



Berriedale & Dunbeath

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes for 4th November 2024 in Dunbeath Community Centre

1. WELCOME

a. **Attendance:**

Community Council: Angus MacInnes (Chair), Francis Allan (Vice Chair), Jenna Irvine (Secretary), Michael Sutherland, Neil Buchanan, Mike Andrew Bailey, Raymond Bremner (Cllr)

Members of the Community: John Gunn, Anne Macbeath, Ellen Bain

b. **Apologies:**

Community Council: Donna Mathieson (Treasurer)

c. **Non-Attendance**

Community Council: Graham Martin Royal

d. **Conflicts of Interest**

Community Council: Neil Buchanan - Pylons

2. OPENING REMARKS

AMacI thanked all for their attendance this evening.

Helen Crawford Motion: Apologised for the misunderstanding regarding the neutral stance reply.

Complaints: He highlighted that recently there has been 3 complaints submitted to Highland Council about BDCC. These were about BDCC Laptop, BDCC Accounts and BDCC having secret meetings. It was confirmed laptop is not being misused, the accounts are correct and the BDCC does not have secret meetings. He stated that at time BDCC has private meetings to discuss private issues which Highland Council has confirmed this is permitted.

Contact BDCC members: A reminder was made that anyone contacting BDCC should use their email address or social media. Under no circumstances should members be contacted on their personal email addresses or mobiles, unless they have given permission.

Working Together: Has come to light that there are organisations that appear reluctant to take a 'working together' approach. Advised BDCC should lead by example.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved by NB and seconded by MB

4. POLICE

a. **Police Report:** No report received from Police Scotland.

b. **Speed Display Sign:** NB has emailed Transport Scotland for permission to install – awaiting a reply.

5. COMMUNITIES & PLACE

a. **Dunbeath Strath Bridge temp. closure:** There has been no further updates from Charlotte at Dunbeath Estate regarding the re-opening of the bridge.

b. **Dog Signage** – Jenna to order the signage.

c. **Cooper's Path:** It was confirmed that AMacI and JI will attend a meeting with Charlotte, Dunbeath Estate on Monday 25th November 2024 at 11am. Any questions to be submitted by email.

- d. **Phone Box & Interpretive panels – Dunbeath Harbour:** Phone box – NB is going to ask John Irvine if he can install the new UV protective panel. Interpretive Panels – Liza from DPT had informed FA that no information for these had been passed over, for them to progress with this project. NB will go to see Liza.
- e. **Dunbeath Playing Fields – grass cutting:** AMaCl will contact Highland Council to highlight the grass cutting was not regular this year and request a schedule for next year. Regarding village maintenance these last few years, he has asked those involved for the running costs and hour this is and will compile this – he will share once complete.
- f. **Benches, Mill Carpark** – The current benches are beyond repair. DPT will be placing a bench here in memory of Zena Sutherland. BDCC agreed to seek funding for new picnic benches. There was mixed views of the material; wooden or composite. Some thought wood would be more appropriate for the area, and MB said he would maintain these. Others thought that composite with wooden effect would be beneficial as there would be no maintenance to upkeep these. Members were asked to research this, and a decision will be made at the December meeting, which will allow time for a funding application to be made.

6. EDUCATION & LEARNING

7. HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

- a. **Defibrillator at Dunbeath Surgery:** JI has received the application form for the discretionary fund. This is in progress of being completed.

8. INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY

- a. **Planning Applications:** One application for BDCC area this month, there was no comments made. JG asked why there was no comments from BDCC for the phone mast application. JI explained that some applications sent to us have a deadline prior to the next meeting. AMaCl suggested that these are circulated by email to members for discussion and the public can be made aware of any comments at next meeting. RB advised contacting planning and highlighting this.
- b. **Road Department:**
 - **Portormin Rd Barrier:** JI has had no further correspondence from Highland Council. RB will highlight this at next meeting with roads.
 - **Braemore Road:** As above. It is confirmed that this road is not fully repaired. RB advised some of the recent repairs have been damaged by heavy loads, Highland Council are in discussions with the Estate regarding this. Neil Gunn Road and bottom of Old Brae was also highlighted to need urgent repairs. Cars have been damaged on this recently.
 - **Kerbing Old Brae:** JI has had no further correspondence from Highland Council. RB will highlight this at next meeting with roads.
 - **Land Drains** – It is believed that this has been resolved.
- c. **Harbour Department:**
 - **Dolos & Gabion Baskets:** JI received a reply stating this would be looked at in next years budget. It was stated at the meeting that the gabion baskets have been repaired.
- d. **Newport Bus Shelter, Bus Shelter Lighting, Seating & Glass:** JI has had no further correspondence from HC. RB advised that there had been a review of the bus shelters and footfall. Newport Bus Shelter will not be repaired; it will be removed, and bus stop signage will be installed. RB will ask about seating in War Memorial bus shelter in Dunbeath and lighting in the northbound bus shelter on A9 at Laburnum, Dunbeath.
- e. **Dunbeath Sign south side A9 bridge & footpath:** RB will look into following this up and has requested for a photo to be sent to him.
- f. **Knockinnon Windfarm:** No update available

