

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 30.4.19 IN BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY CENTRE

1 SEDERUNT: Sharon Robertson (SR) (Chair); Thomas Davidson (TD); Laura Cunningham (LC); Linden Hunt (LH); Gwen Campbell (GC); Carol Bell (CB); Alan Bell (AB); John Hainey (JH); Cllr Alex Clark (AF); Lynn Young (Minutes Secretary); Lynn Neild (LN); Mhairi McKenna (MMcK, Acting Chair); Andy McAlpine (AMcA); PC Graeme Gordon

2 APOLOGIES: Colin McNally; Janette Sloan (stood down); John McIlwraith (stood down)

3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Agreed as an accurate record with a few small corrections, proposed by LH and seconded by GC.

4 MATTERS ARISING

The flower planters in the car park have still not been fixed. AC will follow up. **ACTION AC** The flower planters at the north end of the village have had holes drilled in them so are fine. The broken manhole cover in Assel Place has been reported. The tennis court issue is an ongoing process.

Robert Dalrymple has said BCC can do whatever work is required to fix the path at Parkend. Initial work could be done to make the path safer; £500 could be applied for at the moment, and then a larger amount could be sought when the Community Fund group meets again in the autumn. Quotes will be obtained, and then various funding options can be considered.

5 POLICE REPORT – PC Graeme Gordon

PC Gordon introduced himself; he has been working in Girvan since September 2018, after working in various other parts of Ayrshire. He is currently the Wildlife Crime Liaison Officer and Rural Watch administrator. He encouraged members of BCC and the wider community to join the Rural Watch. In the period since the last meeting there were 26 incidents with no crime reports. There were 15 road traffic incidents, 3 of which were road traffic accidents and the remainder being obstructions on the roads. There was one report of a speeding car, which was untraceable as the registration number was incorrect.

6 TREASURER'S REPORT – MMcK on behalf of JMcl

General Account: Balance £303.00

Community Benefit Fund: Balance £430.00

Harbour Account: Balance £1928.60.

MMcK said that the account spread sheets are on a flash drive. JMcl will email the accounts to the new treasurer if this is more convenient. The audited accounts are available for anyone to look at.

£57035.34 has been received from Scottish Power Renewables. This is being transferred to Foundation Scotland who will issue the cheques agreed by the Community Fund group. The contract is with BCC, so if the community council ceases to exist the contract will be lost.

SR asked if there is still a harbour committee. MMcK said it had become inactive. SR will circulate an email about this. AB said he would be interested in joining the harbour committee; SR said she would also speak to Sean McIlwraith. **ACTION SR**

SR proposed that AB as new treasurer be added to all RBS bank accounts as signatory to replace JMcl who has stepped down and that MMcK be added to the Harbour account. Seconded by CB. Carried unanimously.

ACTION AB

7 COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

The red squirrel group funding is still outstanding. No other applications have been received.

8 CARRICK FUTURES/BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY FUND

Community Fund- meeting held last night and the applicants will receive feedback. Full report next month. Carrick Futures – LC said a meeting was held last week; there were 2 applications from Ballantrae.

9 BALLANTRAE TRUST – AMcA

The Trust has now informed the community of their intention to actively pursue the feasibility of purchasing the King's Arms. Carrick Futures has provided funding for surveys which will be done shortly. If there is a positive result it will go to community consultation.

Application has been made for funding for proper cinema equipment. BCA has applied for blackout blinds, which will complete the package for cinema and music events.

The Ballantrae website has now gone live, aimed at both visitors and local people. The website will continue to evolve; AMcA encouraged suggestions for improvements.

The May edition of Ballantrae News has been delivered this week, and the deadline for the next edition of Stinchar Valley Magazine was 26.4.19. It will be delivered during the first week of June.

Work has started on the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in the park. The Trust Board has strengthened the play park sub group, which now comprises Fiona Stevenson, Cheryl Agnew, Kenny Balfour, 2 Trust Board directors (Aylie McIlwraith and Claire Mills) and the 2 development officers (Chris Hanna and Anna Butler), as the sub group enters a critical stage.

The Girvan Folk Festival outreach concert on 27.4.19 went very well. The music was great, with an audience of over 60, the biggest so far for any of the Trust's productions. The next show, which is in partnership with the Ayrshire Rural Touring Network, is called "549 Scots of the Spanish Civil War", and is on Tuesday 18 June at 7.30 pm. The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra has been booked to play in Ballantrae on Sunday 18 August.

