

## **Baldernock Community Council**

Minutes of meeting held on 8th March 2021 via Zoom

**Present:** David Wootton (Chair), Celia Burns (Secretary), Peter Langhorne (Treasurer, minutes), Elspeth Fulton (minutes), Anne McNair, Rosalind Jarvis, Niall Logan, Fiona Grier,

James Beattie was elected onto the committee: proposed Celia Burns and seconded by Peter Langhorne

Residents: Fiona Howie, Kathryn Ellis (Baldernock Child Care), Geraldine Perriam (Baldernock Amenity Society), Lesley Wiseman (Baldernock Development Trust), Oliver Lemoine, Elaine Reid, Helen Burnet

Apologies: Cllr. Gary Pews.

### **1. Minutes of previous meeting**

Proposed by David Wootton and seconded by Celia Burns; accepted subject to some minor corrections.

### **2. Financial report**

Peter informed that the transfer of responsibilities from Kenneth Whitehill was not wholly complete, including the change of authorised signatories. The current financial balance is healthy. It appears that EDC have paid the annual grant twice, in error. Peter will enquire with Mr Martin Cunningham of EDC if it can simply be carried over to this year.

It was noted that Fiona Howie and Ros Jarvis are still owed money. Peter will pursue these matters.

**Action:** Peter

### **3. Correspondence**

Local Environment and Historical review; Anne updated on the status of the report, to which we have to respond by May 31<sup>st</sup>.

East Dunbartonshire voluntary action – we are now in receipt of the e-bulletin.

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland: We continue to receive information from SCCS. It was agreed that this is topical in the light of COP 26 this year, but we need to clarify our membership and purpose.

**Action:** Celia

### **4. Planning:**

Synetiq – The council planning meetings at which this would be discussed have been cancelled. A Council enforcement officer has been ‘keeping an eye’ on the site. There is no sign of unapproved activity. A report from the Health and Safety Executive is still outstanding. James proposed that residents should raise with our MSP concerns about this development.

Hallside, Glenorchard Road – Anne explained that this proposed development was a large extension. It would have limited local impact, but may affect the neighbours. It was felt that there were no grounds on which the Community Council could object.

Bankhill Farm – Celia reported that notification of this planning application was received after it had been granted. Celia to raise this with EDC.

**Action:** Celia

High Blochairn – There was little or no information about this application on the Council website – Anne to contact EDC for details.

**Action:** Anne

Branziet Cottages – Erection of a steel garage is proposed. Anne said that this structure would be next to the main road and would not look particularly attractive – a more sympathetic material or improved screening would help. Anne will raise these concerns with planning officials.

**Action:** Anne

Castlehill Farm- The Community Council have concerns about this development, including the size of the structures, their siting and the fact that they would be built on greenbelt, contrary to the local development plan. There was discussion about the draft submission objecting to the application which had been circulated – David read its content to those present. The draft submission to be amended in the light of points made during the discussion. Objection to be submitted to EDC Planning Department.

**Action:** Anne and Elspeth

## **5.Roads**

The increased use of back roads during lockdown was noted with consequent damage to verges. Lesley asked that the Community Council contact EDC to clear drains on the back road, which has not been done for some time, as they are overflowing when it rains.

**Action:** Celia to write to EDC.

## **6.Broadband**

Lesley reported that the initial offer from Open Reach has been accepted. The final offer will come in two weeks' time. The UK government's scheme will close shortly. We are now approaching the voucher pledging stage – everyone needs to pledge their voucher. Lesley said that it was important that everyone participated within the time scale and speculated how best to motivate people to do this. Although current broadband speeds might be adequate for some people, they were not sufficient in the long term. Broadband speeds would increasingly be a feature in house sales. James said that efficient broadband was particularly important for people working from home.

David once again thanked Lesley for all her work on this issue.

**Action:** Celia to emphasise the need for participation in the voucher pledging in the next newsletter.

## **7.Baldernock Amenity Society**

Geraldine said that there was no recent activity to report. The Society had submitted their response to EDC's Local Development Plan 2. Paul Bishop and Geraldine are still working on biodiversity issues.

She noted that the current economic situation has affected British Land; they are unlikely to give up on the Dougalston plan, which would maximise their assets here.

### **8. Baldernock website**

Fiona Howie suggested that she become a co-opted member of the Community Council with the role of managing the website. This was welcomed and agreed.

She informed that e-mails are still being sent to the generic Baldernock e-mail address.

### **9. Baldernock Tartan**

Fiona Grier reported that there had been delays in progress due to the Covid pandemic. However, a local weaver – Ingles Buchan – had been identified. A final decision has been made on the colours of the fabric. News on the items for sale will be included in the April newsletter, and the tartan group will compose a separate newsletter with further details.

### **10. Church Hall**

David reported that he and Callum Wilson, a local contractor, had visited the hall. Callum did not think that building a ramp for disabled access from the front of the hall was feasible, due to the limited space available and regulations regarding the gradient. The only possibility he could envisage was to have access going round the back of the building. He also pointed out that if there is a requirement for disabled access, there is also a requirement for disabled toilets.

Anne said that there had previously been discussion under the auspices of the Development Trust about a Community Centre. There was now a vacant site, previously occupied by Balmore Garden Centre. Should we be exploring this? It would carry more weight if the Community Council, the Development Trust and the Amenity Society were all involved.

Lesley said that the work undertaken by the Development Trust had led to the conclusion that regenerating the Church hall was the most practical option for a community facility. The church is keen to do some work on the hall.

It was also noted that Council planners could advise on the disabled access issue, and on possible funding sources.

**Action:** David to contact EDC Planning Department for advice re disabled access issue.

Anne to explore with EDC possibility of Community Centre

### **11. Baldernock Primary School:**

Kathryn reminded those present that her role was in relation to After School Care, and she was unable to report fully on other school matters.

Pupils in classes P.1-3 had returned to school 3 weeks ago, and this had gone well. Classes P4-7 are due to return on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Childcare restarted two weeks ago, and After School Care was due to restart the following week.

Lesley said that the school building was in need of repair.

**Action:** Celia will contact the school Headteacher regarding representation on the Community Council and to discuss the condition of the school building.

### **12. Covid response**

Celia asked about the list of volunteers who had given their names to the Council as willing to assist people as required during the Covid crisis, and the possibility of SCRO Disclosure checks. Elspeth said that as far as she could ascertain, the outcome of checks was communicated to an employer or voluntary organisation. As the Community Council was in neither of these categories it appeared that it was not in a position to request checks. Cllr Pews had given contact details for staff in EDC who could access assistance for those in difficulty.

James mentioned the Torrance Facebook Group which provided contacts for people in the Torrance area.

### **13. Welcome Packs**

Ros reported that since 2012, when this initiative began, she had distributed 90 packs! Kathryn informed her of recent new residents in Balmore.

Next meeting: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30