



# Berriedale & Dunbeath

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Dunbeath Community Centre  
on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.30pm

- 1) **Welcome, Apologies & Conflict of Interest :**
  - a) Present: Neil Buchanan, Angus MacInnes, Donna Matheson, Jenna Irvine, Francis Allan, Anson MacAuslan, Trevor Filshie
  - b) Members of the public: John Gunn, Frank Sutherland, James MacBeath, Anne MacBeath
  - c) Apologies: N/A
  
- 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 Trevor.
  
- 5) **Police:**
  - a) **Police Report:** There was no police report sent to the community council this month.
  - b) **A9 speed limit/no overtaking:** A reply from Transport Scotland has been received - *Notwithstanding this, our Operating Company, BEAR Scotland, has reviewed the forward visibility on the A9 around Dunbeath and recommended that a detailed engineering assessment of the section from north of the Dunbeath junction to Houstry junction is carried out to confirm if the criteria for use of double white lines is met and if this measure is appropriate for the location. This is programmed for the coming financial year and any changes recommended to road markings will be progressed as soon as possible thereafter if required.*
  - c) **Oil and other theft:** It was made aware to everyone present that there has been theft of oil from a property on the Braemore road and building items stolen from a property in the Borgue.
  - d) **Vandalism:** The building situated at the rear of Dunbeath Hotel has been broken into and items inside have been vandalised. A sign has now been erected stating there are cameras on the property. There has been no other reports of vandalism in the area.

**6) Communities & Place:**

- a) **Playpark:** A Bingo fundraiser was held at the end of January by Dunbeath and Berriedale Development Trust which was very successful.

**7) Education & Learning: N/A**

**8) Health & Social Care: N/A**

**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. No update available from Malcolm Macleod. It was stated that some stretch of road around the Smerrall area has been maintained.
- 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 – no update available.
- c) **Bridge at Portormin:** The materials have started arriving for the bridge repairs. Mr Threipland has advised he hopes the works will be complete by Spring 2023.
- 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. A thanks was made to Langwell Estate for their hard work at keeping the roads around Berriedale during the winter weather.
- f) **Planning Applications:**
- i. **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. Angus has had difficulty accessing the Gmail account for the community council for him to send an email regarding planning permission for Berriedale phone masts. Neil will resend the login details.

ii. **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.

g) **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 spoke with BEAR Scotland and the beds have been cleared and maintained.

h) **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 – no update available.

i) **King Coronation:** It was suggested that the community council propose to Dunbeath & Berriedale Development Trust (DBDT), Dunbeath and District Centre (DDC) and Berriedale Portland Hall (BPH) come together to plan and hold a community event to mark this occasion. Everyone agreed. Neil is to contact each organisation to make this proposal and arrange a meeting.

#### 10) **Performance & Governance:**

a) **Licensing Issues:** It was stated that the cost of premises licencing has been reduced.

b) **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:** 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:** To date there has been no correspondence from David Shearer regarding the total number of applicants. Neil hopes to hear from him this week.
- c) **Future Funding Streams:** Jenna advised the Halsary Windfarm has there first panel meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> Jan. Jenna expressed she may be unable to commit to future panel meetings and it was agreed she will speak with Yvonne at CVG about Donna being the primary representative. Angus has also agreed to be a reserve for this meetings.

**13) Correspondence:**

**14) Any Other Business:**

- a) **Berriedale Portland Hall:** The committee have met and are now operating as before the pandemic. They have several fundraising events planned for the forthcoming months.

**15) Date of next meeting:** 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm

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

**Public meeting closed at 8.10pm**