

Minutes of meeting of Ballantrae Community Council held on 28 February 2023
19:00

Sederunt: Mhairi McKenna (MMcK) (Chair); Laura Cunningham (LC); Sharon Adams (SA); John Campbell (JC); Kim Mawer (KM); Claire Erskine (CE); Sean McIlwraith (SM); Callum Macdonald (CM); Cllr Peter Henderson; John Hainey (JH), Brendan McIntyre; Donald Neil; Robert Dunlop.

Apologies:, Colin McNally, Police representative, Deborah Cassels (DC).

Minutes of meeting: 31 January 2023 approved, proposed SA, seconded SM.

Welcome

MMcK welcomed everyone to the meeting and handed over chair to LC due to her involvement in the first matter of the meeting.

Scotmid exterior painting

Donald Neil emailed the community council 23 February, requesting the following information:

- 1) logged complaints from residents re the colour of the Scotmid shop.
- 2) all minutes of correspondence between members to discuss what action should be taken if any.
- 3) copy of all correspondence with Scotmid.

Mr Neil was present at the meeting and further reiterated his concern over the community council involvement in the exterior paint colour of the Scotmid shop.

LC read out the following statement to the meeting on behalf of MMcK. The statement had been prepared in advance as there was doubt as to whether MMcK would be able to attend the meeting due to personal commitments.

Statement regarding Scotmid painting works, issued 28 February 2023.

It has come to the attention of the community council that conversations have been had in the village and on social media, as to community council's official involvement with regard to the exterior decoration of the Scotmid shop. Dr.

McKenna was approached by 5 members of the community expressing displeasure at the colour of the shop frontage. Dr. McKenna spoke informally to the contractors

at the shop in relation to this, informing them that the residents comments would be discussed at the next meeting on Tuesday 28/02/2023.

The following day, Sandy Watt, Development Project Manager for Scotmid, emailed Dr. McKenna with the following information:

“I have discussed the situation with our Property Manager and although we obtained approval from our landlord to change the colour to grey we have agreed to change the colour back to white. I have today instructed our contractors to repaint the walls in white and I hope that this is acceptable to the community in Ballantrae.”

No formal request was made by any member of Ballantrae community council for the exterior of the Scotmid shop to be painted white. No correspondence of any kind was had between members of the community council, in relation to this matter until after this was raised via email by Mr Donald Neil.

A discussion was held as to the legitimacy of the statement. Mr Neil called into question the accuracy of MMcKs report of the events surrounding the painting of the Scotmid shop. A further discussion was held including all parties. By way of a resolution and being independent of the original complaint, LC to investigate the events and correspondence into the Community Councils formal involvement in the exterior painting to the Scotmid shop.

At this point in the meeting chair was handed back to MMcK.

Matters arising

JC expressed his displeasure at the community council's inaction on the matter of Kings Arms closure and the lack of support for his motion to call a meeting with all interested parties. LC again reiterated JC proposal that the BCC approach The Ballantrae Trust and Bencom, including all current and former board members, along with all the individuals involved in the acquisition of the King's Arms pub to attend an open public meeting to discuss a way forward for the project. A vote was held to ascertain support for JC's proposal. The proposal was unanimously unsupported, therefore BCC will not be acting upon JC's proposal.

John Campbell; Donald Neil; Robert Dunlop; Callum Macdonald left the meeting at 19:45.

Police Report

There were 8 incidents raised within period 01/02/2023 to date of report 27/02/2023, with 2 crime report being raised in this period, which are subject to ongoing enquiries.

Incident breakdown

Theft: 2

Road Traffic Matters: 2

Planned Shoot: 1

Assist Member of the Public: 1

Dropped 999: 1

Vandalism: 1

PH reported that council should be receiving rural crime reports, LC to contact Sergeant Ben Legg to request the these reports are forwarded to BCC.

Treasurer's report - SA

General account balance £84.00 no change in the period.

Harbour account balance £1,887.40 no change in the period.

Community Benefit fund account:

Opening balance: £5,960.65

Closing balance: £5,960.65

Ballantrae Community fund account.

