

BERRIEDALE and DUNBEATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Dunbeath Community Centre on 4th July 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Neil Buchanan, Francis Allan, John Gunn, Donna Matheson, Jenna Irvine, Andrew Jarvine (Cllr.)

Members of the public: Frank Sutherland, Anne MacBeath, James MacBeath, Angus MacInnes

1. Apologies: N/A

Neil introduced Andrew Jarvine councillor to everyone present at the meeting.

2. Minutes: The minutes of the regular meeting held on 6th June 2022 were approved by Donna and seconded by Jenna

3. Financial Statement: Neil explained that the mandate that was recently completed by all members was completed and sent to the postal address on the mandate forms. Since these were posted it has been discovered that the building is now no longer used by the bank and the mandates have not been received. Neil has made further enquiries and has received an online bank mandate for members to complete. Neil has had confirmation that John and himself can continue being signatures for cheques. All outstanding cheques will be signed by Neil and John.

4. Matters Arising:

a) Highland Council road repair: There is no further updates regarding when the maintenance of the potholes will begin. This is now a Caithness wide problem. Previously councillor Willie Mackay had advised the Highland Council had a new machine that would carry out the repairs, this has not yet taken place in Berriedale and Dunbeath.

b) John O Groats Trail:

- There was an email read out, this was details of the JOG trail having community engagement sessions in various locations. The nearest to our area that are forthcoming is in Lybster in August.
- Thanks was expressed to NB for resolving a problem the JOG trail was causing to a landowner in Dunbeath. The landowner discovered the trail went through his newly seeded field. NB put them in touch with Jay Wilson and now it is believed the trail has been diverted to follow the fence instead of through the field.
- There has been numerous feedback from experienced walkers who have walked the trail, they have stated that this should not be advertised as a trail as there are areas that are very dangerous.

c) Phone box, Dunbeath harbour:

- A letter had been sent to Dunbeath Preservation Trust about the siting of the phone box outside the ladies toilets. A reply had been received from Ranald MacAuslan stating this matter was currently on hold. – no further updates.
- It had been suggested there is a leaflet stand for people to collect and leave leaflets – ongoing
- The advertising that is currently in the phone box has faded due to the sun light, this will be replaced – ongoing

d) Dunbeath Broch: Road signs for Dunbeath Broch have still to be agreed with Visit Scotland..

e) Berriedale Brae Realignment: It had been highlighted that there is very little soil on the surface of the embankment of the new brae. This has resulted in very little growing on it and debris blowing on the road when there is a strong wind. Neil has contacted Marco Bardelli, BEAR Scotland regarding this – no reply as of yet.

f) Footpath on Old Brae, Dunbeath: New crash barriers were previously installed, the old crash barriers were removed and the holes were not refilled. This has left multiple holes on the footpath along the brae which is used regularly by pedestrians and school children. Upon investigation it was discovered this job has been signed off as complete and all efforts to highlight this as not complete has been ignored. Andrew is going to follow this up.

g) Dunbeath Strath Project: NB previously advised he has submitted a funding application to BOWL, the decision on this will be later this month.

h) Berriedale broadband: The broadband signal in Berriedale has poor connection. DM has stated a family who recently moved into the area contacted BT to transfer their broadband package to the new address. BT Openreach refused as they no longer service copper cable connections. This is an ongoing problem in the Berriedale area and BT Openreach appear to have pushed back the date of resolving this to 2026. DM had stated Berriedale was featured on the TV recently due to having the worst broadband reception in Scotland. NB has contacted MSP Maree Todd, still awaiting a reply.

5. Planning applications: It was stated that the Community Council are no longer receiving planning applications that are submitted within the Berriedale and Dunbeath Community Council area. AJ informed the members that the Community Council need to ask the Highland Council to be informed of planning applications.

6. Bridge at Portormin: The footbridge crossing the river on Portormin Road is no longer fit for purpose due to the walkway corroding. The Highland Council have been notified and they have installed barriers on either side to restrict it being used. The Highland Council have stated that the bridge does not belong to them and they have been carrying out

inspections due to a duty of care. NB has a meeting with Mr Threipland on Wednesday to discuss the footbridge and exploring option of this being repaired. There is a possibility that an application could be submitted to the Crown Estate for funding towards the repairs.

- 7. Playpark:** The playpark in Dunbeath is in need of upgrading, due to equipment being unsafe for purpose being removed. JI informed everyone Dunbeath and Berriedale Development Trust were looking at taking this forward, however due to the lease being in possession of Dunbeath Community Centre they will need to drive this forward. Both organisations are liaising with each other at moving forward.
- 8. Correspondence:** JG has received a reply from Transport Scotland regarding the A9 speed limit. *The Speed Limit Review, published in 2012, concluded that, given the character, mean speed and accident rates, the national speed limit was appropriate for the A9 at Dunbeath. We are not aware of any change in the accident rate, mean speed, or the number of junctions and accesses in the area, or other material change since the review was undertaken that would lead us to revisit the findings of the Speed Limit Review. However, we will continue to monitor road safety of the A9 at Dunbeath.*
JI will reply to explore the option of no overtaking on the A9 through the village.

9. AOB:

- a. AM highlighted that the welcome to Dunbeath signs entering the village is out of date with incorrect information
- b. AM stated that the new textured white lines that were painted on the A9 are coming off in areas. The roads appeared not to have been swept before the lines were painted.
- c. JG informed everyone that the planning application for Dunbeath & District's new centre has been submitted but is not yet live.

10. Date of next meeting: 1st August 2022 at 7.30pm

Members of the public were thanked for their attendance and asked to leave as the next part of the meeting is to be private.

11. Microgrant: 2 applications were discussed

12. NB said that there was a further application by B&DCC to the BOWL Panel and that he would as last time send them his comments .

13. There then ensued a long discussion with **AJ** concerning the community councils position regarding the Dunbeath & District Centre.

14 Membership of the Community Council: This was discussed.