

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

Sederunt: Mhairi McKenna (MMcK) (Chair); Laura Cunningham (LC); Deborah Cassels (DC); Sharon Adams (SA); Kim Mawer (KM); Claire Erskine (CE); Sean McIlwraith (SM); Callum Macdonald (CM); Cllr Peter Henderson; John Hainey (JH); Martin McCourt; Calum McDonald (CMcD); James King; John Cowieson (JC).

Apologies:, Colin McNally, Police representative.

Minutes of meeting: 28 February 2023 approved, proposed SA, seconded SM.

Welcome

MMcK welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Matters arising

PH reminded all present of the promised letter of support, LC promised to have the letter sent as a matter of urgency.

Police Report

There were 8 incidents raised within the period 26/02/23 to 28/03/23, with 1 crime report being created from these incidents. The crime report raised within this period remains under investigation.

Incident breakdown:

Vehicle Crime: 1

Assist Member of the Public: 2

Planned Shoot: 1

Road Traffic Matters: 1

Alarm: 1

Dropped 999:1

Communications: 1

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: £4,894.20

All 3 recent grants have now been drawn down.

Ballantrae Community fund account.

Opening balance: £2,909.59

Closing balance: £2,911.20

Change in the month: interest accrued.

Community Benefit Fund (Carrick Futures) - SA

Ballantrae primary parent council for outdoor playground supplies £243.59 x 2, approved.

Ballantrae 2nd Ayrshire Scout group to fund Coronation celebrations £250.00, 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, next meeting 18 April.

Kilgallioch no meeting in the period, next meeting 5 April.

Report from Ballantrae Trust - MMcK

KA/Bencom

Repairs are ongoing to the building including replacing guttering to the front elevation.

Early indications are that pub will hopefully be reopening during May.

Ballantrae Trust†

Sue McDougal has made enquiries with Cllr Alec Clark and neighbourhood services to try to source new tennis post and nets, PH confirmed that these works will be going ahead in the next financial year.

Community Association MMcK

AGM is now due to be held during 3 May. MMcK to confirm with BCA if they are the umbrella group for the gala which is being arranged for 1 July.

Harbour Committee – SM

SM is received third quotation and an application to the Coastal communities grant fund was submitted on 5 March. The application was unsuccessful on this occasion due to fund being oversubscribed. MMcK suggested applying to an alternative grant funder for the funding, this will need to be investigated further. SM requested remedial works to clear the channel, approx. cost of £200. It was agreed that this could be funded through the Carrick Futures small grant fund, SM to complete the grant application.

Traffic within the village - DC

DC read an update of all the ongoing traffic issues within the village; details included below:

Communication from:

NL: Neil Lang, Area Manager (South West), Roads Directorate, Transport Scotland

SL: Stewart Leggett, Interim Director of Roads, Transport Scotland

1. Pedestrian and Traffic Surveys:

NL 13/03: We can confirm that the cables are in place to measure traffic flows and speeds. †

NL 23/03: Following my email yesterday, we would like to apologise for the confusion around the placement of the planned survey equipment, however, the need for urgent works at the bridge came about and have affected the survey as you have correctly pointed out.

As a result, Amey are rearranging the speed surveys as a matter of urgency. There is a meeting today to plan the dates for these and we will let you know when these are planned.

NL 24/03: Amey advise me that the cameras video all of the pedestrian movements.

†A tracking of each user showing where they cross the road is then analysed and this provides Amey with a picture of the most common crossing points. An analysis of this information enables Amey to assess where a pedestrian crossing facility can be safely located.

2. 40mph speed restriction South of village, raised in 2019, status 'archived'? This supersedes our original request for 30mph from Lagganhouse and Garleffin junctions.

SL 13/03: The following traffic objections were received

- 1 Reduce opportunities to overtake slower moving vehicles safely;
- 2 Increase journey times;
- 3 Increase driver frustration;
- 4 Not providing major improvement to the A77;
- 5 Have a negative economic impact for Stranraer;

BCC response to the Traffic Order objections:

BCC finds the objections rather puzzling, vague and irrelevant, given the start and end of the traffic order, which only covers the hilly windy part of the road south of Ballantrae, i.e., the dangerous part.

Reducing speed on this part to 40mph (which HGVs have a statutory duty to follow anyway) will not have any impact on journey times/driver frustration/overtaking/ or economic impact for Stranraer (?). Rather, the impact will be one of traffic safety, which is the intention of the original order statement. If HGV drivers are exceeding the statutory speed limit on this road in order to reduce journey times etc, then surely this is not acceptable.

Note: This order is currently sitting with a status of 'archived', are we sure it is going through the 'order process'? If not, BCC will re-instate our original request for expanding the 30mph limit to include the Lagganhouse and Garleffin turn-offs.

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-order/a77-trunk-road-auchencrosh-to-ballantrae-40mph-speed-limit-order-2019/>

3. Request for 'Your Speed Is' signs:

SL 17/10/2022: Ballantrae has several 30 SLOW down Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (VAS) and there is no intention of changing these to another form of VAS which would not be approved in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD). These regulations set out the design of official traffic signs that can be used on or near roads. The signs which show 'your speed is signs' are not approved in the TSRGD.

4. Request for 30mph signs for Garleffin:

BCC January Mtg: representative from Ayrshire Roads Alliance said he would look into providing these. DC to follow up with ARA and include Foreland and Mains Road potholes, and car park.