A recent meeting of interested parties on tourism discussed how Ballantrae and its tourism businesses can take advantages of many upcoming opportunities, resulting in increased income to the area. An article on this will appear in the next edition of SVM.

The Trust AGM will take place on 16.5.19 at 7.30 pm.

The Trust is bringing another SAC AMBITION workshop for businesses to the village in June, organised by Digital Boost, entitled "Facebook for Business".

The Festival of Food and Drink website has now gone live and online ticket sales have started. Ballantrae Gin sales are going well, and a second expression has been ordered.

GC asked about the farmers' markets. AMcA said that the Trust is not involved in this, as it was handed on to Craigmains and the Ayrshire Stallholders. It has been on a downward spiral, with decreasing numbers of stalls. The £30 stall charge and the need for public liability insurance are preset terms and conditions determined by Ayrshire Stallholders, who had to pay large amounts of money for various licences from SAC. AB suggested trying to reduce the cost, eg by not charging for public liability. SR suggested giving stallholders reduced costs for taking a stand at the Food Festival, if they pledged to attend the farmers' markets over the year. AMcA said it is likely that a decision will be made about the farmers' markets in the next few months.

Ballantrae had 2 development plans, the second of which ran out in 2018. The Trust had a recent board meeting, and wondered if the process for a new development plan should involve BRICC and BCA, as well as BCC and the Trust. It is felt there would be benefit from more village groups working together. MMcK said that a new development plan needs to be done. SR said that it needs to be done in a more inclusive way, involving everyone in the village including teenagers, groups who do not meet in the hall, and individuals who do not attend any groups. AMcA will speak to LC, SR and BRICC about the way forward. **ACTION AMcA**

10 BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – LC

No BCA meeting has been held.

A gala meeting has been held. Stacey Stewart is running the Gala Committee. Another meeting is being held tomorrow night.

Ballantrae School are back in their new school. A guided tour is being held on 2.5.19 at 6.30 pm.

Roy the hallkeeper has been seconded to Colmonell for the next month. Cathy Lopez is filling in.

11 HARBOUR COMMITTEE – already discussed

TD asked about the water tap at the harbour. It was going to cost too much money so is not going ahead. AC suggested asking for a water fountain; it was agreed this is a good idea.

12 ARDSTINCHAR BRIDGE – no access is allowed to the bridge. SAC have the key to the locked barricade. A large amount of funding would be required to make the bridge safe.

13 SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL – AC

AC said he is very happy about the new school, and good feedback has been received from community members, staff and children. An official opening will take place in June.

The next meeting of the South Ayrshire Rural Forum is in Annbank on 22 May at 7pm. The last meeting was in Crosshill. Discussion took place about SAC internet. SAC have said that the new internet in the library will extend into the community centre.

AC attended Kirroughtree Visitor Centre today, as the submission for Galloway Forest Park was put in. Ballantrae would be promoted as a biosphere village. Large economic generation would come out of a national park being formed. SAC will very much support the submission, as will East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway.

14 CORRESPONDENCE – As circulated

A proposal for extension of Markhill Wind Farm has been received. A meeting is being held in Barrhill on 1.5.19. AC highlighted that there are various opinions on windfarms, which should all be respected.

Merchant Navy Day is on 3.9.19. We are being asked to fly the red ensign; this was suggested last year but was not done because of the fire at the school. A red ensign can be purchased and a flag hoisting ceremony held locally. SR will follow this up. **ACTION SR**

MMcK had a long conversation with SPT about the additional bus stops. No further correspondence has been received from SPT. MMcK will follow this up. **ACTION MMcK**

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LH asked if she could withdraw £50 to purchase dog bags; she will make holders and put them up around the village to discourage dog fouling. CB said that a community council in Perth and Kinross are looking at various ways, including an electricity generating system.

LH said that road sweepers have not been coming. AC said that there have also been complaints from Barrhill and Colmonell. There have been staff shortages, but he has been told that the service should be up and running again in the next couple of days.

LH said that the footpath in Onslow Place has not been looked at and the holes are getting bigger.

LH said workmen are strimming areas around the village and on the A77, but do not pick up the rubbish; they just cut it into pieces. Some will be from Transerv contractors (A77), and SAC do the areas around the village.

LC suggested that BCC should have a Facebook page. SR will initiate this. **ACTION SR**

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 28.5.19

Vice Chair – Linden Hunt

Prop – Sharon Robertson
2nd – Alan Bell.