9. PERFORMANCE & GOVERNANCE

- a. **Dunbeath Christmas Lights:** A public meeting was held on 28th October 2024 where only two members of the community attended, although several volunteers were given to help with lights maintenance, putting up and taking down. A gathering of volunteers took place on Sunday 3rd Nov to check the current equipment, this was well attended. It was agreed that the volunteers would continue with the lights this year. The running of the Christmas Lights committee being the responsibility of BDCC will be discussed in January 2024.
- b. **Non-Attendance:** GMR has not attended any BDCC meetings for 6 months. AMaCl sought advice from Liam Clancy and Phil Tomlison, re dismissal. It was a unanimous decision from BDCC members that GMR is to be dismissed. AMaCl will inform LC and PT and send GMR a letter. LC and PT confirmed that this vacant post can be filled by co-option. JI to advertise this to the community and highlight that BDCC is underrepresented in Berriedale, as currently we have only one member from there.

10. PROPERTY & HOUSING

- a. It was suspected there is a tenancy on Portormin Road that is not lived in by the tenant for some months. It was highlighted that the tenant had returned briefly not long ago.

11. RESOURCES & FINANCE

- a. **Financial Statement:**
 - **BDCC:** DM not present.
- b. **Future Funding Streams:** NB suggested BDCC apply for funding to invest into the John O Groats trail. There is an organisation dedicated to this and agreed we would keep them informed of any works needing to be done in our area.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Dunbeath & District Centre** – Monthly Newsletters received and circulated.
- b. **Seashore Hubs email** – JI recently received; it asks if our area would like to be involved in receiving a seashore hub for beach clean ups – JI to circulate email for info.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. FA asked RB re comment made by him at planning meeting regarding BDCC, RB stated that he looked at all correspondence received in regard to DCC and this was his opinion.
- b. NB asked how Scottish Fire and Rescue should respond to incidents with battery car, battery farms/storage units – this is not for BDCC to undertake, SFRS will do this with their organisation. RB advised that AOCC are proactive at having speakers at their meetings and suggested this is brought to them.
- c. RB stated he and HC have been communicating with battery firms and Scottish Government. He will send information to JI. RB advised they are still awaiting a reply for Scottish Government.
- d. It was highlighted that BDCC website does not have the member details updated – NB to update
- e. JI has sent LC links to HC website with incorrect info for BDCC, LC is looking into this.
- f. New A9 chevrons through Dunbeath has not stopped dangerous overtaking maneuvers.
- g. RB will try to attend our meetings as often as possible. He can be contacted by email if needed.
- h. RB advised he is on North Planning Committee. He stated that any attendance from him to other organisation openings or visits, does not influence his decisions in the committee.

14. **ACTION LOG:** This was updated.

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** 2nd December 2024 at 7.30pm in Dunbeath Community Centre

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

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 / RB	04/11/2024	Ongoing
Contact Highland Council harbour department re Dunbeath Harbour dolos	Jenna / RB	04/11/2024	Ongoing
Reply from Transport Scotland Scotland regarding site for speed sign	Neil	04/11/2024	Ongoing
Cooper's Path – Dunbeath Estate attend meeting	Angus & Jenna	04/11/2024	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 / RB	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 – discretionary budget form to be completed	Jenna	04/11/2024	
Grass cutting Dunbeath Playing Fields	Angus	02/09/2024	Ongoing
Thank you letter to be sent to previous Xmas Lights Committee	Jenna	07/10/2024	
Village maintenance information	Neil	04/11/2024	
Mill carpark benches – research materials	All	04/11/2024	
Email planning regarding time restraints	Jenna	04/11/2024	
Decision on CLC being with BDCC – Jan 2025 discussion	All	04/11/2024	
Inform LC & PT of GMR dismissal and inform GMR	Angus	04/11/2024	
Advertise vacant post	Jenna	04/11/2024	
Share Seashore Hub email	Jenna	04/11/2024	
Update BDCC website with members	Neil	04/11/2024	
Send RB photo of Braemore sign on A9		04/11/2024	