

Baldernock Community Council

Minutes of meeting held (via Zoom) on 11th January 2021

Present:

David Wootton (Chair), Celia Burns (Secretary), Anne McNair, Elspeth Fulton (minutes), Peter Langhorne (Treasurer), Linda Whitehall, Fiona Grier, Niall Logan, Cllr Gary Pews,

Residents:

Lesley Wiseman (Baldernock Community Trust), Fiona Howie (Baldernock Tartan Group), Geraldine Perriam (Baldernock Amenity Society), Isabelle Thomson, Sandy McNeil, James Beattie.

Apologies: Kathryn Ellis (Baldernock Child Care)

AGENDA

1. Minutes of previous meeting:

Proposed by Fiona Grier and seconded by Anne McNair; accepted.

2. Financial Report:

Kenneth informed that the transfer of responsibilities from Kenneth Whitehall 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 pursue these matters.

It was noted that Fiona Howie is still owed money.

3. Planning:

Anne believed that the Synetiq application had been scheduled to be discussed at the Planning Board on 19th January. Cllr Pews said that this had been cancelled; meetings have been affected by the Covid situation. The next meeting would take place on 25th May. It was noted that the Health and Safety Executive was one of the statutory bodies to be consulted for applications in that area.

David asked those present to be alert for activity at the Synetiq site.

Local Development Plan 2: Anne informed that she had drafted a response on behalf of the Community Council which she had distributed for comments. She would submit the amended version to EDC this week.

There had been no specific criticisms, but a number of points were raised:

- The active travel route proposed follows the pavement alongside the A807, and £30,000 is allocated – not clear what this is for – a feasibility study?
- Any housing built in the green belt is to be designated for agricultural workers. Are there any safeguards to prevent such properties subsequently being sold on the open market?
- The 'natural environment' is mentioned several times, but there is no reference to the part farming plays in the local environment or food production.

- Flood Risk – welcomed the requirement for flood risk assessments in certain areas
- Mineral Resources – EDC will not support unconventional methods of extraction.
- Digital Communication – report mentions new developments, but not clear what this means

There was discussion about the above points, and support for the overall plan expressed.

In relation to the planned ‘active travel’ route, which runs parallel to the A807, the issue of safety for pedestrians and cyclists needs to be addressed.

Anne said that, with regard to the Additional Site Assessments, two were relevant for Baldernock – proposed housing on a site described as Bogside Road and the proposed development at Dougalston. EDC sees these sites as green belt, and the Community Council would support this. Any specific objections could be made at the planning application stage. Anne had submitted a number of questions to the planning officer in relation to the application for glamping pods (discussed at previous meeting). The planning officer was still waiting for information from roads officers. Fiona Grier asked if the Community Council had submitted an objection to the application, as there was an objection recorded on the EDC website. Anne said that the Community Council had not submitted an objection, but raised some issues. She would contact the planning officer to clarify this.

Dougalston:

The contents of the e-mail from Paul Bishop, encouraging as many people as possible to express their agreement with EDC’s decision not to rezone the greenbelt, were noted.

4.Roads:

David noted that there was increased traffic on the back roads.

Linda informed that the residents of Bardowie Castle had erected a ‘private, no access’ notice. The notice is on the track behind the road, which is owned by the Water Board. This was questioned in terms of the law: Lesley said that there was a ‘right to roam’, but not a right to infringe on landowners’ privacy. Fiona said that there had been signs of people drinking outside in the area.

James said the condition of the roads in Balmore was dreadful. Celia said that this had been raised by a resident at the last meeting with the Roads Department.

5.Correspondence:

1.E-mail from Kathryn Ellis/Mellor providing an update on Baldernock Childcare. Last term was successful for both the nursery and the after-school care, although the latter could benefit from higher numbers. Facilities are now closed due to Covid regulations, and two staff have been furloughed.

Kathryn has raised the issue of representation from the school on the Community Council; this is expected to be mentioned at the Parent Council meeting.

2. There will be filming on Craigmaddie Road on 18th January.

3. Letter re two young people wishing to complete the service module for their Duke of Edinburgh Award, and looking for suggestions in the local area. Litter picking was suggested; their names could be passed to Jane Logan.

4. Road repair work is planned for two weeks from 1st February at Allander Bridge, from 7am -7pm. There will be temporary traffic lights in operation at the Allander roundabout.

Lesley observed that this would create additional traffic on the back roads.

6. Broadband:

Lesley informed that Open Reach have the list of properties to be covered. They were now waiting for the final cost, which must be covered by vouchers. Open Reach will assist with marketing; there will be a push to pledge vouchers. Two hundred and fifty properties should benefit by being able to access fibre-optic broadband.

7. Baldernock Amenity Society:

Geraldine reported that the society was focussing its efforts on Dougalston, and encouraging people to comment on the Council's decision not to rezone the area.

There was concern about a flyer from 'Love Dougalston', which was encouraging people to 'object', when the Council had effectively ruled against the development.

The society will submit representation to the Council in response to the LDP2.

Society members are currently working through documents on the bio-diversity of Dougalston.

8. Baldernock Tartan:

Fiona said that there had been no further progress, as the weavers were closed for the holiday period.

9. Church Hall Access:

The church is happy for the Community Council to explore this. David to pursue obtaining estimate for work. Celia and Niall have access to keys for the hall, if required.

10. Baldernock Primary:

See under Correspondence.

11. Covid Response:

Celia stated that there were a number of people who had volunteered to assist with shopping and prescriptions – was there anything more that the Community Council should be doing? There was some discussion, with the general feeling being that people were being helped by neighbours.

12. Welcome Packs:

Reminder to let Ros know of any newcomers to the area. James said he had appreciated his pack.

Ros is still owed money from the Community Council: Peter to pursue this.

AOCB:

1. Peter said that there was an agreement through the Community Development trust regarding free packs of trees for planting. Lesley said that the issue was finding places to plant them; EDC had some suggestions. Permission would have to be sought from landowners of private land. Niall said that the golf course was in need of trees due to ash die-back, and it was possible to obtain packs for hedgerows as well as trees.

The deadline was now missed for spring planting – deadline for autumn planting?

2. James asked if there were any arrangements for disposing of dog faeces in Balmore?
Elsbeth said that there used to be a waste bucket on the lamppost at the corner of
Glenorchard and Golf Course Roads.
Anne said that EDC should be able to reinstate this on request.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 8th March 2021