

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2020 ON "ZOOM"

1 SEDERUNT: Mhairi McKenna (MMcK) (Chair); Alan Bell (AB); Carol Bell (CB); Linden Hunt (LH); Laura Cunningham (LC); Cllr Peter Henderson (PH); Lynn Young (Minutes Secretary)

2 APOLOGIES: No apologies received

3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Approved as an accurate record, proposed by LH and seconded by LC.

4 MATTERS ARISING

Ayrshire Paths – CB got in touch about this but has not heard anything in response. LH said that some weedkiller has been spread beside the sea defence; this is not a good idea as the public, their pets and other animals walk along the path. No-one is maintaining the path regularly. CB will follow this up again; she suggested putting a request on Facebook asking people not to apply weedkiller to the area. PH said that South Ayrshire Paths Initiative are meeting next week; he is hoping that extra money will be available to co-ordinate work on various paths. He will feed back at the next BCC meeting. MMcK said that funding could also be applied for from Ballantrae Community Fund. PH also suggested approaching the community payback team; CB said she has recently contacted them. MMcK suggested paying someone for a few hours regularly to keep the path clear.

5 POLICE REPORT – No report

6 TREASURER'S REPORT - AB

Community Benefit Fund Balance: £9332.11

Current Account Balance: £220

Special Interest Account Balance: £93.75

Harbour Account Balance: £1916.35; bill still awaited for work on harbour; bill will be sent when it is clear the work will withstand the bad weather.

No money has been spent since last month.

There may be costs of £300-400 for licences to get the cinema up and running again. LC asked what responsibility BCC have for the cinema. AB said that the Trust was putting on the films and are applying for starter funds, as the first couple of films will not make any money. This is a community activity which we would like to start again, as it was halted due to Covid-19. MMcK said that SAC has funds to cover Covid-19 related expenses; PH said this money has already been spent. LC asked where the original funding for putting on films came from; it was clarified that the original funding for the actual equipment came from Carrick Futures. The Trust bought the licences etc to get the activity up and running; this came from general money in the Trust account.

Carrick Futures, who gave the funding for the new signs on the Foreland, have asked as part of their conditions that the signs be insured. Any current insurance does not cover this. CB has been in touch with insurance companies and it will cost roughly £80. LC stated that if money has been given from Carrick Futures we cannot apply for more funding for this, as insurance cover for the panels was part of the condition of the grant award. LC suggested looking at the current insurance policies and finding out about the cover for the panels can be added on; perhaps the insurers for BCA could be asked. Ownership of the panels may have to be changed to BCA, but this can be easily done. CB will get in touch with the insurance companies and ask about add-ons. AB remarked that we are going to continually come up against this insurance issue for other projects, and we need to look at ways to sort it out. PH suggested talking to other community councils who have a general public liability insurance policy; this would cover events at Christmas, the flower show, etc. LC said that each individual group who meets in the hall has their own insurance to cover any equipment etc. BCA has insurance for public liability but this does not cover individual groups.

MMcK said that people have been looking at the coastal area with a view to putting up signage. PH confirmed this will be insured by SAC policies.

7 BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY FUND

The application deadline was yesterday. Two applications have been received, one from the Ballantrae Food and Drink Festival and one from the Scouts.

8 CARRICK FUTURES – LC

The last meeting was held on 29.7.20. One application was received from Ballantrae, for the Kings Arms. The next meeting is on 7.10.20. An AGM is currently being arranged, probably in October. The meetings for 2021 are as follows: 27th January, 21st April, 28th July and 6th October.

Carrick Futures has a Covid-19 recovery fund. The bowling club has applied for loss of income during the pandemic. Other applications have been received from within the Girvan cluster. There is an upper limit of about £3000 for applications; there is a total one-off pot of £30,000 for this purpose.

9 KILGALLIOCH

No meeting held; next meeting is in October. A publication has been put together giving information about grants awarded and this will be issued.

10 BALLANTRAE TRUST - CB

Andy McAlpine has resigned from the board of the Trust.

The process of purchasing the Kings Arms continues, and the takeover is scheduled for 17.9.20. Carrick Futures awarded £25000; they wanted reassurance that the project is not just relying on Carrick Futures. Other funding is being sought and we are looking into a shares offer.

A bid has been put into CARES, a green energy organisation. A 60% grant has been offered to put in electric heating, insulation, solar panels, double glazing, etc. The building is in a conservation area so planning will go through SAC. The licence is best not to lapse, which would make it much more difficult to reapply. AB has applied for a personal licence, and someone on the board may also be licensed. SAC are being very helpful. It is likely the lounge and dining room will be opened up, all laid out for social distancing. Dan Cunningham is doing some work on shares. Hopefully the next BCC meeting can be held in the Kings Arms. AB said that the title of the pub has had to remain with the Trust as a condition of the grant, and the Trust will hold fiscal ownership of the pub. Money has come from the Scottish Land Fund and from Carrick Futures, and if anything were to go wrong with the ownership or the running of the pub it would revert back to the funders. In order to make any shares viable, the running of the pub will be leased back to the Community Benefit from the Trust. All shareholders would have one vote each, regardless of amount of money put in. The Trust will set up a management group and someone from the Trust will be in the group. Anyone who buys shares can be a part of the management group. All the paperwork has gone in to register the Community Benefit; someone from Business Gateway in SAC is also giving input, along with people who have done this before. LY asked about existing longstanding events, eg darts, quiz, etc. CB said that events which went on before this change would be encouraged to continue. The Scottish Land Fund is very keen that events are run for the community.

