

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2020 ON "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; Gwen Campbell; John Hainey. It was suggested that tutorials may be of assistance to people not familiar with technology.

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

4 MATTERS ARISING

LC reported that only two of the signs on the Foreland have been replaced. LH said there are 4 signs, two at the harbour, one at the putting shed and one at the bottom of Shore Road. Two of these signs were not renewed.

PH responded to issues about the caravan. There was someone living in it but they may have moved into the house. Housing have checked and permission for this has been given by the current tenant.

5 POLICE REPORT – No report

It was agreed that it would be helpful to receive a written report from the police. MMcK will request this.

PH said he has had a very positive meeting with the new Chief Superintendent who will be based in Ayr. At present there are 3 police officers in Maybole and 2 in Girvan, during the day.

6 TREASURER'S REPORT - AB

No change since last month in account balances.

Andy McAlpine had applied for funding for Ballantrae News. This was approved unanimously.

A new editor is being sought at present; A McAlpine will continue in the interim.

7 BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY FUND

A meeting is being held in the next couple of weeks.

8 CARRICK FUTURES – No meeting

9 KILGALLIOCH

A meeting is being held in the next couple of weeks.

10 BALLANTRAE TRUST - CB

The purchase of the Kings Arms Hotel went through last week. There are regular groups who use the pub, eg a regular Friday night group, a crochet group, a knitting group, pub quiz, etc. These groups are going to meet as a trial initially. The quiz teams may have to be rearranged to allow for social distancing.

The hotel is in generally good condition but some work needs to be done, eg carpet cleaning.

Grant Steel from the Chestnuts Hotel in Ayr is mentoring the project and is allowing his chef to assist with the menu.

The share offer is being registered under "Ballantrae Community Pub", as the word "King" cannot be used.

MMcK spoke about the difficulties encountered with transferring funds for the project. AB said a cheque had been written by the Trust for the stock, and the communication to check security had gone to AMcA; this had caused great delays.

PH is now Chair of Ayrshire Growth; part of the remit is community wealth building. One of the ideas put forward is a community bank. This is between North, East and South Ayrshire. There is a bank in Girvan but very little bank access elsewhere apart from Ayr.

PH suggested that various groups be encouraged to meet in the pub. Most of the village halls are not big enough to allow for social distancing.

CB said she would be happy to help out if a driver for the community bus was needed. PH agreed this would be very useful in conjunction with Colmonell.

Ballantrae Whisky is selling very well. There is a display case in the pub which could be used for sales, and the sweetie shop in Girvan is also willing to help sell any items. The Whisky Experience are not willing to do miniature bottles of whisky, only full sized bottles.

Ballantrae Gin is awaiting collection, MLM will go when travel is allowed round the country.

The final weekend in September was a food and drink festival in Aldeburgh...and it was given the go ahead. The reason was gazebos, so it could be classified outside.

11 BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – LC

The hall remains closed. PH said some of the halls have been open for early years etc. It is hoped that if the Covid stats do not get any worse in this area the halls may be allowed to partially open, although the rules are changing on an almost daily basis.

The trailer for the inflatable marquee has been sold; the marquee is in the process of being sold.

The work on the hall floor has been completed; the floor looks great.

SAC are going back in to complete the decorating. LC has asked that her thanks be passed on to the decorating company who have done an excellent job. PH said most of the staff are SAC employees, including 3 apprentices.

LH asked if WRVS equipment could be retrieved from under the stage in the hall; LC said that no-one can go in, but Roy the hallkeeper could retrieve the items. PH said that any council employee wearing PPE could retrieve items.

12 HARBOUR COMMITTEE – No report; bill has not been received yet.

13 ARDSTINCHAR BRIDGE

The gentleman referred to previously is still cutting back ivy etc. CB said she has written a letter but has had no response. LC said he has also been strimming the area. PH stated that if the gentleman gets injured BCC have done their best to warn him of the dangers. Ayrshire Roads Alliance say the area under the bridge is not their responsibility. CB had stated in her letter that there are warning signs and there is a potential that more damage could be done. Robert Dalrymple is the landowner and has not taken any action.

14 SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL – PH

PH reported there will be a full council meeting on 1.10.20. Public access to meetings is being considered.

With Bonfire Night approaching there can be no mass gatherings. Christmas lights will be erected. Hopefully Remembrance Sunday services in the villages will be able to go ahead, as there are not usually large groups of people. Guidance is being issued.

The new blue book will be issued to all community councils and hopefully publication will be at the end of October.

Projects are now being pushed forward, eg work on roads before the bad weather comes in. Sub-contractors are being used to catch up. House building projects are ahead of target; there is pressure on housing due to covid and domestic abuse. Extra funding has been given to Women's Aid. An extension is being built onto the refuge.

The Ayr to Stranraer coastal route is being targeted, along with other walking and cycling routes connecting all the villages.

MMcK asked what timescale is being considered for long term work on the A75 and A77. PH said that the transport minister is being pressured, and Stena/P&O are being very supportive. MMcK asked if communities would be able to give their opinions; PH confirmed that this would be the case. The feeling is that if the roads are not fixed the ferries will be moved to alternative routes to N. Ireland.

CB asked about the condition of Shore Road, Cllr Clark had reported that the surface was going to be properly fixed with the new budget in April 2020. With covid this did not happen. PH will take this forward.

CB also asked if a 30mph limit could be extended beyond the junction to Slate Row; children walk from there to get the school bus. PH will also follow this up.

CB asked about funding for the track around the park; PH confirmed the work will be done through SAC.

Motor homes: a strategy is being worked out to solve issues around this over the winter.

15 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

MMcK reported that a considerable amount of money has been collected for a memorial bench for Tricia McIlwraith. Any money left over is being donated to the air ambulance service. MMcK proposed that BCC put some money into this fund; this was agreed unanimously by the members present, and an amount of £500 was suggested.

MMcK will ask for an opinion from the other members of BCC via email before the money is donated.

LH asked for feedback about the footpath. It was suggested that various groups, eg the community feedback team could do some maintenance work on a regular basis.

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 27 October 2020.