

## Baldernock Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in Baldernock Church Hall

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

**Residents:** David Ralston, Gordon Murray, Margaret Russell, Mary Phin, Liz Miscampbell, Penny McElhinney, Isobel Thomson, Antoinette Imrie.

**In Attendance:** P.C. Gillian Porteous, Community Police Officer and Elena Mary Harris, artist in residence, East Dunbartonshire Council.

**Apologies:** Fiona Howie, James Beattie, Anne McNair, Geraldine Perriam, Christine Lyons, Cllr. Collette McDiarmid.

**1.Minutes and Matters Arising:** Elaine Reid pointed out that her attendance and contribution to the last meeting had not been recorded.

Celia said that she had written a letter to the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland. Other issues would be covered by items on the agenda.

Niall Logan informed that he was stepping down as the liaison person for Baldernock Local History Group, which was now amalgamated with the Torrance Heritage and History Group. He would represent the Tartan Group.

With these amendments noted, the minutes were proposed by Fiona Grier and seconded by Niall Logan.

**2.Treasurer's Report:** Peter Langhorne informed that, since the last meeting, the Public Liability Insurance premium, the cost of Church Hall lets, and some costs of the Tartan Group had been paid, leaving a balance of £412.78. The annual financial statement was due to be delivered soon. The annual grant from the local authority was generally paid in August. Niall informed that insurance costs for the Local History Group, which he understood was covered by the Community Council, would no longer be required. There was a question about the cost, as it did not appear to be itemised by the Insurance Company, but given that it was no longer required it was not deemed necessary to inquire further.

**3.Police Matters:** P.C. Porteous informed that speed checks on the Balmore Road were to be increased. The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency will be carrying out checks on heavy vehicles. There are officers assigned to offences related to bogus workmen, as this is becoming an issue in the area.

A Bicycle Registration Day will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> July at Hillhead Community Centre. Packs to mark valuables, in order that stolen goods are traceable, will also be available on the day.

P. C. Porteous had also kindly brought packs to distribute to those present at the meeting.

Lesley Wiseman raised the issue of the recent additions to the Highway Code about leaving a space of 1.5 metres when overtaking bicycles, and giving priority to vulnerable road users, including pedestrians and horses. She wondered about the general levels of awareness of these changes. P.C. Porteous said there had been information on social media. Elspeth said

there had been information on television. P.C. Porteous said that she would raise the issue of publicity with her management.

David Ralston and Antoinette Imrie informed that there was an issue with quad bikes and motorbikes racing at night on the roads near their respective farms. (Castlehill and Hillhead) Other residents said that there was evidence of apparent drug dealing on one of the back roads in the area. P.C. Porteous took note of these issues.

Celia thanked P.C. Porteous for her attendance and input. She then left the meeting.

**4.Memorial for Covid:** Elena Mary Harris introduced herself to those present, and explained her role as artist in residence. Each local authority in Scotland had received funding from the Scottish Government to appoint an artist to create memorials on the theme of “Remembering Together” commemorating the Covid pandemic. This could take any form- for example a piece of music, a publication, or a sculpture. East Dunbartonshire has decided to consult with local people to find out what they would want, and Elena is trying to identify groups with whom she can work on this. Groups should have a demographic and geographical spread. The community engagement process has to be completed by the end of September.

She is also making a short film, to be screened at Kirkintilloch community cinema.

Elena asked the group for suggestions; Lesley suggested an annual commemorative walk. It was agreed that Elena would arrange a meeting in the Church Hall to discuss a way forward.

**5.Correspondence:** Celia informed the meeting about Thomas McMenamin of EDC Roads Department’s response to the request for road signage which would identify Baldernock - see item on signage.

**6.Planning:** Celia asked Antoinette Imrie about the wedding venue on Hillhead farmland, as this had been raised by residents. Antoinette said that, as the structure would only be erected for 28 days at a time, planning permission was not required. An officer from the Planning Department had visited and no further action was required as long as the structure was temporary. If the venue required services, then planning permission would be required. The structure was likely to be stored for the winter.

