

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 25 MAY 2021 VIA 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: Tom Davidson; John Hainey; Gwen Campbell; Colin McNally

3 MINUTES: Approved, proposed by LH and seconded by AB.

4 MATTERS ARISING

PH said the first two seasonal rangers started last week; hopefully another 4 will start next week. Recruitment was not easy. PH said that hospitality is struggling at present, and some building materials (eg wood, cement etc) are in short supply

Letter to the Foreland resident re camper vans: MMcK had composed a letter and wanted the CC to read it prior to sending it. LC said she has some proposed changes which she will email to MMcK, and the letter will be slightly revised and sent.

Glenapp Castle Hotel is now open for meals and there is a speeding issue on the road up to the hotel. PH said this is in hand, but will take considerable time to resolve.

The rabbits are still on the putting green. CB has asked for help from a local farmer.

Trial for camper vans overnight stays has started in Girvan and Ayr. It will hopefully then be rolled out to other areas. There have been 12 complaints in Ayr, so it may have to be reconsidered if this becomes an issue.

AB reported that no bill has been received for the work at the harbour. Account balance unchanged. A small bill has been received for rates. Planning permission may be required for the concrete steps going down to the harbour. Ownership of the basin of the harbour will be clarified. PH suggested applying to the Coastal Regeneration Fund and also the Crown Estate Fund. CB will follow this up.

5 POLICE REPORT: No report received. PH had raised the issue of reports today and it is being dealt with. MMcK will email Chief Inspector Brian Anderson.

6 TREASURER'S REPORT – AB

Harbour account unchanged.

Current account balance £6574.87. One small grant application is still to be paid, for football nets etc (£273.84); a cheque will be paid shortly. £300 has been paid to Lorraine O'Hare for work on the toilets and putting up a notice board.

Savings account balance £1447.86. £5800 was transferred to Foundation Scotland which includes the transfer charge. One cheque is still to come in from SAC for administration, for £213.88.

7 COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

AB reported this money consists of funds which we receive from wind farms etc. It goes into the savings account and is paid back out to Foundation Scotland. It is usually about £60000. Foundation Scotland charge 12% to administer the funds, at a cost of about £6000-7000. AB said that he felt if we administer the money ourselves as the BenComm do this would cost considerably less. It costs BenComm about £150 per month. LC said her understanding is that the money is not for administration of the £60,000, but is for facilitating the grant applications and all the work this involves. LC thought this would take up a considerable amount of time, and expressed concern that people may not have the time or knowledge to take on this task. PH said that one other organisation administers money themselves, and he thought it did not work out much cheaper, if any at all. The group is North Carrick Community Benefit. AB said he felt it would perhaps encourage other members of the community to get involved. MMcK asked if a Zoom meeting with the North Carrick Community Benefit group could be arranged. LC asked that our legal obligation with SPR be checked as she thought there may be a clause stating that an independent facilitator be appointed to administer the grant applications. PH said the contact at NCCB is Stuart Lindsey, and he passed on email details.

8 BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY FUND – MMcK

A meeting was held on 10.5.21. Paula Stamford-Marsh is a new recruit. Lynn Young is not continuing as she is moving out of the village.

Grant applications: £10,000 awarded to the Kings Arms for improvements; Ballantrae Trust awarded £3163.20 for playpark equipment.

Discussion about the village development plan has been postponed until next meeting as further discussions needed.

More members of the panel are being recruited.

As there were only 2 grant applications this time adverts will be put in various places.

An annual report is being sent to SPR and Foundation Scotland.

LC asked how many panel members there are, as 4 are leaving and there is only one new member at present. CB will pass on the names of any interested people to MMcK.

9 CARRICK FUTURES AND KILGALLIOCH

Carrick Futures – LC reported that the last meeting was on 21.4.21. No applications were from Ballantrae. There were only 3 applications. People are not planning events etc so there is not much drive for funding. Hopefully this will improve in the next few months.

Kilgallioch – MMcK reported that a meeting was held on 4.5.21. No local applications, apart from one from Girvan Youth Trust for £10,000, which was approved.

10 BALLANTRAE TRUST – CB

The Kings Arms is now leased to the BenComm. The minimum target of raising £35,000 in shares has been reached, and is now around the £50,000 mark, with over 180 investors. The pub has now progressed to opening indoors on Friday night,

Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. A covid safe system is working. The licensing people visited today to sort out technical issues. The license was transferred from Brian Stirling. A temporary manager has been appointed. He does not yet have a licence but this is being processed at present. A lot of redecoration has been done. A new woodburning stove has been installed. The environmental health people also visited today. They are happy with things so far; they will be contacted again prior to food being served. BenComm will be advertising for a permanent manager. PH suggested advertising the pub on the SAC web page. Work is being done on disability access facilities. AB reported that a passing motorcyclist had given excellent feedback. CB said that very good feedback has also been received from local people. CB added that events such as theatre productions etc can hopefully be planned. PH suggested contacting the Gaiety Theatre in Ayr regarding this.

The Ballantrae Festival of Food and Drink is coming together slowly and will open on 12.6.21, which is World Gin Day. Local businesses have been asked if they want to place adverts. Funding has been received from the Government Recovery Fund. An advert for the pub will be put on the virtual event, along with adverts for Glenapp Castle Hotel, Pebbles Spa, etc.

11 BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - LC

Halls can open from 17.5.21, but guidelines are in place which mean the groups probably cannot meet.

The AGM will be held; LC is standing down. PH said that rules for meetings etc will change from 2.6.21, then more major changes on 21.6.21, if nothing worsens.

12 HARBOUR

Already discussed. It was agreed that a survey of the harbour be done, and that John McIlwraith be asked to do this.

13 ARDSTINCHAR BRIDGE – No change. MMcK has contacted Historical Scotland. PH suggested contacting Colin Love at SAC.

14 SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL - PH

Councillor surgeries – guidance is awaited as to when these can restart, probably end of July.

Work commences next week on speed limit signs in the villages, and will be completed by the end of July.

Specialist full-time courses have been set up for decommissioning aircraft, and hopefully jobs will result from this.

Station Hotel, Ayr – application was thrown out.

A physical activity and sports strategy will be published.

A new police strategy is being taken forward, and is already having positive effects on drug use etc.

Covid19 recovery plan was passed today. Services are at 87% recovery.

The track in the park has been completed and is being used.

A junior pipe band has been started in Girvan; the person who runs it is retiring and a replacement is being sought.

A Regulatory Panel meeting will be held next week – Bennane Shore have an application for more caravans.

There will be additional funding for play activity over the summer. There will also be funding opportunities for training, and the Kings Arms could potentially be used as a training hub.

15 CORRESPONDENCE – As circulated

MMcK has received a poster from SAC advertising how to get advice on various topics etc. The poster may fit into the notice board at the hall, or in the hall, surgery or pub.

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LH asked why the putting green is not open. MMcK said it is because of the damage done by the rabbits.

LH asked if any work is being planned for the footpath, which she has asked about for the past 3 years; surely the path can be reinstated. Can BCC please take this on, as a local resident has had a bad fall on the path. CB said that someone has been asked to look at the path; she agreed with LH that something should be done. PH suggested making the path accessible.

LH said she had spoken to PH about the piece of rough ground near Onslow Place. LH has done work on this piece of ground and planted wild flower seeds. Last week weedkiller was applied to the ground, despite LH arranging with SAC that no weedkiller would be applied.

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 29 June 2021