



# **Berriedale & Dunbeath**

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Dunbeath Community Centre  
on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.30pm

- 1) **Welcome, Apologies & Conflict of Interest :**
  - a) Present: Neil Buchanan, Jenna Irvine, Donna Mathieson, Francis Allan, Anson MacAuslan, Angus MacInnes
  - b) Members of the public: John Gunn, Frank Sutherland, James MacBeath, Anne MacBeath
  - c) Apologies: Trevor Filshie
- 2) **Opening Remarks:** Neil welcomed and thanked those present for attending the meeting.
- 3) **Action Log:**
- 4) **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes were approved by Francis and seconded by Angus.
- 5) **Police:**
  - a) **Police Report:** There was no police report sent to the community council this month. Angus said he will investigate why this was not received.
  - b) **A9 speed limit/no overtaking:** There has been no reply to the enquiry to Transport Scotland about the criteria for having no over taking on the A9 through Dunbeath. Neil proposed the community council apply for funding for a radar speed sign. This will show oncoming traffic their speed and it also records the data of traffic exceeding the speed limit. This would support the need for a speed limit/no overtaking through Dunbeath.
- 6) **Communities & Place:**
  - a) **Playpark:** Jenna updated the community council that the Development Trust has held their public consultation for the playpark and the preferred equipment has been selected. They are now moving forward with the suppliers.

- b) **Dunbeath Church:** Dunbeath Church is due to close in June 2024. It was discussed that Dunbeath Church attracts more people than Lybster Church
- c) **Foodbank:** Neil has contacted CVG to let them know we can assist with referrals but unable to help with the delivery of the food parcels. It was agreed to write to Dunbeath and District Centre to enquire if they would be able to help with deliveries in the community.

## 7) Education & Learning:

### 8) Health & Social Care:

- a) **Dunbeath & District Centre:** The planning meeting with Highland Council is being held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December and will be available to watch online.

### 9) Infrastructure, Environment & Economy:

- a) **Highland Council road repair:** The conditions of the roads in Berriedale and Dunbeath maintained by the Highland Council are in a poor state. The Community Council have been liaising with Cllr Andrew Jarvie regarding this – Andrew was not present to provide an update.
- b) **John O Groats Trail:** It was agreed that we should invite Kenneth to a community council meeting – no further update.
- 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 update.

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 – Neil will arrange for this to be reprinted – no further update.

- d) **Bridge at Portormin:** Quotes have been received for materials for the bridge repair. These suppliers are based in England. Matt Dent is looking to source materials in Scotland.
- e) **Harbour Wall Dunbeath:** The blocks of the small wall separating the carpark and harbour in front of the toilets is crumbling. Andrew Jarvie

(Cllr) previously brought this to the attention of Malcolm Macleod, Executive Chief Officer of Infrastructure, Environment and Economy. Andrew stated this is on the programme of works to be completed – no further update.

- f) **Winter Maintenance – BEAR Scotland & Highland Council:** There is no up to date winter maintenance policy available on the Highland Council website. The policy available is dated 2018. Anson stated he has a tractor with a plough and is willing to help to clear roads in the Berriedale area when available.
  - g) **Planning Applications – phone mast Berriedale:** The Community Council have been asked to submit a response to the planning application for the phone mast on Welbeck Estate. There is possibilities that more application could be seen to install further phone masts to ensure the full area of this land has coverage. This was discussed and it was agreed to reply to state we object as we would prefer one mast, in a suitable location to cover this area in full **AM** to Progress.
  - h) **Berriedale broadband:** The broadband signal in Berriedale has poor connection. There are no further updates regarding the improvement of this service. Neil has sent an email to Maree Todd. Maree Todd has replied to Neil, she has suggested that we contact Radio Signals to see if they are interested in doing something. Neil will get in touch with them – no further update.
- 10) **Performance & Governance:**
- a) **Licensing Issues:** N/A
  - b) **Website:** Neil stated that he is slowly updating the content on the website and the draft minutes from the Community Council meetings will be available to view. The data gathered from the website shows it is being used to access tourist information. Neil will add to these pages and have a link to the outside organisation's website/socials.
- 11) **Property & Housing:**
- a) **Affordable Housing:** There was discussions around affordable housing and the lack of 3-4 bedroom houses available in the community which is preventing families moving in/back to the area. If this was to be ventured there would need to be evidence that there is a need for affordable housing in the community. Neil enquired to how many applications were received for the tenancy at Ordgarth, which was two

applications. A government website was discovered with a toolkit – this requires further investigation.

**12) Resources and Finance:**

- a) **Financial Statement:** The latest financial statement was circulated to all present. There were no changes this month.
- b) **BOWL Money - Your Cash Your Community:** Neil explained that the balance remaining from Bowl will be done as a community funding. A meeting was held prior to the Community Council meeting this evening and the decisions agreed were passed to the public. Any member of Berriedale & Dunbeath who wish to apply but are not a member of constituted organisation will be made an associate member of the Berriedale and Dunbeath Community Council for the duration of the Project. Full application details will be sent about this as soon as possible and to be advertised locally.
- c) **Future Funding Streams:** It was asked if there was any knowledge of future funding. It was thought the Halsary Windfarm funding had opened. More information is to be sought regarding this.

**13) Correspondence:**

- a) An email had been received from Dunbeath & District Centre. This was to inform the Community Council of the hardcore pathway along the A9 near Inver Cottage. This has been reported and is to be fixed.

**14) Any Other Business:**

- a) **Core Paths & Bus Stops:** Jenna informed the Community Council that Dunbeath and Berriedale Development Trust were looking into small projects in the community and ensure that projects weren't being duplicated. They are to be ensuring there is signage for all core paths in the area and exploring options of having seating in bus shelters.

**15) Date of next meeting:** 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.30pm

**16) Members of the public were thanked for their attendance before leaving. Members of the Community Council to part in a private discussion.**

- a) **BOWL application:** It was discovered there was a micro grant application from Dunbeath Preservation Trust in the Community Council gmail account. This has been overseen due to access difficulties. It was discussed and agreed to honour this application.

**Meeting closed at 9pm**