



Berriedale & Dunbeath

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Berriedale Portland Hall
on 10th October 2023 at 7.30pm

1) Welcome, Apologies & Conflict of Interest:

- a) Present:** Francis Allan (Vice-Chair), Jenna Irvine (Secretary), Donna Mathieson (Treasurer), Trevor Filshie, Neil Buchanan
- b) Members of the public:** John Gunn, Victor Cormack, Winifred Sutherland, Lynn Parker, Iain Fraser
- c) Apologies:** Angus MacInnes, Stuart Cormack (Police Scotland)
- d) Conflict of Interest:** None declared.

2) Opening Remarks: Francis welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

3) Action Log: See separate action log sheet.

4) Approval of Minutes: Still to be approved.

5) Police:

- a) Police Report:** A police report had been received from our community council's allocated officer Stuart Cormack. This was read out by Francis.
- b) A9 speed limit/no overtaking:** Bear Scotland are going to carry out a detailed engineering assessment in the winter. Still awaiting a reply.
- c) Speed display sign:** The speed display sign has been delivered and the proposed site is along the A9 outside Laburnum House. Confirmation of the location needs to be finalised.
- d) 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. It was decided to have further discussions about having a public meeting.

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. The work that has been completed on improving the path on parts of the Strath, the feedback received that the job is not satisfactory.
- d) **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 – no decision has been made.
- e) **Glass Recycling Bins:** The bottle banks in Dunbeath are full again. Jenna had contacted the Highland Council and they advised that they have requested for the contractor to empty banks in Caithness and Sutherland next week.
- f) **Land Acquisition:** Neil stated that due to Dunbeath Estate being for sale, is there an opportunity for acquiring land for community use. This would need to be investigated further.

7) Education & Learning:

Dunbeath Nursery Closure: There was no representative from Dunbeath Primary Parent Council to provide an update.

8) Health & Social Care:

9) Infrastructure, Environment & Economy:

- a) **Highland Council Road repair:** Parts of Portormin Road and Balnabruich Road have been repaired. It was agreed that the community council will continue to highlight local roads that are still in need of repair.
- 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 – Jenna will continue to make contact with the Highland Council regarding this.
- c) **Planning Applications:** No planning applications have been made for our area in the latest reports received.
- d) **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.

- e) **Pylons:** The Pylon Working Group gave feedback that the public meeting was well attended. Good information was provided and great feedback was provided.
- f) **Dunbeath Bridge – noise pollution:** Information was received that this work could begin in November 2023. The road will likely have to be closed for this work to take place and Transport Scotland and BEAR Scotland are in the process of making a transport plan.
- g) **Berriedale Broadband:** No update of when improvements will be made.

10) Performance & Governance:

- a) **Website:** There has been no further updates re the website.
- b) **IOC/Data Protection:** Angus was not present to provide an update.
- c) **Elections:** It was stated that the deadlines for the community council applications for election is tomorrow at noon.

11) Property & Housing:

- a) **Affordable Housing:** No updates.

12) Resources and Finance:

- a) **Financial Statement:** There was no financial statement to be circulated. Neil advised that the only activity on these was £2800 for the speed radar and £13560 to Gunns.
- b) **Financial Statement Xmas Lights:** No update this month. Jenna will make contact with the Xmas Light Committee to request monthly updates due to the committee being a sub-group of the community council.
- 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: Due to the community council elections, the Highland Council will be in touch to advise of the next meeting

Public meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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	Complete
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	Complete
Article in newspaper re Pylon meeting		04/09/2023	Complete
Contact other community council re Pylons	Jenna Irvine	04/09/2023	Ongoing
IOC/Date Protection	Angus MacInnes	04/09/2023	Ongoing
Contact Xmas Lights Committee for monthly updates	Jenna Irvine	04/09/2023	Ongoing

* = Task added to action log