



Berriedale & Dunbeath

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Dunbeath Community Centre
on 8TH January 2024 at 7.30pm

1) Welcome, Apologies & Conflict of Interest:

- a) **Present:** Angus MacInnes (Chairperson), Francis Allan (Vice-Chairperson), Jenna Irvine (Secretary), Donna Mathieson (Treasurer), Neil Buchanan, Trevor Filshie, Graham Martin-Royal
- b) **Members of the public:** Lynn Parker, Winifred Sutherland, John Gunn, Anne Macbeath, Andrew Bailey
- c) **Apologies:** Trevor Filshie, Stuart Cormack (Police Scotland)
- d) **Conflict of Interest:** Neil Buchanan – Pylons.

2) **Opening Remarks:** Angus welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance and wished a Happy New Year to all. Angus highlighted that there is two major projects which the community council are involved with, Dunbeath Primary and Nursery, and the Pylon Project. A thank you has announced for those involved at having a fantastic fire work display at New Year.

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

4) **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes were approved by Neil and seconded by Francis.

5) Police:

- a) **Police Report:** A police report had been received officer Stuart Cormack. This was read out by Angus. Information was shared at the meeting of there being vans in area and there being suspicious activity being connected with this.
- b) **A9 speed limit/no overtaking:** Neil had spoken with Bryan at BEAR Scotland. It has been stated that there will be extra chevrons placed on the road by the Old Police Station and they could be filled in with red colouring. *Jenna will contact BEAR Scotland and Traffic Scotland for more details.
- c) **Speed display sign:** Neil spoke with Bryan from BEAR Scotland. It is thought that the original site for the speed sign belongs to BEAR Scotland. BEAR's server is down at the moment making it difficult to access the relevant documents to confirm. *Neil has been given an additional contact who he will liaise with.

* = Task added to action log

d) Rural Security: No update.

e) Snow gate closure: The snow gates at Dunbeath were closed which was managed by Police Scotland. Members of the public braved the weather to help those travelling and being stuck in the snow. A thank you was announced to them. It was stated that Berriedale was particularly worse than it should have been and it is thought this is due to gritters not being able to put the blade down to road level due to the type of cats eyes installed on the road.

6) Communities & Place:

a) Dunbeath Playpark: No further update available, Dunbeath Community Centre are still in the process of waiting for a lease.

b) Dunbeath Strath: *The Community Council is still to look into signage for dog fouling and dogs off leads.

7) Education & Learning:

Dunbeath Nursery Closure: Angus has spoken with the PTA and they are going to carry out some work and activity around registering for enrolment for February. *Angus will speak with ward manager Mackenzie Sutherland to follow up the petition that was submitted.

8) Health & Social Care:

9) Infrastructure, Environment & Economy:

a) Planning Applications: Erection of agricultural building. Location of Works Land 165M South Of Kyle Croft, Lower Smerral, Latheron (23/05548/PNO), Extension to cottage; erection of craft studio/office (domestic use) Location of Works Knockinnon Inn Cottage, Knockinnon, Dunbeath, Knockinnon (23/05674/FUL) – No objections or comments made.

b) Highland Council Road repair: No update from the Highland Council. Will continue to email to highlight roads in need of repair and ask for signage for the Braemore Road. It was mentioned at the meeting that the Old Brae is particularly bad condition. The members of the public were advised to continue reporting the road conditions via the Highland Council website and the *community council will also continue to highlight this. The broken barrier at the junction turning into Portormin Road has not yet been repaired. It was stated that it has been witnessed Highland Council employees measuring the barrier. Jenna will continue to email the Highland Council regarding this.

c) Harbour Wall Dunbeath: *No update - Jenna will continue to make contact with the Highland Council regarding this.

- d) **Harbour Dolos:** Due to recent storms, there is a gap in the dolos at Dunbeath harbour and some of the gabion baskets at the slip have been damaged/washed away. *Jenna will continue to make contact.
- e) **Knockinnon Windfarm:** No update available.
- f) **Phone masts Braemore/Berriedale:** No update available.
- g) **Pylons:** There is to be a public meeting held with SSEN in Dunbeath Community Centre on 29th January. The Pylon Group have a meeting tomorrow evening to start preparing for this. It was agreed that the meeting will be structured, and no one will be victimised for voicing any opinion. It was suggested that questions will be prepared in advance. Notices will be displayed locally as well as on social media. It is hoped that there will be time for another pre planning meeting prior to the public meeting. It is standard that the community council would pay for the first public meeting, however till date the Pylon Group have paid for all the meetings, including the first public meeting. It was agreed that the community council will pay for the hall hire for this public meeting. Payment was made during the meeting.
- h) **Dunbeath Bridge – noise pollution:** No update will be available until surveys have been carried out for the expansion measurement for the new joints.
- i) **Land Drains:** It has been highlighted that there has been extensive flooding during the last few weeks. These are the responsibility of the Highland Council, around the village shop road and BEAR Scotland straight from Knockinnon to Latheronwheel dip. *Both will be contacted to enquire if there are any problems with drainage as these areas have not had this problems before.

10) Performance & Governance:

11) Property & Housing:

12) Resources and Finance:

- a) **Financial Statement:** Donna circulated the financial statement – Only outgoing was to Zurich Insurance. Only incoming was Interest.
- b) **BOWL funding:** Neil had a meeting with David Shearer and has sent the required documents for this to be resolved.
- c) **Financial Statement Xmas Lights:** Jenna has not yet received a reply from the Highland Council with the information requested.
- d) **Future Funding Streams:** Neil read out the aims & objectives from Highland Climate Fund which is Highland wide. This will be referred to for any future projects that meet the criteria.

e) Correspondence: None

13) Any Other Business:

- a) The trees along the A9 around Berriedale that recently blew down with recent winds are still at the side of the road. An enquiry will be made to BEAR Scotland to highlight this.
- b) Anne Macbeath received correspondence from Rachel Youngson regarding the debris on the footpath along the A9 south of Dunbeath Bridge. This stated that it was not the responsibility of BEAR Scotland, and it is the Highland Council's responsibility.

14) Date of next meeting: Monday 5th February 2024 at 7.30pm in Dunbeath Community Centre.

Public meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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ACTION LOG

Action	By Whom	Date Added	Update from meeting
Explore sign options for Dunbeath Strath re dogs on lead and dog poo bags.	Jenna	03/07/2023	Ongoing
Contact BEAR Scotland/Transport Scotland re suggested extra chevrons	Jenna	08/01/2024	Ongoing
Continue to contact Highland Council about small harbour wall repairs	Jenna	06/11/2024	Ongoing
Maintenance of overgrowth on Dunbeath Strath – Angus to contact CPS Apr & Aug 2024.	Angus	06/11/2023	On hold to Spring 2024
Contact Highland Council re road repairs, barrier repair and sign for Braemore Road	Jenna	06/11/2023	Ongoing
Contact Highland Council harbour department re Dunbeath Harbour dolos and gabion baskets	Jenna	08/01/2024	
Contact BEAR Scotland regarding site for speed sign	Neil	08/01/2024	
Contact ward manager re Dunbeath Primary & Nursery petition	Angus	08/01/2024	
Contact Highland Council and BEAR Scotland about extensive flooding	Jenna	08/01/2024	
Contact Rachel Youngson re debris along A9 footpath	Jenna	08/01/2024	
Contact BEAR Scotland re trees at side of A9 Berriedale	Jenna	08/01/2024	

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