

## Baldernock Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on 10th July 2023 in Baldernock Church Hall

**Present:** Celia Burns (secretary), Peter Langhorne (Treasurer), Anne McNair, Niall Logan and Fiona Grier (Tartan Group), Elaine Reid, Elspeth Fulton (minutes), James Beattie, Lesley Wiseman (Baldernock Trust).

**Apologies:** None submitted

**In attendance:** Councillor Collette McDiarmid, David Ralston, Mags Harwood, Ros Jarvis, Catherine Anderton, Paul Cantwell, Liz Miscampbell, Brian McFarlane.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Niall Logan informed that he was no longer representing the history group, but was still involved with the Tartan Group. Elaine proposed the approval of the minutes and Lesley seconded this.

**Matters Arising:** covered by agenda items.

### AGENDA:

**1. Treasurer's report:** Peter said that he was now ending his second stint as treasurer. Mags Harwood will assume this responsibility, and her signature has been submitted to the bank. The current financial position is satisfactory. Money had been paid out for insurance and expenses, leaving a balance of £304.11. The annual grant from EDC was expected around the end of August.

Thanks were expressed for Peter's work as treasurer.

**2. Police Matters:** Celia said that, although the local police officer was no longer able to attend Community Council meetings, she was quick to respond to any local issues raised with her.

There had been an incident of fly tipping in the old Glenorchard Estate, now owned by Caledonian Properties. A large dump of material from a Chinese restaurant in Edinburgh (its menus with address having been part of the dump) had been reported by residents. EDC had requested that Caledonian Properties remove it, which they had done fairly quickly. Police also followed this up.

Fiona Grier reported that there had also been an incident of fly tipping at the Linn.

**3. Correspondence:** Woodland Planting - on agenda.

Empowering Communities, Building Stronger - East Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership are currently developing a programme of capacity building opportunities for community and third sector organisations operating in east Dunbartonshire, and would appreciate insights and input.

Baldernock and Torrance Heritage and History Group have issued their autumn programme.

An acknowledgement of the Community Council's response to the consultation on local authority boundaries has been received.

EDC has a new Community Grant Scheme; details have been passed to the Tennis Club

**4. Planning:** Anne reported that there had been no new applications since the last meeting. A decision on the proposed house on Glenorchard Road (next to the Scottish Water premises) is still pending.

Similarly, there is no decision on the proposal for a new house at Langbank Holdings.

Anne commented that the deadlines for planning decisions are being missed.

The construction of houses in Old Balmore Road is underway. She still had to follow up a request for Section 75 monies to fund a pedestrian crossing.

Residents commented that the building of these new houses meant that there were no longer parking spaces available. People had been parking their vehicles in the road in an inconsiderate manner.

**5. Tree Planting:** Anne said that they were still waiting for Caledonian Properties to submit a grant application to Scottish Forestry. She was continuing to monitor the Scottish Forestry website for a grant application.

The sub group had written to MSP and the responsible Scottish Government Minister.

The group had written to local Councillors twice, and received limited responses. Cllr.

McDiarmid said that she only had a record of one e-mail. She had asked the responsible officer for comment, and had not received a response to date. Elspeth said that she would resend the second item of correspondence. **ACTION- ELSPETH**

Catherine Anderton said that it was worth looking at the overall Clydeplan Forestry and Woodland Strategy.

David Ralston said that what was proposed here was not in accordance with international best practice, which involved a year long survey.

**6. Roads:** There is a problem at the junction between Dowan and Auchenhowie Roads; Ros Jarvis has been in correspondence with Cllr. McDiarmid about this. Ros said that there is a large area which becomes flooded; the Council have done some work there, but have not resolved the problem. Ros also raised the issue of the misuse of Ford Road, when there are road closures elsewhere, which has resulted in traffic jams and damage to grass verges.

David Ralston said that the verges on the back roads are overgrown, to the extent that they are unusable. Peter McFarlane added that the council do not respond to requests; there are problems with flooding and the state of the pavements.

