



Berriedale & Dunbeath

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for 7th October 2024 at 7.30pm in Berriedale Portland Hall

1. WELCOME

a. **Attendance:**

Community Council: Francis Allan (Vice Chair), Jenna Irvine (Secretary), Donna Mathieson (Treasurer), Michael Sutherland, Neil Buchanan, Mike Andrew Bailey

Members of the Community: John Gunn, Alison Ellington, Lynn Parker, Sue Steven, Anne Macbeath

b. **Apologies:**

Community Council: Angus MacInnes (Chair), Jake Macleod (Police Scotland)

c. **Non-Attendance**

Community Council: Graham Martin Royal

d. **Conflicts of Interest**

Community Council: Neil Buchanan - Pylons

2. OPENING REMARKS

FA welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by NB and seconded by MB

4. POLICE

a. **Police Report:** We have been allocated a new police officer, Jake MacLeod. The report from last month and this month was circulated – no comments.

b. **Speed Display Sign:** NB stated there has been no reply from BEAR Scotland.

5. COMMUNITIES & PLACE

a. **Dunbeath Strath Bridge temp. closure:** Correspondence from Dunbeath Estate confirms a contractor has been appointed. The Estate are awaiting a start date for repairs and anticipate that once on site, works will be completed within 2 weeks. The Estate will continue to keep us updated.

b. **Dog Signage** – JI has contacted the signage company regarding payment. They can not receive payment by cheque. It was agreed for Jenna to purchase the signage, she will be reimbursed from BDCC.

c. **Cooper's Path:** Awaiting meeting with Savills. JI is awaiting a reply with dates.

d. **Phone Box & Interpretive panels – Dunbeath Harbour:** A letter was received from Dunbeath Preservation Trust (DPT) requesting an update for the interpretive panels. DPT have offered to take over the rest of this project. This was discussed and agreed for them to do this. NB was thanked for the work he has completed to date. NB stated he has spoken with Victor (DPT) and will contact Liza (DPT) to pass on project. No further update on moving phone box.

e. **Dunbeath Playing Fields – grass cutting:** Amacl no present to provide an update.

6. EDUCATION & LEARNING

7. HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

a. **Defibrillator at Dunbeath Surgery:** JI has contacted Liam Clancy re information for ward discretionary fund. Awaiting reply.

8. INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY

- a. **Planning Applications:** Two applications for BDCC area this month. Comments were made re the Phone Mast application; it is thought it is not needed and how the existing masts can't provide coverage. No comments for the other application for agriculture building at Auldwell Croft.
- b. **Road Department:**
 - **Portormin Rd Barrier:** JI has continued to follow this up, no reply. She has asked Liam Clancy for an alternative contact.
 - **Braemore Road:** As above. It is confirmed that this road is not fully repaired.
 - **Kerbing Old Brae:** As above.
 - **Land Drains –** As above.
- c. **Harbour Department:**
 - **Dolos & Gabion Baskets:** JI has received a reply from David Seddon, he has acknowledged receipt of email and is following this up for us.
- d. **Newport Bus Shelter, Bus Shelter Lighting, Seating & Glass:** JI informed Don Henderson repairs on Newport bus shelter have not been completed as he thought. No reply.
- e. **Dunbeath Sign south side A9 bridge & footpath:** JI received a reply from Bear Scotland. The signage and debris on footpath have been logged on their system and will be monitored and included within forthcoming maintenance programmes. These are classed as Cat 2 defect, which is not priority.
- f. **Knockinnon Windfarm:** No update available

9. PREFORMANCE & GOVERNANCE

- a. **Distribution of minutes:** NB is able to upload draft minutes on website, these will be accessible to those who wish to see them prior to meetings. Once minutes have been approved at a meeting, he will remove the 'draft' wording.
- b. **Association of Caithness Community Councils:** Meetings are quarterly and information will be circulated to all BDCC members.
- c. **Email address on HC website:** This has been acknowledged by Liam Clancy and he is looking into this.

10. PROPERTY & HOUSING

11. RESOURCES & FINANCE

- a. **Financial Statement:**
 - **BDCC:** Circulated.
 - **Xmas Lights Committee:** No longer operating.
- b. **Future Funding Streams:** Various funding opportunities available. It was highlighted that BDCC need to have a plan of projects prior to applying.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Dunbeath Christmas Lights Committee –** An email from Simon Macleod stating that there was poor attendance at public meeting beginning of September and as of 6th Sept, members of the committee have stepped down. It was agreed a letter of thanks will be sent and for BDCC to host another public meeting to try and form a new committee.
- b. **Meg Sinclair –** An email from Meg asking if BDCC is supporting Helen Crawford's motion.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. NB announced he can no longer take responsibility for bin at the Mill carpark. MS agreed to do this. It needs taken to the top of the road for emptying once per month during October to April.

- b. It was highlighted that the benches at the Mill carpark are no longer usable due to age. BDCC will look at options for these to be replaced.
- c. FA highlighted there was comments on social media that were aimed at BDCC members. LP explained some comments were due to BDCC not backing Helen Crawford's motion. BDCC members present stated that they were not contacted with the details to support this motion until Meg Sinclair's email. LP stated Amacl was aware and stated he declared a neutral stance. This will be discussed with Amacl.
- d. It was highlighted that one member of BDCC has not attended a meeting for 6 months. BDCC will take appropriate action for this and seek guidance from HC.
- e. Highlighted that the Achavanich Road will be closed for 8 months.

14. ACTION LOG: This was updated.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 4th November 2024 at 7.30pm in Dunbeath Community Centre

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

ACTION LOG

Action	By Whom	Date Added	Update from meeting
Contact Highland Council re road repairs, barrier repair and sign for Braemore Road, Old Brae Kerbing	Jenna	06/11/2023	Ongoing
Contact Highland Council harbour department re Dunbeath Harbour dolos and gabion baskets	Jenna	08/01/2024	Ongoing
Contact BEAR Scotland regarding site for speed sign	Neil	08/01/2024	Ongoing
Contact Highland Council about extensive flooding	Jenna	08/01/2024	Ongoing
Contact BEAR Scotland re A9 bridge sign & footpath	Jenna	05/08/2024	Complete
Cooper's Path – Dunbeath Estate arrange meeting	Jenna	05/08/2024	Ongoing
Phone box to be moved	Angus	05/08/2024	Ongoing
Interpretive Panels – Dunbeath Harbour – Neil to liaise with Liza DPT and transfer work over	Neil	07/10/2024	Ongoing
Bus Shelters – Newport repair, Dunbeath panel repair, lighting & seating – update Don Henderson	Jenna	02/09/2024	Ongoing
Jenna to order dog signage	Jenna	07/10/2024	
Maintenance of overgrowth on Dunbeath Strath – Angus to contact CPS Apr & Aug 2025.	Angus	02/09/2024	
Dunbeath Surgery – Defibrillator – Awaiting reply Liam Clancy re discretionary budget	Jenna	07/10/2024	
Email Liam, Phil and Alison Clark re email address and Berriedale meeting	Jenna	02/09/2024	Complete
Grass cutting Dunbeath Playing Fields	Angus	02/09/2024	Ongoing
Notices to be made and circulated for Xmas Lights meeting	Jenna	07/10/2024	
Thank you letter to be sent to previous Xmas Lights Committee	Jenna	07/10/2024	