Gordon Murray said that he did not object to it, but asked about access to the venue, particularly for emergency services.

Antoinette was also asked if there were any plans to locate the structure in the quarry – Antoinette said there were not. There had been considerable interest in the venue, but this seemed to be based on the view from its current location. As weddings took some time to plan, she did not expect it to be in use until next year. She hoped that it would benefit local businesses in the provision of goods and accommodation.

David Ralston said that his son had sought permission for the construction of holiday accommodation and this had been refused; he did not see the difference as the structure was very visible.

Celia said that there were strong views about it in the community. Anne McNair had been in touch with a Planning Department official, who had said that as long as the structure was temporary, planning permission was not required.

**7. Roads:** Penny McElhinney and Elaine Reid informed that the Bardowie Roads Action Group would now be named the Baldernock Roads Action Group. The action taken to date involved local MSPs and councillors, and an article in the Evening Times. A list of accidents in local roads had been compiled.

There had also been contact with EDC Roads Department, who had said that improved signage, speed cameras and reductions in speed limits could be considered. Elspeth and Niall said that, over the previous years, contact between the Community Council and the Roads Department had failed to result in the Department taking any action to address the Community Council's concerns.

Celia said that a sub group of the Community Council should be set up. This was agreed; Penny McElhinney agreed to co-ordinate the group.

Celia also outlined the work that Fiona Howie was undertaking to try to ensure consistency of addresses used in the area.

**8. Report from sub-group dealing with tree planting proposal:** Elspeth said there was sufficient information gathered for a report to be submitted to Forestry Scotland should an application for a grant be made. Christine Lyons had compiled a report which included the history of the area under consideration; she had obtained information from Niall for this. David Ralston said that the price of wood had dropped -perhaps this would make the project less viable, although his view was that the main reason for it was to obtain financial gain from carbon capture.

**9. Baldernock Tartan:** Niall said that a third bolt of the tartan had been woven and items would soon be available for sale. The transfer of financial arrangements to Baldernock Trust was ongoing.

Celia asked for clarification of responsibility for the tartan. Niall said that, although the financial transactions would take place under the auspices of the trust, ownership of the design remained with the Community Council. Some work was required to work out an application process for those wishing to use the design.

**10. Broadband:** Lesley reported that Open Reach had confirmed that all properties in the designated area will have access to superfast broadband by the end of June 2023. Residents may have to renew their pledges. Lesley will receive updates on progress. She noted that the implementation was dealt with by a different branch of Open Reach from the branch which dealt with the application.

Some people, separately contracted, are due to be connected soon.

**11. Glasgow Airport Air Space Change:** The report on changes can be accessed online. Lesley said that it was worth checking how it would affect this area.

**12. Baldernock Trust:** Jane Logan has agreed to continue to co-ordinate the litter pick. A sketching day with an artist who works in the area had been organised. As the weather forecast was dismal, people called off. She and Niall had gone, but were rained off. Another day is to be arranged.

Efforts were being made to re-establish the youth club for primary aged children. The Trust would also have liked to provide something for teenagers, who, according to the household survey, were the most disadvantaged in terms of lack of available activities in the area. Niall had been co-opted on to the Trust as the liaison person for Baldernock Tartan Group.

**12. Church Hall:** Just before his tenure as a Councillor had ended Gary Pews had e-mailed Celia to say that, unless disabled access could be installed, the Church Hall would no longer be used as a polling station.

**13. Signage in Balmore Village:** One advertising sign has disappeared. Celia has written to the Roads Department about the remaining illegal signs.

The signs for Bardowie and Balmore are not sufficiently large or prominent; Celia also raised this issue.

She had received a reply from Mr. McMenamin regarding a request for signage identifying Baldernock, and had received an unhelpful refusal saying that there had been no parishes in Scotland since the 1930s. Niall said that the word 'parish' had not been part of the original request.

**14. Stop Climate Chaos AGM:** This will take place online on 6<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm; Peter mat attend.

**AOB:** Celia will e- mail Collette McDiarmid re the issues raised at tonight's meeting.

**NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**