



# **Berriedale & Dunbeath**

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Dunbeath Community Centre  
on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.30pm

**1) Welcome, Apologies & Conflict of Interest :**

- a) Present: Neil Buchanan, Jenna Irvine, Francis Allan, Anson MacAuslan, Angus MacInnes, Trevor Filshie
- b) Members of the public: John Gunn, Frank Sutherland, James MacBeath,
- c) Apologies: Donna Mathieson

**2) Opening Remarks:** Neil welcomed and thanked those present for attending the meeting.

**3) Action Log:**

**4) Approval of Minutes:** Minutes were approved by Angus and seconded by Anson.

**5) Police:**

- a) **Police Report:** There was no police report sent to the community council this month.
- 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 – Jenna will follow this up.

**6) Communities & Place:**

- a) **Playpark:** There is a bingo night at the end of the month to raise funds for the playpark.
- b) **Dunbeath Church:** The plan to close Dunbeath Church is no longer scheduled. Sunday services will be alternated each week between Lybster and Dunbeath. It is thought there is discussions about a new plan.

**7) Education & Learning:**

- a) A request was made by Dunbeath Primary School PTA to ask for upto £200 to help fund the Primary 7 trip later in the year. This would come from the youth group money that was raised previously. It was

agreed that this would be approved. Jenna will inform the PTA.

**8) Health & Social Care:**

- a) **Dunbeath & District Centre:** The planning application has been approved.

**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. Neil has emailed Malcolm Macleod for a strategy plan for road repairs to enable the community council to advise the local community. Neil has not received a reply and will follow this up.
- b) **John O Groats Trail:** It was agreed that we should invite Kenneth to a community council meeting – Jenna will attempt to contact via social media.
- c) **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. One quote has been received, awaiting for more.
- d) **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.
- e) **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. No further update
- f) **Planning Applications:** Angus expressed difficulties and delays that he has experienced with a planning application and how he had attempted to contact Cllr Raymond Bremner several times and did not receive a reply.
- Phone mast Berriedale:** The Community Council have been asked to submit a response to the planning application for the phone mast on Welbeck Estate. Angus is preparing a response for the planning

application. It was stated that another planning application is in place for another mast to be erected two miles from the previous application.

- g) 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) Election of Vice Chairman:** A proposal was made for Angus to take the position of Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Anson.

- b) Licensing Issues:** N/A

- c) Website:** Neil is continuing to update the content on the website. Information on the Your Cash Your Community has been uploaded and the calendar is updated.

**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 – No further update.

**12) Resources and Finance:**

- a) Financial Statement:** The latest financial statement was circulated to all present.
- b) BOWL Money - Your Cash Your Community:** Information on this has been circulated and posted on social media.
- 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 – Jenna to complete research.

**13) Correspondence:** There has been no correspondence.

**14) Any Other Business:**

- a) **Berriedale Church:** Work has started at repairing the church roof.
- b) **Escape beds:** It was highlighted that the emergency escape beds in Berriedale and Dunbeath are not being maintained and not being reinstated after use. Neil will speak with BEAR Scotland about this.
- c) **Dog Waste Bins:** It was stated that the bin located at Portormin Beach is rusted and needs replaced. A request to the Highland Council will be made for this to be replaced.
- d) **Snow Gates:** It was asked if there was snow gates on local single track roads. There is not and it was discussed that some of these areas could be dangerous if an individual with no local knowledge travels on these roads.
- e) **Thanks to volunteers:** John expressed his thanks to all the volunteers that helped to distribute bottled water when the local area experienced a loss of supply.

**15) Date of next meeting:** 6<sup>th</sup> February 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.

**Public meeting closed at 8.30pm**