

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 2021

1 SEDERUNT: Mhairi McKenna (MMcK) (Chair); Laura Cunningham (LC); Cllr Peter Henderson (PH); John Hainey (JH); Sean McIlwraith (SMcI); Dave Langton (DL); Helen Bagliss (HB); Shirley McIlwraith; Lynn Young (Minutes Secretary)

2 APOLOGIES: Carol Bell; Alan Bell; Colin McNally; Gwen Campbell; Police representatives

3 MINUTES: Amendment: Harbour iron work has not been checked yet; this will be reviewed. Approved by SMcI and seconded by LC.

4 MATTERS ARISING

MMcK has spoken to Robert Dalrymple about the camper vans on the foreland. He is agreeable to 3 signs saying “no overnight parking” being erected along the Foreland if BCC pay for them. Shirley McIlwraith said she does not agree with this as camper vans have been coming to the village all her life. HB said there have been a lot more this year; Shirley McIlwraith pointed out that this is due to covid and has probably helped the mental health of people who have had nowhere else to go. PH said dog fouling has been a particular problem over the last 18 months. The laws around this are complex; there are 1785 unpaid fines for it within SAC. The law is hopefully being changed to make it easier to enforce the fine. DL said that a lot of the people in camper vans have dogs, and the problem is mainly caused by them. PH said he categorically disagreed with this as it is a universal problem everywhere. He added that there are a lot of motorhomes in Scotland and they should be encouraged to support tourism. The trail will hopefully be extended to more areas to expand the number of designated motorhome locations. No-one is allowed to park overnight in a layby or car park; this includes motorhomes and caravans. JH said the articulated lorries continually do this. PH said the police are stretched at present, particularly with COP26. MMcK will discuss the signs with Robert Dalrymple.

5 POLICE REPORT

PH reported he had attended the Carrick Speedwatch meeting held last night. Volunteers would operate speed guns; the volunteers would be from within local communities. There will be safety regulations set up around this. People may rotate around the area. Training will be given by the police. A criminal history check will be done. The frequency of the checks would be decided by the communities. Most of the villages now have 20mph speed limits. Initial cost would be £2200 for the gun and £1000 for high visibility jackets, with an extra £215 for calibration of the guns and public liability insurance. MMcK said there is a meeting of BCA next week and it could be publicised that way. PH said that it is recommended that 3 people would operate together. The police need evidence of speed problems; they tend to be worse in mornings or evenings. If all 12 communities sign up costs could be shared and various funding sources could be used. MMcK will pass the information on to the Chair of BCA. PH said that people in local communities are aware of where the problems are. Information will also go onto the notice board in the shop and community centre, and also on the website and through the church.

6 TREASURER’S REPORT – MMcK

Savings account - £1662

BCC account - £5702.73

Harbour account – as last month

Putting green has been closed for the winter. There was £233 in the box; 50% of this will go to the green keeper Billy Galloway. The putting green is owned by Robert Dalrymple; SAC cut the grass. The grass has not been treated to improve the quality. There has also been a rabbit problem. The rabbit trapper will be asked to assist with this. PH suggested contacting Fiona Ross at SAC regarding the state of the grass.

7 COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND - MMcK

An application had been received from the playpark sub group of Ballantrae Trust. This is for improvements which would benefit everyone who uses the park and improve the general overall appearance. The youth group had identified pieces of equipment they would like to have in the park. The total cost is £4014, and they are short of £800, so are applying for £500. LC asked if the other funding had come from Carrick Futures, in which case an application cannot be put in for a small grant. It is thought the funding came from Ballantrae Community Fund. The equipment is now in the park. Application was made on 5.8.21. LC asked how many times the playpark sub group has applied to the Community Benefit Fund and suggested they should be applying for a larger amount.

Arran Avenue Neighbours – Ballantrae Trust are applying for early Christmas decorations to decorate the area. The reason for the early decorations is that one of the residents is terminally ill. £200 has been requested. The group is not constituted. PH said that SAC have a fund especially for Christmas lights in the villages. LC said that applications have to adhere to the regulations. She suggested that BCC sponsor the application and receive receipts for the lights. MMcK will contact Sue McDougall to request that receipts are presented; the cost will then be reimbursed.

8 BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY FUND – MMcK

No meeting. A meeting will be held next week.

9 CARRICK FUTURES AND KILGALLIOCH

Carrick Futures – LC reported that a meeting was held on 6.10.21. There were no applications from Ballantrae. AGM will be held next week. LC gave a brief summary of Carrick Futures' role.

Kilgallioch – MMcK reported that there was a meeting last night. Applications will be assessed in early December. There is a possibility £2000 will be available for each village in the area. This will allow groups to apply for small grants.

10 BALLANTRAE TRUST – MMcK

There has been a meeting in October.

The pub is up and running under BenComm and is doing well. Further repairs to the floor in the public bar and back doors.

Ballantrae Festival of Food and Drink will hopefully be held as a hybrid event next summer. Funding is being applied for. It is still possible a live event may not be able to be held, if covid numbers continue to increase.

It is hoped films and other events can restart in the hall. The Gaiety theatre is organising a performance in the hall

11 BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

AGM was held on 15.10.21. Rebecca Agnew is Chair, John Thorburn is Secretary and Paula Sandford-Marsh is Treasurer.

12 HARBOUR

SMcI reported that a rock is being moved around at the entrance to the harbour and it now needs to be properly put back in place. Gordon Hyslop will be asked to give an estimate of how much the work would cost. LC said that the deadline for application to Carrick Futures is 9.11.21; she will try to get an extension. SMcI thinks there is now a better way of securing the rocks.

13 ARDSTINCHAR BRIDGE

MMcK stated that funding of £0.5m is being sought. PH suggested making it part of a heritage trail and applying to Historic Scotland for funding. JH said the bridge is dangerous underneath and needs looked at; it is being affected by the current flow of the river. PH said that the area under the bridge is on private ground.

14 SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL – PH

It has been agreed that community council elections will take place in January 2022.

There has been a lot of change in staffing within South Ayrshire Council.

Remembrance Sunday will take place in Ballantrae and Heronsford; PH will arrange wreaths. Girvan and Maybole will have limited parades.

Funding application for A77 is still awaiting decision. Further applications have been agreed for other projects.

The hospitality industry is struggling to get staff, also health and safety. A high number of SAC staff are off work either with covid or due to isolating. SAC are no longer holding face to face meetings.

309 houses were affected by the explosion in Ayr. 4 people were rescued; they are all in hospital in serious or critical condition. An enquiry is taking place. Everyone has been rehoused that needed to be. Hopefully a conclusion will be reached this week. There is a mixture of private and council houses. SAC staff have been tremendous during this crisis.

The unions have called for industrial action within SAC to negotiate a pay rise. The Scottish government say there is no money; the unions disagree. NHS and social care are also struggling.

Budget consolidation started today. Since 2010 the budget has decreased every year. Most of the funding comes from central government and only 22% is not ringfenced for health and social care, education, etc. £2.72m has to be found by SAC.

The £20 cut in Universal Credit and the end of furlough means that there are now people who cannot pay their bills. There is also shortage of items in shops. Building supplies are also in short supply.

SAC has been very successful in attracting new companies to Prestwick. These companies will provide a large number of jobs. 147 local companies are also in the supply chain, thereby creating more jobs. Aircraft decommissioning is being carried out, with the whole aircraft being recycled; 52 people are on the first course for this.

Burns House in Ayr has been demolished and the area is already looking better. 97% of the building was recycled.

Council elections will be held in April/May 2022.

15 CORRESPONDENCE – As circulated

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - None

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 30 November 2021