Opening balance: £2,907.55

Closing balance: £2,909.59

Change in the month: interest accrued.

Community Benefit Fund (Carrick Futures) - SA

Red squirrel preservation, request for food, diesel, traps and cameras £469.85, approved.

Ballantrae Community Fund - MMcK

No meeting in the period.

Applications to the Ballantrae education fund are now being accepted.

Carrick Futures and Kilgallioch

Carrick Futures, no meeting in the period.

Kilgallioch no meeting in the period.

Report from Ballantrae Trust - MMcK

KA/Bencom

“Five shareholders applied to join the management committee and because there are two members standing down at the AGM there will be no necessity for a vote. Due to the urgency of the situation the new people have started work already on exploring the viability of the Kings Arms and have in fact completed the first stage of their inquiries. More work has to be done before updating shareholders and the public of any developments but that will follow as soon as possible.”

Ballantrae Trust†

“The cosy place held on Mondays in the Kings Arms bis is continuing to be very popular. We are currently exploring two new projects aimed at improving the lives of local residents, with more information to follow next month. We have lost two members of the trust board recently and are keen to recruit new people with fresh ideas. If anyone is interested please either email the Ballantrae Trust or contact Garry Thomson or Sue Macdougall.”

MMcK confirmed that the BFFD will be held over the weekend 10-11 June and the festival has received very generous sponsorship from Glenapp Castle, they are offering a draw with every ticker purchased, for 1 nights bed and breakfast for the lucky winners.

Community Association MMcK

AGM to be held during March.

Harbour Committee – SM

SM is awaiting confirmation of a third quotation from another local company. Coastal communities grant fund is now open for applications with a closing date of 04/03/2023. LC to commence application and forward to MMcK for completion and submission.

Ardstinchar Bridge

MMcK has been informed by Alec Clark that there may be funding available to help with the repairs to the bridge which would enable pedestrian access.

South Ayrshire Council – PH

PH reported that the council budget is due to be set tomorrow 1 March, but there is a shortage which will need to be found. The motorhome overnight parking scheme has been extended for a further 12 months. Weekend bus services have been reduced due to a lack of drivers, PH will forward correspondence to MMcK for distribution. Monies have been raised/secured for a merchant navy war memorial, to commemorate all personnel who served in both the first and second world wars. The memorial will be sited in Girvan on the green adjacent to the harbour masters office. LC/MMcK to write a letter on behalf of the community council in support of the project.

Correspondence

John Campbell resignation letter received 3 February, full transcript included in the minutes at the request of John Campbell.

Good Morning Mhairi and Council Members,

Since my withdrawal from the above meeting, and after due consideration and thought, I feel that I have no option than to offer my resignation to the BCC, I would ask this post is included in the minutes of meeting. My Reasons, after proposing a motion of calling for a Public Meeting in regards of the Kings Arms, Pub and Hub project after, the share issue Minutes were published, I called on my fellow Councillors on a show of hands to back my motion. After discussions and debate my colleagues felt that they could not agree with the motion, which is their democratic right, that I would always back. The consensus of opinion was that after disruptive conduct at previous meetings of The Hub we would not be able to control the meeting. My answer to that was as the Community Council and the huge amount of Public Money granted for this project we would be failing in our duty to the Community by not seeking reasons and answers for the abject failure of this project, and the least we could expect is the architect and his associates be available to answer to the Community in an open and frank way. In my first term of service on BCC it was responsible for the hugely successful Food and Drink Festival, Smugglers Festival, Galas and other groups and it was achieved by all groups in our Community working together to maintain the Quality of living, and wellbeing for all villagers. Unity is much better than Division and it is my fear that unless the answers are provided, it will lead to more unpleasantness and division in our Community, which is very dear to my heart, we can only fix problems if we know

what they are, looking the other way and pretending The Kings Arms is not there is not an option.

I wish the BBC all the best in their efforts on behalf of the Community.

Kind Regards,

JC.

Any other business

MMcK requested all members read the latest issue of Ballantrae News as the information contained therein is extremely informative.

Date of next meeting will be March 28, 2023 at 19:00