBeath, James Macbeath, Frank Sutherland, Angus MacInnes.

2/ Minutes of regular meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Proposed by **FA** and seconded by **JJ**.

4/ Financial Statement, 06.06.2022

Current Account Balance	£1,216.31
Income	
Expense	
Balance	£1,216.31
Development Account Balance	£6,876.61
Harbour Money	
Interest	
Expenditure	
Microgrant D&Dc	£400.00 outstanding
Microgrant	£500.00 outstanding
Balance	£5976.61
Of which Micro Grant money	
Of which Flower pot money	£1,488.75
Of which Broch money	£1,724.00
Web Sites	£2,150.00
Youth Group	£955.40
Balance	£558.46
Village Warden Account Balance	£121.05
Interest	
Balance	£121.05
Total Assets	£8213.94

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. There was now a problem with the supply of Bitumen.

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. The advertising had faded because of the sun and will be replaced in the next month(**NB**).

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 embankment and not a lot growing on it, he was to inspect. **NB** to contact Marco Bardelli. No reply as yet.

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 goin

12/ Carried on from previous meetings: Renovation of Derelict property at Market Hill Dunbeath (on going) Councillor **Willie Mackay** informed the meeting that the strainers had been removed and peace appeared to have descended.

13/ Dunbeath Strath Project. **NB** stated that the application had been submitted to BOWL.

14/ 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.

15/ Date of Next Meeting July 4<sup>th</sup> 2022.

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

18/ Playpark in Portormin Road Dunbeath, Nothing has been heard from the development Trust. There appeared to be an issue with the lease

19/ 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. **NB** had a quote for the work. The Landowners had been consulted and an application for funding had been submitted to BOWL..

20/The Dunbeath & District Centre. The CAT application was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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. Raymond Bremner did not come to the meeting and we received an email from Pablo concerning the decision by Ewen Mackintosh. This to be mailed to members.

21/ Harbour Wall. Council still to decide whose responsibility it is. **NB** suggested they share the costs. **WM** to put it to them.

22/ 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. This to be put on Facebook with a request for new members to apply.

23/ Bank Mandate. New mandate and signature form had been submitted to bank and we are waiting for OK to start signing cheques.

24 Concern had been expressed that Welbeck estates was conducting a policy of modern highland clearances by not renovating properties while current occupants are in them and then when they leave because of the condition of the property it is renovated and turned into an Air B&B. Letter to be sent to Mr Parente.

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

