

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2020 IN BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY CENTRE

1 SEDERUNT: Mhairi McKenna (MMcK (Chair); Alan Bell (AB); Carol Bell (CB); Linden Hunt (LH); John Hainey (JH); Cllr P Henderson (PH); Gwen Campbell (GC); Laura Cunningham (LC); Tom Davidson (TD); Susan Crosthwaite (SC). MMcK welcomed Cllr Peter Henderson.

2 APOLOGIES: Andy McAlpine; Police representatives

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

4 MATTERS ARISING

Biosphere – MMcK has spoken to Marie McNulty who has suggested that we obtain signs stating that Ballantrae is a biosphere village. As we are on the A77 this has to go through SAC, Transerv and Ayrshire Roads Alliance. PH said an application should be sent to Kevin Braidwood at ARA and the application will be processed very quickly.

Wood on Beach at the Foreland – the police have said there is nothing obviously criminal but they are happy to help to resolve the issue. It will depend on who owns the land. It may be worth contacting SEPA as the beach is an SSSI. SEPA and SAC are supposed to take the lead on these kind of matters. PH will also contact Scottish National Heritage. JH asked that the fly tipping signs be reinstated; PH suggested contacting environmental health who will re-erect the signs. Some goods have been dumped in a layby between Ballantrae and Lendalfoot; LH will report this to Tommy Howieson and get them uplifted.

The flashing traffic signs in the village are not always working. MMcK has been in touch with Transerv 3 times. JH said there are not enough police in marked cars monitoring speeding vehicles, as the large lorries are causing a lot of damage to the roads. PH said that when diversions are in place through Barrhill it costs a large amount of money to repair the damage as the road is not designed to carry such large vehicles.

MMcK thanked LH very much for organising the lovely Christmas lights. PH suggested putting in an application now for next year; CB said this is in hand. A larger amount will be asked for this year; PH said some of the other villages had also applied for windfarm money.

Ardstinchar Bridge – AB asked about the £0.5m needed to fix the bridge. JH said the bridge had been built by local labour then was looked after by various councils; SAC does not have historical documents on the internet. PH said the archives were temporarily moved to Auchincruive 2 years ago. A new archive will open this summer in Fort Street, Ayr. Copies of documents will be freely available. Communities and charities can apply to Scottish Heritage for funding. Historical Scotland may also grant funding. PH advised making the bridge part of a walking trail and cycling route. Mike Newell, SAC, dealt with the original report which will be available. AB suggested contacting Ballantrae Trust to get help with funding applications. CB will put this on the agenda for the next Trust meeting.

5 POLICE REPORT

In the period 26.11.19 – 10.1.20 there were 17 incidents in Ballantrae, 7 road traffic, 1 theft, 3 disturbances, 6 other. Officers have been carrying out speed checks and vehicle checks, 7 drivers were warned and one issued with a fixed penalty notice.

PH attended a briefing recently; the police are trialling a new triage system which should improve response times. It has been trialled in Dumfries and Stirling, and will be rolled out to more areas. Contact Assessment Module Scotland for more information.

6 TREASURER'S REPORT - AB

AB reported he is unable to get statements from the bank. The accounts are now with the Trust accounts and cannot be separated. A request to change the address for bank statements has been submitted, with no response. The

accounts are also linked with AB's personal accounts. AB asked for approval to take the BCC accounts out of RBS and be moved to another bank of BCC's choice. This has now been going on since June 2019. CB suggested asking the Post Office what services they offer; it is not possible any more to open an account with the Post Office. AB will make one last attempt at sorting it out with RBS. If this is unsuccessful an account will be opened with another bank. It has not been possible yet to apply for the £600 grant from SAC. Minutes etc need to be submitted with appropriate application.

7 COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND – no applications

8 CARRICK FUTURES, BCF, KILGALLIOCH

Carrick Futures – meeting held last week; no Ballantrae applications.

BCF – no meeting

Kilgallioch – meeting this month, along with AGM.

9 BALLANTRAE TRUST - CB

Information is going into the Stinchar Valley Magazine, along with questions and answers, about the potential purchase of the Kings Arms Hotel. The first priority would be continuing the business by providing a pub and food, and making the building more accessible. MMcK said that PH had written a very warm letter of support for the project. Any development should not take away from use of the community centre and the BRICC house. It is not foreseen there will be any issues with planning. GC asked if there will be public consultation regarding the way the Kings Arms will be run. PH said that other villages going through this are having public meetings as the plan develops. The development is to start in a gradual way around what the community wants. Hopefully if a profit is made plans will develop, eg for functions, training events, etc. PH said that mental health issues are often exacerbated by rural isolation, and such a project is of huge value.

