



Berriedale & Dunbeath

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Dunbeath Community Centre

3 June 2024 at 7:30 pm

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES & CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Present: Angus MacInnes (Chairperson), Francis Allan (Vice-chairperson), Donna Mathieson (Treasure) Neil Buchanan, Andrew Jarvie (Highland Councillor)

Members of Public Andrew Bailey, Victor Cormack, A Ellerington, John Gunn, Anson MacAuslan, Lynn Parker, Michael Sutherland, Winifred Sutherland, Davina Taylor, Anne Macbeath

Apologies: Jenna Irvine (Secretary).

Conflict of Interest: Neil Buchanan

In Jenna's absence Anne Macbeath was asked to take minutes of the public part of the meeting.

2 OPENING REMARKS

A MacInnes voiced his concern over a lack of decorum during some of the meetings, most notably last month's meeting where there had been a heated discussion with a member of the council and a previous meeting where there had been a similar situation with a member of the public. He went on to point out that there was very little guidance from Highland Council on sanctions for such situations, apart from adjourning the meeting which would seem to be counterproductive. He had been accused of challenging the councillor more than he had the member of public and he explained that in the documentation such behaviour was not expected of councillors.

In view of the lack of guidance he intended to bring it up at a forthcoming meeting with Phil Tomlin and Philip Clancy who have been appointed to replace the ward manager.

Andrew Jarvie indicated that previous serious breaches of etiquette at other meetings had not resulted in HC reviewing its guidance and sanctions for such situations but agreed that it was worthwhile to pursue clearer guidelines for sanctions to control these outbursts without having to stop the meeting.

As there were two vacancies on the community council and two people had put their names forward as replacements, the chairman was keen to clarify the timetable for elections to the council and the situation regarding appointment of co-opted members. He would raise this in his upcoming meeting with HC.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was pointed out that Donna was marked as present in May but had offered her apologies. Other than that, the minutes were approved by N Buchanan and seconded by F Allan.

4 POLICE REPORT

The chairman went through the police report. The comment was made that it seemed unlikely that there had been no 'substance abuse' incidents logged.

5 COMMUNITIES & PLACE

- a) Dunbeath Playpark – problem with banking and cheque payment should be resolved
- b) Dunbeath Strath - Signs regarding control of dogs purchased at £67.09. Now to be erected.
- c) Coopers' path – no change
- d) Phone Box and Interpretive Panels at Dunbeath Harbour – phone box will be moved though it does not seem very robust and may not survive the move.

6 EDUCATION & LEARNING

The nursery at Dunbeath Primary School is not to be mothballed for the coming session. It is believed that a yearlong teaching post is being advertised.

7 HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

No items reported

8 INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY

- a) Planning applications – no new applications. Some concerns were expressed over access to pylon sites should the project get the go ahead. Lyn Parker will investigate this through the pylon group. It was also suggested that a SVI (sites of visual impact) map be available. This too would be chased up by Lyn. Andrew Jarvie warned that the ultimate argument for the pylon programme by those in authority would be that it is a matter of national security.
- b) Road Department – Portormin Road barrier and footpath are in hand. Small harbour wall has been repaired and bus shelter removed. We await further information on grit container in bus shelter area.
- c) Harbour Department – no advance on Dolos and Gabion Baskets
- d) Knockinnon Windfarm – no information
- e) Phone mast Braemore – now in situ. Evidently one less needed than thought.
- f) Pylons – ongoing
- g) Dunbeath Bridge – noise pollution eradicated completely at one joint but the one to the south is more difficult to make silent because it is on a slope.
- h) Land Drains – no further information
- i) Newport bus shelter and Dunbeath bus shelter lighting – no progress
- j) Dunbeath sign south of bridge – no response.
- k) Kerbing – Old Brae, Dunbeath – no advance

9 PERFORMANCE & GOVERNANCE

- a) Requirements for sub- committees. Information was distributed on protocols for these. Simon and Doreen Macleod wrote to the chairman regarding their hurt over recent anonymous comments on face book and notified the community council that they would no longer be carrying out grass cutting and doing the flowers at the harbour area. A MacInnes expressed his dismay at the comments that had been made. He

thanked Simon & Doreen for all their work over the years and for keeping the area at the harbour full of flowers.

Sylvia Stewart and Simon Macleod are also retiring from the Christmas Lights committee and asked if the community council would be willing to take it on as a sub-group.

John Gunn expressed his disappointment at the lack of public trust compared to previous times but as the chairman pointed out, nowadays we have to go by the rules and regulations set out for charities and public bodies.

At this point the chairman thanked ALL THOSE who volunteer their services to the community to keep it looking its best over the year.

- b) email addresses – there are still some problems to be sorted. Not all emails getting through.

10 PROPERTY & HOUSING

11 RESOURCES & FINANCE

- a) Village Officer – it is not yet established what if any funding is available this year. A Jarvie will attend a meeting on Monday 17 June which will address this.
- b) Future funding streams – more investigation required. Already mentioned at AGM.

12 CORRESPONDENCE: None

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Michael Sutherland had tried to ascertain if HC had a timetable for grass cutting or if it was done on an ad hoc basis. He cuts the grass locally and thought it would be prudent, if he knew when they were scheduled to be in the area, to do his 'round' in between times rather than just after or just before they appear.

Andrew Jarvie agreed to find out about this.

14 ACTION LOG - separate sheet

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

MONDAY 1 JULY 7:30 PM IN DUNBEATH

A Macbeath
3 June

DRAFT