

Baldernock Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 10th May 2021 via Zoom

Present: David Wootton (Chair), Celia Burns (Secretary, Elspeth Fulton (minutes), Anne McNair, Rosalind Jarvis, Fiona Grier (Baldernock Tartan Group), Fiona Howie, James Beattie, Councillor Gary Pews.

Residents: Geraldine Perriam (Baldernock Amenity Society), Lesley Wiseman (Baldernock Development Trust), Kathryn Ellis (Baldernock Child Care), Isabelle Turner

Apologies: Niall Logan (Baldernock History Group). PC Emma Davidson and Peter Langhorne, Treasurer, who provided reports.

AGENDA

1.Minutes of previous meeting: Accepted

2.Financial Report: Peter's report noted that outstanding matters have been dealt with; the transfer from previous treasurer Kenneth Whitehill is now complete. With regard to the grant payment from EDC which was paid twice in error, Peter intends to suggest that it is held in the account, rather than being refunded, and this year's grant is withheld. The current balance in the account is £1700.

Action: Peter

3.Police Matters: PC Davidson reported that there is currently a focus on speeding, manner of driving and the inspection of vehicles in conjunction with the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency. From 8th June 2021 G and J Police sub divisions will be undertaking a crime prevention initiative. Property identification kits will be distributed to residents. David said that he had been asked about noise nuisance by a resident. It was thought this was a council rather than a police matter. Gary advised that the community warden at EDC, Diane Kane, dealt with this. Isabelle observed that a burnt-out car in the area had been removed promptly.

4.Correspondence:

1.Annual subscription to Stop Climate Chaos is due: it was agreed that membership should continue.

Action: Peter

2.A reminder of the provision of the Priority Services Register for vulnerable residents was received.

3.An e-mail regarding the unidentified person whose body was found in the area in 2011 was received.

Celia will circulate to the Community Council

5.Planning:

TP/ED/21/0258 -Summerhouse in rear garden.

TP/ED/21/0248- Construction of track

It was agreed that there were no objections to these applications.

Plans for solar panels at Balmore Water Treatment Works: The plan is for the installation of 8620 ground mounted panels. Anne suggested that EDC Planning Department are contacted to see if the department will be involved.

Cllr. Pews said that an e-mail had been sent outlining the plan, subject to discussion with EDC. David said that the panels would provide power for the plant's electricity requirements. It was noted that when Scottish Water constructed the main building, the plan had been that it was to be screened by trees, and this had not happened. Lesley Wiseman informed that Scottish Water had erected a fence which blocked a public footpath.

David suggested that the Community Council invite a representative from Scottish Water to a meeting; this was agreed.

Celia noted that there were a number of decisions on previous planning applications outstanding, including the Synetiq, Castlehill farm and glamping pods applications. Decisions about applications appear to be taking longer than was previously the case. Celia also referred to the application relating to Bankell farm, which had been approved before it could be considered by the Community Council. Anne stated that she had still to contact EDC about this.

In relation to Synetiq, the Traffic Commissioner has granted a licence for ten vehicles and two trailers.

Cllr. Pews informed that the Synetiq planning application would be considered at a Planning Committee Meeting on 25th May at 5pm.

Fiona Grier [Howie] asked whether the Community Council should comment on EDC's Historical Review; submissions are required by the end of May. Some protections appear to have been removed. Geraldine said that the Amenity Society would be submitting a report – if anyone had any comments, then they should contact her or Paul Bishop.

Action: Anne McNair to contact Planning Department

Letter to Scottish Water to invite representative to Community Council meeting.

6.Roads: Celia said that she had written to EDC with regard to the overflowing drains on back roads. There was no response to date.

Anne said that work had been done on the road between Balmore and Torrance. Potholes had been filled in and the pavement had been cleared, increasing its width. James said that this had resulted in a huge improvement; the pavement was now passable on foot. Lesley thought that this work was the outcome of a meeting attended by Jane Logan.

Elsbeth suggested that the Community Council should express its appreciation.

Action: Letter to EDC – Elspeth

7. Broadband: Lesley reported that she had heard nothing from Open Reach. She had therefore begun to communicate again with R100 regarding interim funding; there had been no response.

She asked that the Community Council write requesting that matters be expedited.

Action: Letters to Open Reach/R100/ MSP

8. Baldernock Amenity Society: Geraldine said that she and Paul Bishop had been preparing a representation on the local issues in the Historical Review.

They were also working on comments on the proposed Dougalston development in relation to biodiversity. The submission, on behalf of Baldernock Amenity Society, will be made by the deadline of 31st May.

9. Baldernock Website: Fiona Howie undertook an analysis of users of the website. Most visitors looked at the newsletter. A high number looked at the information on Baldernock Church and the history pages. There were one hundred unique people every month, from the United States, Australia and all over Europe.

Lesley said that, given the volume of traffic, the tartan should be marketed on the website.

10. Baldernock Tartan: Fiona Grier said that a date for the weaving to start was still awaited; it should be in the next couple of weeks. Photographs will be taken of the first weaving.

When the first bale is woven information about the items, order forms and payment details will be available.

11. Church Hall: David reported that he had requested a quotation for the work, but had not received a response. He would attempt to obtain quotations from other builders.

Action: David

12. Baldernock School: Celia said that she had contacted the Headteacher to discuss with her the concerns which were raised about the school building, and to request the attendance of a school representative at Community Council meetings. Mrs Carr had said that she would attend meetings. There is a proposal to re-roof the building and replace the cladding.

Mrs Carr said that the children were really enjoying the outdoor classroom, and they were thinking of extending the outdoor space. They were in need of some equipment; Celia invited her to submit an application to the Community Council for funds for this.

Kathryn reported that the return to school had been successful. Maximum use was being made of the environment; the children had been tree planting at the trig point and outdoor learning.

The running – the children's morning exercise - is being restarted next week.

There were no significant issues to report about the child care, other than extended hours are available. There is an improved perspective of the facility as a provider of child care.

More parental engagement is being encouraged.

Cllr. Pews said that he would be attending the Parent Council meeting on Wednesday.

13. AOB: Lesley asked if a request could be made by the Community Council to the local Access Officer, asking for a survey of the footpaths in Baldernock, from the point of view of encouraging active travel.

Celia asked who had been responsible for the erections of signposts in the area? Fiona Grier said they all appear to lead to Mugdock and the signs bring people out at a difficult junction on a blind bend with no pavement.

Geraldine said that the EDC review proposed to extend the Bardowie area to include Langbank Holdings. This area, with Barnellan and Craigmaddie, is de-designated from a garden landscape but is green belt, so retains protection.

Cllr. Pews informed that British Land had requested a review of the Council's decision to reject British Land's Development plan for Dougalston. The councillors did not change their view. Documents will therefore now be passed to the Scottish government.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 12th July