Standing stones in the area of the cemetery road were removed by a farmer some time ago, and they will need some work done to reinstate them. CB suggested that the Trust takes this on. SC asked where they would be sited. It was suggested this could be linked in to the development of trails, and perhaps have a ceremony if the stones were resited. PH said that Scottish Heritage may want them to go back to the original site if they were helping with funding, but if they are on private land any decision regarding them would have to involve the landowner. Planning permission would be required to resite the stones. JH said that the sites of standing stones are plotted on Ordnance Survey maps.

Smugglers' Festival – planning ongoing.

10) BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – LC

The fireworks which were postponed in November will be held on Bonfire Night this year.

£363 was raised from the craft fair.

Over 60 children attended the Christmas party.

The hall booking system is being tweaked. No booking will be confirmed until payment is received. All bookings need to go through the Bookings Secretary Stacey Stewart and not through the hallkeeper. The booking form will be amended accordingly.

AGM will be held on 26.3.20 at 7.15pm. LC will be standing down as Chair and Stacey Stewart will stand down as Treasurer. Information will be circulated in the Stinchar Valley Magazine detailing this, and advertising the need for these posts to be filled. If there is no Community Association the hall will revert back to SAC. CB asked if there is a lot of work involved. LC said that without the events there is not a great deal of work, but if it involves organising the gala etc there is a lot more work. There was an events committee which no longer exists. PH said funding is still available for the gala. MMcK asked if the trainee development officer could be involved. LC said it should be someone independent of the trust. PH said that communities drive what goes forward, and it is vital there is a Community Association and a Community Council.

AB reported that there is now a full insurance policy for equipment through Zurich.

11 HARBOUR COMMITTEE – No report

12 ARDSTINCHAR BRIDGE – Already discussed

13 SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL – PH

Budget – no budget has been set by central government yet. Cuts will be needed again, but the extent of the cuts are not yet known. There have been cuts for 10 years in council budgets. A decision will have to be made about council tax. More information will come out in the next week or so.

Closure of Station 15 (Oncology) at Ayr Hospital – there is petition against this, and PH urged people to sign it. It would have a huge impact on distance travelled by cancer patients if Station 15 closes.

Crown estate property - last week SAC received £98,000 and coastal communities can apply for funding. SAC will receive funding every year from the profits from crown estate properties; the amount is dependent on what the profits are.

Rural Forum will be held in Symington next time.

Clauchie Windfarm is in final stage of planning.

LDP2 is to be subject to more consultation prior to release.

A77 and A75 are to be improved, also consideration to be given to a rail link between Carlisle and Stranraer/Cairnryan.

Glenapp has got planning permission to redevelop the castle.

Seascope AGM – PH attended. They have a befriending service and have found that 98% of offenders who are befriended do not reoffend. They also help with a deposit scheme for accommodation.

Spring Back is going from strength to strength for anti-bullying, and their website is up and running.

LH asked why doggie bags are in flat packs as they blow out of the box. If they were on a roll system this would not happen.

14 CORRESPONDENCE – as circulated.

15 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

LH said there is a caravan on Assel Place with someone living in it. PH said that caravans are not a licensed vehicle and if it is not causing an obstruction on the road there is nothing that can be done. PH said that if there are any issues around what is happening in the caravan the police should be informed.

LH said that Lynn Neild had applied for funding for signs for the Foreland. John Greenhill had a quote accepted but has not done the work. CB agreed to write a letter to him asking about the work, giving a deadline of 25.2.20.

LH asked if there has been any progress on the work needed on the footpath. PH suggested contacting Gregor Scobie at SAC about this.

Susan Crosthwaite asked if BCC would be objecting to Clauchie Windfarm, and requested that they do so. This is a huge area which will infringe on all the wildlife, and will link up with existing and proposed windfarms. There is often too much on the grid and it goes to Ireland. PH said any objection should be considered carefully as SPR is offering benefits to communities. JH said that wind power is the cleanest and most efficient way of producing electricity; SC disputed this statement. It was agreed that the information from SC should be made available to the public.

TD said that BRICC had applied for funding in August 2019 and were told an application form had to be filled in; this was submitted months ago and they have not heard anything. MMcK asked that it be resubmitted; this will be done.

JH said there had been complaints from elderly residents about tractors coming out of a field onto the A77 and making a mess with stones etc. PH asked that Transerv be informed and for it to be cleared

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 25 February 2020