

Baldernock Community Council

Minutes of meeting held (via Zoom) on 9th November 2020

Present:

David Wootton (Chair), Celia Burns, (Secretary), Anne McNair, Linda Whitehall, Niall Logan (Baldernock History Group), Elspeth Fulton (minutes), Fiona Grier and Fiona Howie (Baldernock Tartan Group), Peter Langholme (Treasurer), Ros Jarvis, Councillor Gary Pews.

Residents:

Lesley Wiseman (Baldernock Development Trust), Robert Burnet, Margaret Craig, Geraldine Perriam and Paul Bishop (Baldernock Amenity Society), Isabelle Thomson, Angela Schnehan, Kathryn Ellis (Baldernock Child Care), Angela O'Brien

Apologies: Kenneth Whitehall

AGENDA

1. Minutes of previous meeting:

Proposed by Celia and seconded by Fiona Howie; accepted.

2. Financial Report:

See minutes of AGM for details. Current balance in account is £1038.13

There was further discussion regarding alterations to the Church Hall. David agreed to contact a local contractor regarding the feasibility and estimate of cost for the work.

Gary Pews said that East Dunbartonshire Planning Department would provide information regarding possible grant aid. Anne asked that the planning department also provide advice on the suitability of the site for a ramp. Gary noted this.

3. Baldernock Child Care:

Kathryn reported that all was going well; they were continuing to operate within the Covid situation. There had been no impact with pupils having to isolate. The children were able to go outside quite a bit.

Numbers attending after school care have dropped; some children have gone to High School and some parents were working from home. At present they were financially sound, but may have to consider reconfiguring the service in the future.

Gary said he had attended the Parent Council meeting the previous week. Appreciation had been expressed for the grant from the Community Council. The Head Teacher's report had informed that staff and children were coping despite the current Covid related rules and restrictions.

With regard to the proposal for school ties in Baldernock tartan – the teachers and parents liked them, but the children did not, so the proposal was rejected.

4. Planning matters:

With regard to the Synetiq application, it has yet to be discussed by the Planning Board. Gary said that it was not on the agenda for the November meeting, and the agenda for the December meeting was not yet available.

Celia said that Scottish Water and SEPA had replied to correspondence from the Community Council. Scottish Water did not object to the application, and informed that they no longer store chlorine at the Balmore site.

There had been 52 comments and 50 objections to the Council in relation to the application. There has been no response from the Traffic Commissioner.

Angela O' Brien raised an issue about a strong smell of burning in Balmore; Linda Whitehall said she had also smelt it.

Paul Bishop and Geraldine Perriam reported on the proposed Dougalston development. The Council had decided against rezoning the area.

An e-mail from the Planning Department had said that people should be sure to make representations in support of the decision, and to make their views known regarding the local development plan – LDP2. Although there had been hundreds of e-mails objecting to the Dougalston development, it was necessary to comment afresh and specifically in support of the Council's decision. Gary Pews reiterated this.

Anne said that the Community Council needs to comment on the local development plan, including the additional planning applications.

Comments are required, using the online form, by 15th January 2021.

Margaret Craig said that Love Dougalston had been collecting responses. Paul said he would contact them to advise them to make further responses.

Paul and Geraldine said that there was a need to get people together to coordinate responses; Celia said that she would include this in the Newsletter.

Fiona said that the local development plan included the recommendation that developments needed to be near accessible transport. A resident in Robinsfield was working on road improvement and active travel. There has been discussion about applying for a grant for a feasibility study with regard to a 'loop' round the area for walking and cycling.

5. Roads:

Celia spoke about the recent closure of Balmore Road by the police, as part of their investigation following the discovery of a seriously injured young man. Some people had written to the police, as the closure of the road had meant that there was no through route for emergency vehicles. Linda said that the school bus could not get to the school, and parents who had gone to collect their children were stuck in traffic jams.

Linda said that the police did deal with the problems, but it was always the case that there was a lack of awareness of local road conditions.

Paul said that he thought that the Roads Department had accepted that the back roads were not a suitable alternative route when Balmore Road was closed. They were now trying to get signs at Baldernock Church and other points advising of the unsuitability of the narrow back roads.

6. Correspondence:

Celia reported that there were four items:

- A letter from Anne McCurdy advising of a forthcoming planning application for a glamping business
- Information from EDC regarding a survey on the economic impact of Covid 19.
- A letter from Scottish Water informing that it does not have an objection to the Synetiq application

- Expression of thanks from the school for the grant from the Community Council.

7. Broadband

Lesley Wiseman said that broadband had been promised for every house in Baldernock. Word from Open Reach was due shortly. Vouchers from Westminster Rural or the Scottish Government can be used.

The representative from the R100 programme is correcting incorrect information recorded for Baldernock.

David thanked Lesley for all her work on this issue.

8. Church Hall's use as Polling Station:

Celia reported that the Church's Session Clerk was happy for the Community Council to obtain an estimate for work related to enabling access for disabled people.

9. Baldernock Amenity society:

See under planning matters.

10. Baldernock Tartan:

Fiona Howie said that they were waiting for colours to be finalised, and a sample should be ready shortly. Products for sale would be scarves and brushed lambswool throws. It was difficult to know how many to order and to get the balance between demand and supply right, given they did not have anything to show people. Gary informed that the Lib Dem Newsletter had featured the tartan.

11. Primary School:

See under Baldernock Child Care.

12. Local Newsletter:

Celia asked if there were any comments on the Newsletter.

Comments were favourable; it was felt to be informative, although there were questions about how widely it was distributed as there still seemed to be many people unaware of what was going on in the community.

Further comments to be sent to Celia.

13. Baldernock Covid Response

It was noted that the Newsletter provided information on assistance available – for example volunteers to do shopping and collect prescriptions.

14. Clarification re Baldernock Community Council, Amenity Society and Community Development Trust

There was discussion about general understanding of the functions of the three bodies.

The Community Council is a statutory body, with functions laid down by the Scottish Government. Baldernock Amenity Society focusses on local issues – currently the proposed development at Dougalston. It waxes and wanes dependant on the issues current at the time. The Development Trust is a charity, the focus of which is on improving facilities in the area.

It was felt there needed to be a specific meeting to discuss possible overlap.

15. A.O.B.

Celia thanked Ros for her work on the Welcome Packs, and reminded those present to inform Ros of any new residents in the area.

Celia informed that Jane Logan had agreed to be the representative in relation to Baldernock being a 'hub' of Keep Scotland Beautiful.

Gary Pews informed of the Council's commemoration of Remembrance Day; although there had been no formal events the Council had placed wreaths on local war memorials.

He also said that the Council's Special Uplifts would start again on Monday 16th November.

Date of next Community Council meeting: Monday 11th January 2021 at 7.30

Meeting of Committee to discuss LDP2 – 14th December 2020