



# **Berriedale & Dunbeath**

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Berriedale Portland Hall  
on 01<sup>st</sup> May 2023 at 7.30pm

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

- a) **Present:** Neil Buchanan, Donna Mathieson, Francis Allan, Trevor Filshie, Anson MacAuslan
- b) **Members of the public:** John Gunn, Frank Sutherland, Sue Steven, Grant Jack.
- c) **Apologies:** Angus MacInnes, Jenna Irvin, Iain Fraser (public)

**2) Opening Remarks:** Neil welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. He reminded everyone that the date for the work on the Camels hump is now Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**3) Action Log:** See separate action log sheet.

**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:** There has been no update from BEAR Scotland to indicate when the detailed engineering assessment would take place. No further update today. Talks are taking place with Mr Threipland on where to site the illuminated speed sign that will record data.

**6) Communities & Place:**

- a) **Playpark:** Jenna stated that Dunbeath and Berriedale Development Trust recently met with the chosen supplier Kompan. The Trust has identified the essential playpark equipment needed and is awaiting plans and final costs. – No update available.
- b) **Coronation Events:** There are conflicts with the coronation events being held over the weekend regarding times and dates. Neil has proposed

that all communities work together in future and that a bi-annual meeting between all organisations to try and reduce the conflicts in future. A discussion was held about the conflicts regarding the kings coronation weekend. Jenna has suggested that 2 people from each organisation should attend. The PTA and Bowling club should attend these meetings along with the SWRI.

- c) **Flower Pot Project:** John has ordered new flowers for the flower pots for Berriedale and Dunbeath, a cheque for these costs will be required when they arrive.

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

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

#### 9) Infrastructure, Environment & Economy:

- a) **Dunbeath Strath Path:** Neil has received funding for this work to continue. John asked if he had the landowners approval for this and he said yes, this work will be carried out in June.
- b) **Highland Council road repair:** The conditions of the roads in Berriedale and Dunbeath maintained by the Highland Council are in a poor state. Andrew had no update on when these would be repaired. The Highland Council need to find more funding to complete the road repairs throughout Highland. Tracey Urry ([tracey.urry@highland.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.urry@highland.gov.uk)) is now head of Roads & Infrastructure. Andrew stated that most councillors are committed to the roads being repaired in Caithness. Highland council are to repair roads in Caithness but we don't know which will be repaired or when. John said that the Smerral road has had hardcore put in a lot of the potholes after he wrote to Raymond Bremner.
- c) **Harbour Wall Dunbeath:** The blocks of the small wall separating the carpark and harbour in front of the toilets is crumbling. The wall is to be repaired but no date available at present.
- d) **Footpath at Inver Guest House:** The area of hardcore that is used as a footpath in this area has been washed away again. This has been reported to BEAR Scotland and a job spec has been submitted. Foot path was repaired last week.
- e) **Camels Hump:** Neil has spoken to the landowner of where this path is situated. They are happy for work to be completed to maintain this pathway. GMR Henderson has donated 12ton of path materials, a mini

digger and wheelbarrow for this works. It was suggested a post it put on our social media platform to ask for volunteers to help with the works to be completed on the last Saturday of April. Date changed to Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023\*

**f) Planning Applications:** No planning applications have been made for our area in the latest reports received.

- i. Phone mast Berriedale:** There are 2 applications in for masts 1 on the Glutt road and the other on Conacraig. Anson said someone is looking to put a mast up 400m from an existing mast in Berriedale.
- ii. Proposed Pylons:** It was stated that there was very little information on the website regarding this project. It was also stated the open day that was held in Dunbeath Community Centre was more informative and well attended. It was discussed and agreed that the Community Council will submit a letter with the views of the public and explore joining forces with other community council's to show a joint approach and suggest influences of underground installation. The deadline for submitting views is the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023. \* Neil had suggested that all landowners write to SSE to object to anyone coming onto their land to stop them doing bird Surveys but Anson has stated that they can't be stopped pedestrians, you can only stop them from taking vehicles onto your land. Grant stated that the Highlands is suffering from a lack of employment, there is no affordable housing in the area and this is driving the younger generation out of the area. The lack of health services (Wick hospital). Neil said that if the Pylons go ahead then community benefit must be applied for & Anson agreed.

**g) Berriedale Broadband:** No update

**h) Dunbeath Bridge – noise pollution:** Following the March community council meeting where it was agreed we would communicate with Transport Scotland to highlight the noise pollution from the bridge. The individuals who initiated these conversations received confirmation of acknowledgement that there is an issue and that repairs will be completed to resolve this. There has not yet been confirmation of when works will be commenced. Still no date for this work.

**10) Performance & Governance:**

- a) Website:** Neil is working on this and will remove the information regarding Covid 19.

\* = Task added to action log

**11) Property & Housing:**

- a) **Affordable Housing:** There are currently 4 houses empty in Dunbeath there is 2 X 2 Bedroom and 2 X 1 Bedroom.

**12) Resources and Finance:**

- a) **Financial Statement:** No changes  
b) **Future Funding Streams:** Known funding sources are Halsary Windfarm and Crown Estate fund for coastal communities. Possibly funding from the Pylons but this will be some time away.

**13) Correspondence:** Highland Council updating travel survey to be conducted on line, Neil thinks this is about buses.

**14) Any Other Business:**

- a. John Gunn asked about signage at the harbour and Neil said there was not date. Neil said the mill pond will be done at the same time as the strath path In June.  
b. Anson said there would be night works on Berriedale Brae in mid May for resurfacing.

**15) Date of next meeting:** 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7.30pm in Dunbeath Community Centre

**Public meeting closed at 8.30pm**

## ACTION LOG

Action	By Whom	Date Added	Update from meeting
Post on Facebook regarding bus service	Jenna	03.04.2023	No response to date.
Post on Facebook for repairing Camels Hump footpath – last Sat of April	Jenna	03.04.2023	Date changed to 13/05/23
Explore joining other CC's in expressing views on Pylons and submit views by 14.04.2023		03.04.2023	It was agree that BDCC would join the other Council's in their objections to the pylons.

\* = Task added to action log