Fiona said that inadequate signage is an issue - for example, there are no signs on Craigmaddie Road to stop traffic.

Cllr. McDiarmid read a response from the Roads Department; in summary this said that there was nothing they could do to stop local people from using the Ford Road when other roads were closed.

Lesley Wiseman said that the situation becomes dangerous when traffic becomes snarled up to the extent that emergency vehicles would not be able to gain access, and surely this was an issue?

Cllr. McDiarmid asked if it would be helpful to meet with the Roads Department? Elspeth thought not - there had been previous meetings, which had not resulted in any change.

Various suggestions had been made by local residents, including examples of signage in other UK rural areas and the answer was always No, with various excuses given for taking no action. Residents did not believe that it was only local people who were using the narrow back roads when there were road closures. Sat Navs directed drivers on to the back roads. Elspeth cited an example used in Cumbria, where there were signs saying 'do not use Satnav' at the entrances to narrow rural roads.

Liz Miscampbell expressed appreciation about the resurfacing of part of Glenorchard Road, but unfortunately this had not gone far enough, as it stopped at the junction with Golf Course Road. Mags Harwood agreed: the road surface was in a poor state with large potholes.

It was agreed to write to the Roads Department regarding the condition of the pavements and grass verges. **ACTION - CELIA**

**7. Baldernock Trust:** Broadband - Lesley reported that she had just heard from Open Reach that some houses will not have superfast broadband by the end of the summer, as had been promised. Lesley will write, expressing disappointment.

The First Friday Gathering in July was quieter than usual, which she assumed was due to the holiday season. A free golf taster session had been offered, but this had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. It is hoped that this can be offered again after the holiday season.

Photographs of Baldernock are sought for the 2024 Baldernock calendar. Please send to [thebaldernocktrust@gmail.com](mailto:thebaldernocktrust@gmail.com) or directly to Jane Logan.

At the Trust's last meeting it was suggested that the Tartan Group might invite photos of people wearing Baldernock tartan scarves in interesting locations under the banner of 'Where will your Baldernock scarf take you? '

The sub group is still trying to progress new nursery facilities with EDC, but there are no concrete proposals at present.

**8.Tennis Club:** Elaine reported that numbers at the tennis club had been dwindling badly. Elaine thanked Celia for her help, in organising for a number of families with children to attend. They seemed keen and energetic. A membership structure had been drawn up, and a committee was now in place. They were still seeking new members.

Tennis coaching and social activities will be available. the clubhouse is dilapidated; they are looking at sources of funding to renew it.

## **9. A.O.B.**

1.Niall said that the Heritage and History Group was likely to fold after Christmas, if members for a new committee could not be found. The current chair had agreed to fill in on a temporary basis, and a programme had been drawn up for meetings up until Christmas, but after that there was nothing arranged. Niall was unable to assume sole responsibility for the group. Volunteers were needed for the positions of Secretary and Chair; no specific expertise or knowledge was required.

2.Anne reported that she had attended Baldernock Primary School's 150th anniversary commemoration. There was a display by the children and a buffet. The event was well attended.

Jill Carr received messages of congratulation for her excellent management of the commemoration and the school.

3. James drew the meeting's attention to the fact that in the two years since he had been involved with the Community Council, only one councillor had come to meetings. As part of his work as a teacher, he taught children about local democracy. It was disappointing that local councillors did not attend Community Council meetings, which were part of local democratic structures. Cllr. McDiarmid said that there were five Community Councils in her ward, and she had attended two. Baldernock Community Council meetings clashed with the Labour Group meetings. James asked if attendance at the meetings could be shared between the councillors - Cllr. McDiarmid said this had not been discussed.

Elsbeth said that meetings could be arranged to allow Councillors to leave early, dependent on the agenda.

It was agreed that James would write to Councillors about their attendance at Community Council meetings. **ACTION - JAMES**