



Berriedale & Dunbeath

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Dunbeath Hall
on 4th September 2023 at 7.30pm

1) Welcome, Apologies & Conflict of Interest:

- a) Present:** Angus MacInnes (Chair), Francis Allan (Vice-Chair), Jenna Irvine (Secretary), Donna Mathieson (Treasurer)
- b) Members of the public:** John Gunn, Frank Sutherland, Victor Cormack, Michael Sutherland, Winifred Sutherland, Davina Taylor, Lynn Parker, Iain Fraser, Sue Steven, Anne Macbeath, James Macbeath, Andrew Bailey, Jon Simmonds, Harold Bland, Moyra McCammont
- c) Apologies:** Neil Buchanan, Trevor Filshie, Stuart Cormack (Police Scotland)
- d) Conflict of Interest:** None declared.

2) Opening Remarks: Angus MacInnes opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. Apologies were made for the miscommunication and for those who had arrived at Berriedale Portland Hall for tonight's meeting.

3) Action Log: See separate action log sheet.

4) Approval of Minutes: Minutes were proposed by Francis and seconded by Donna.

5) Police:

- a) Police Report:** A police report had been received from our community council's allocated officer Stuart Cormack. Angus read this out to all present.
- b) Rural Security:** Some recent incidents were discussed that involved theft of a dog, wood being stolen, report of individuals seen with firearms, brass fittings stolen from derelict buildings. Angus stated he would contact Police Scotland about these concerns and ask if they could attend next months meeting. Discussion was had regarding installing rural watch signs. There was a mix of for and against. It was suggested that meeting including the community may be beneficial.
- c) A9 speed limit/no overtaking:** Bear Scotland are going to carry out a detailed engineering assessment in the winter. Jenna stated she contacted Bear Scotland during August, no reply.

d) Speed display sign: The speed display sign has been ordered and the proposed site is along the A9 outside Laburnum House. Neil was not present to provide an update.

6) Communities & Place:

a) Dunbeath Playpark: It was stated that there has been no further updates until the lease situation is resolved – no update available.

b) Bus Service: No update available.

c) Dunbeath Strath: The strath path is still overgrown; this needs to be followed up with Matt Dent and Community Payback Scheme. Dunbeath Strath is popular with dog walkers and as previously highlighted, many dogs are not kept on a lead, and there is a lot of used poop bags left hanging on branches. The Community Council will enquire about getting a sign made requesting dogs to be kept on a lead and that the dog waste bin is used at the Mill carpark. No update available.

d) Glass Recycling Bins: Jenna informed everyone that she had received a reply from the Highland Council where it stated they are aware of ongoing problems with their contractor Biffa. The deposit return scheme was meant to be introduced in August which was expected to have a significant drop in the use of the bottle banks. They stated they are in the progress of negotiating a new contract to start this month which will address the ongoing issues. They advised on the date of the email the bottle banks in Dunbeath would have a collection the following week. The bottle banks were emptied the following week. It was decided members of the community council will continue to monitor this.

e) Phone box – Dunbeath Harbour: Discussion of the placement of the phone box was discussed. There was a divide in opinions of the phone box being moved to beside the high wall and staying where it is. If this is to be moved it is thought the cost would be the community council responsibility. Further discussions are to take place regarding this.

7) Education & Learning:

Dunbeath Nursery Closure: There was no representative from Dunbeath Primary Parent Council to provide an update. It was stated that there had been a disappointing reply from the Highland Council.

8) Health & Social Care:

9) Infrastructure, Environment & Economy:

a) Highland Council Road repair: Portormin Road has been marked for repairs which is believed to begin in September. It was asked how residents with cars parked on areas to be repaired will be notified of the date work will

* = Task added to action log

commence to ensure no vehicles disrupt the works. Jenna will contact the Highland Council and highlight this.

- b) 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.
- c) Planning Applications:** No planning applications have been made for our area in the latest reports received.
 - i. Phone mast Berriedale:** There are 2 applications forward for planning. Another 3 wish to have a masts. We will continue to express our views through planning department – no update available.
- d) Pylons:** A public meeting will be held on 19th September 2023 at 7pm in Dunbeath Community Centre with two representatives from Communities before Pylon Companies attending. Councillors and the media will be invited. The flyers that have been distributed in Berriedale and Dunbeath can be distributed further in the community. The Community Council will reach out to other community councils to explore their views. It was hoped to have an article in the newspapers before and after the public meeting. It was suggested that another meeting is arranged with SSE representatives to express the community's objection.
- e) Dunbeath Bridge – noise pollution:** No further update has been received about the works commencing. Jenna will continue to reach out to Transport Scotland.
- f) Berriedale Broadband:** It was stated that a property in Rams CRAIGS has had fibre broadband connected to their door. Various suggestions were brought forward however they entailed a high cost or the area wasn't eligible – no further updates available.

10) Performance & Governance:

- a) Website:** There has been no further updates re the website.
- b) IOC/Data Protection:** Angus highlighted that the community council do not have the correct procedures in place regarding data protection and this is needed. It was agreed that we should pay the fee of £40 to ensure this is being followed. The community council will also seek an opportunity for data protection training for all organisations to have an opportunity to attend.

11) Property & Housing:

- a) Affordable Housing:** No updates.

12) Resources and Finance:

- a) Financial Statement:** The financial statement was circulated to all members.
- b) Financial Statement Xmas Lights:** No update this month.

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c) Future Funding Streams: Known funding sources are Halsary Windfarm and Crown Estate fund for coastal communities – no further knowledge of funding opportunities.

d) Correspondence: None

13) Any Other Business: None.

14) Date of next meeting: 2nd October 2023 at 7.30pm in Berriedale Portland Hall

Public meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Private Discussion

- It was suggested that the community council contribute towards the transport costs for the two representatives from Communities before Power Companies that will be attending the public meeting later this month. All members in agreement.
- It was discussed that the Xmas Lights committee are a sub group of the community council and a general and financial update should be received each month from the committee. Contact will be made with the committee to request this.

ACTION LOG

Action	By Whom	Date Added	Update from meeting
Explore sign options for Dunbeath Strath re dogs on lead and dog poo bags.	To be allocated	03/07/2023	Ongoing
Monitor glass recycling bins and contact contractor if not emptied	Jenna	03/07/2023	Ongoing
Double white line criteria assessment to be followed up	Jenna	07/08/2023	Ongoing
Maintenance of overgrowth on Dunbeath Strath – contact Matt Dent	Jenna	07/08/2023	Ongoing
Circulate email address login to all members	Angus MacInnes	07/08/2023	
Invite Police Scotland to meeting	Angus MacInnes	04/09/2023	
Contact Highland Council re Portormin Road repair start date and notification to residents with parked vehicles	Jenna Irvine	04/09/2023	
Article in newspaper re Pylon meeting		04/09/2023	
Contact other community council re Pylons	Jenna Irvine	04/09/2023	
IOC/Date Protection	Angus MacInnes	04/09/2023	
Contact Xmas Lights Committee for monthly updates	Jenna Irvine	04/09/2023	

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