5. Road Closures and Insufficient signage:

DC to raise at transport mtg on April 28th.

6. Speed Watch:

At speed gun demo on 23rd January, we decided that BCC would be interested in this. We have since received similar interest from Girvan. DC to request that Sergeant Ben Legge approach all affected communities on A77: Lendalfoot, Girvan, Turnberry, Kirkoswald, Minishant? DC to progress this at next transport mtg. Request for other volunteers to be trained.

7. Recent Bridge Survey:

DC to request survey findings and summary.

8. **Next mtg** with MSP, Transport Scotland, Police, Amey proposed 28th April.

Ardstinchar Bridge

No change since last period.

South Ayrshire Council – PH

PH reported there are to be more road closures due to felling of ash dieback affected trees. SAC have completed a survey which have identified 27,000 trees within SAC due to be felled. Ayrshire and Arran health board (AAHB) are undergoing a consultation to centralise cancer services to Cross House hospital, due to number of factors including staffing and funding. AAHB are also considering closing the ICU unit at Ayr hospital and again centralising this to Cross House Hospital. PH urged all present to complete the online consultation. PH is still hoping to have the Merchant Navy memorial in Girvan completed for Merchant Navy Day which takes place in September. Girvan Folk festival is being held over the weekend 28 April to 1 May. SC are holding a variety of events this month and over the coming months to assist local business including encouraging local contractors and businesses to apply to join the SAC approved contactors list. There have been numerous improvement project carried out in Girvan to improve the area around the prom, playpark and boating lake in time for the new tourism season.

Correspondence

James King and John Cowieson attended the meeting to report on proposed closures of Coastguard stations. Both Ballantrae and Port Patrick Coastguard stations are scheduled to be closed within the next 18 to 24 months. JC reported that HMCG have stated that the closures are not due to a cut in funding and are not due to cost cutting exercise. All

present at the meeting were in support of the retention of the HMCG station and committed to help the Ballantrae CG volunteers in their campaign to fight the closure of this indispensable local life saving service.

LC requested resignation letter be included in the meeting minutes:

Dear Mhairi,

Further to our conversation on Friday 24 March, I am writing to confirm my intention to stand down from Ballantrae Community Council at the end of meeting on 28 March 2023.

It has been my great privilege to serve on the Ballantrae CC for the last 4 years. I have in that period learnt a great deal about both the local community and the operation of grassroots democracy. It has broadly been a positive and fulfilling experience. There have, of course, been many challenges over this period, the vast majority of which have been overcome with a professional and courteous approach from all involved.

I have always taken my community council responsibilities very seriously and unfortunately, in recent times, some issues have come to the community council which have diverted our monthly meetings and have spilled over into my home life, becoming all-consuming for significant periods of time. More importantly these issues have distracted the community council and its members from its otherwise excellent work. This has not caused but it has undoubtedly hastened my decision to step down.

Having said this, my primary motivation for stepping down is that I have recently retrained and started a new career which is not 9 – 5 and takes up significant time in the evening. In addition, I have reviewed my priorities and have resolved that I want to step back from several of the volunteer roles which I have previously undertaken.

I wish you all the best for the future and will remain an interested observer from outside of the council.

Yours sincerely

Laura

LC reported an update re Scotmid exterior painting. LC has made several attempts to contact Sandy Watt Development Project Manager for Scotmid, with no success. BCC have received several communications from Donald Neil during the month, all via Facebook messenger requesting a copy of the statement read out during the February meeting. LC has replied to these messages explaining that the statement would not be released until the minutes of the February BCC meeting were approved at the March meeting. Mr Neil was unsatisfied as to this response. In the final communication received from Mr Neil had threatened to lodge a formal complaint against BCC for unprofessional conduct. PH reported that he had also received email communication for Mr Neil expressing his dissatisfaction with both BCCs handling of the Scotmid painting matter and PHs own defence of BCC during the February meeting. Mr Neil also threatened to lodge a formal complaint against Cllr Henderson. A discussion was held into the matter. It was agreed that as there is no evidence as to BCCs formal involvement in the changing of the exterior painting colour of the shop and that it was not a matter in which BCC has any influence the matter should be brought to a close.

Email received from a Girvan resident expressing interest in CC work regarding speeding through the village and wanting to work towards a joined-up approach including all communities along the A77 DC to reply.

Any other business

BCC Facebook page be removed at the end of the meeting as it linked to LC's personal Facebook account.

Community council section of Ballantrae website to be updated by CMcD

MMcK requested a volunteer to take over as minutes secretary, due to LC's resignation, all asked to consider taking on the position.

MK asked if there had been updated correspondence regarding the latest skip in the village regarding inappropriate waste. As yet nothing has been received.

CE asked for an update on the restarting of a youth group, she believes that there is an

overriding need for social interacting for secondary aged children. PH suggested speaking to Jamie Tait at Thriving Communities and Scott Mulholland assistant director of education.

PH confirmed that the motorhome overnight parking scheme is to return to Ballantrae Vennel car park this year between April and September.

MMcK reported that there has been additional development at Laggan House caravan park, PH stated that these alterations have been checked by planning and they fall within their current allowed development numbers.

Date of next meeting will be April 25, 2023 at 19:00