Other issues, eg the Ballantrae Food and Drink Festival, have been put on hold meantime due to Covid-19.

MMcK said that the Ballantrae Gin is ready to collect.. Ballantrae Whisky is going to be available at £30 per bottle, from the Whisky Experience in Kirkoswald.

11 BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – LC

The hall remains closed with no access to the general public.

SAC are closely monitoring all communications, eg when the flower show communications were put on Facebook SAC were concerned that the hall might be in use. LC asked everyone to ensure that any communication makes it clear that the hall is not being used.

The hall has been painted inside, completed on 28.8.20. The floor into the main hall is being replaced from 7.9.20. Other areas of the hall are also to be painted.

The AGM is still to be arranged.

An enquiry has been received about purchasing the inflatable marquee and trailer.

SAC have said the hall will have to be deep-cleaned before the public can go back in; it is not known when this will be. AB said he would be happy to deep clean the electrical equipment; LC said it will all be arranged through SAC. Hand sanitation stations and other equipment will be installed.

12 HARBOUR COMMITTEE – No report apart from issue about bill already mentioned.

13 ARDSTINCHAR BRIDGE

MMcK saw a man walking over the bridge and climbing over the fence. CB is awaiting confirmation of his identity before sending any letter.

14 SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL – PH

PH reported he had met with the community planning board. During lockdown there has been a massive increase in domestic abuse from both a police and housing perspective. There has also been an increase in antisocial behaviour, eg house parties. There has not been so much trouble with young boys speeding in cars. The police have been doing a lot of community work.

The leadership panel will issue a new blue book for community councils. There will be no need for formal audits as long as a trusted independent person can audit the accounts.

SAC has stock piles of face masks which will be kept in schools. Hot meals will be reintroduced after the long weekend in September. Specialist teams are doing deep cleans as necessary, and there are plentiful stocks of hand sanitiser etc. Lots of work has been done to keep people safe.

A VAT refund of £2m has been received, £200-250k for each ward, for sport and leisure. Ballantrae has been identified as needing a running track around the park, and this has been allocated. Timing of this is not known as yet.

Ayrshire Roads Alliance have got people back to work and are employing sub-contractors to get up to speed. Two meetings have been held regarding the A77 and A75; the meetings included SAC, D&G Council, East Ayrshire Council, Stenaline, P&O, MSP's, and N. Irish transport companies. All MSPs have requested a meeting in parliament, which is being held shortly. Various companies are not putting on bigger ferries because the poor infrastructure would not support this. If this is allowed to continue the ferries will move to Liverpool and/or Heysham. The N. Irish politicians have been very supportive and have helped fund an Economic Impact Review.

Transerv no longer look after the roads, it is now AMAY, who have made a very impressive start with a quick response to problems. Gordon Coppard is the new contact in AMAY.

The Local Development Plan 2 has now been passed by SAC and will be submitted to Scottish Government tomorrow. This covers local planning for the next 5 years.

The sale of houses has increased in South Ayrshire. Work is going ahead for 3 major developments in the area, including one new development of over 400 houses.

Ayrshire Daily News has put out a story that South Ayrshire is in lockdown; this is absolutely not true. There are about 7 cases of Covid-19 in South Ayrshire at present.

MMcK asked about car parking at the end of Foreland/Vennel. This area is turning into a dumping ground for cars, and a caravan appears to have someone living in it. PH confirmed that motorhomes are not allowed to park overnight in car parks; this law has been in place for the last 30 years, and signs will be put up all over South Ayrshire. Caravan parks have reduced business when people park for free in car parks. It also creates rubbish in the form of broken bottles etc. Motorhomes should be using the correct facilities, however nothing can be done about a caravan which is not causing an obstruction. However, if someone is living in it something can be done, and PH will take this up tomorrow.

15 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

LH reported that someone has filled a gully at Parkend with turf; if there is a lot of rain the gully will be blocked. PH suggested that SEPA be contacted.

LH reported that the couple who had been living in the caravan on Onslow Place have now moved into the elderly gentleman's bungalow. CB asked if the tenant had the capacity to make a decision to allow them to live in it. LH said she had contacted housing, who said that if they have permission to be there nothing can be done. CB said the council have a duty of care towards the tenant to ensure he has capacity. The people in the house are saying they are looking after his dog, and say that the SSPCA have been and looked at the dog. CB will contact the housing office and PH will also speak to them.

LH thanked PH for getting the posts put in on the putting green. The putting green is full of rabbit holes at present.

CB reported that PH had received a letter from a resident on the Foreland regarding vehicles parked on the Foreland. PH and the police have spoken to the lady concerned regarding approaching people in vehicles; if there is a recurrence the police will take action. The land in question is owned by Robert Dalrymple; he would prefer vehicles do not spend overnight there, but does not mind them being there during the day.

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 29th September 2020