

Baldernock Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on 14th March 2022 at Baldernock Church Hall

Present: Celia Burns (Secretary), Peter Langhorne (Treasurer), Anne McNair, Elaine Reid, Elspeth Fulton (minutes), Fiona Grier (Baldernock Tartan Group), Fiona Howie, James Beattie, Lesley Wiseman (Baldernock Trust), Gary Pews, Councillor, Jill Carr, Headteacher, Baldernock School

Residents: David Ralston, Christine Lyons, Isobel Ewing, Kathryn Mellor, Mags Harwood, Ros Jarvis, Antoinette Imrie, Marie Brown, Danny Holmes, Mary Finn.

Apologies: Niall Logan (Torrance & Baldernock Heritage & History Group), Isobel Thompson.

Celia explained that, as a new chairperson had not been elected following David Wootton's departure, Peter had agreed to chair this meeting.

1.Previous Minutes: These were proposed by Celia, seconded by Anne.

2.Matters Arising: Fiona Howie asked about the timing of putting the minutes on the Community Council website. It was agreed that they should be placed on the website when they were completed, rather than wait until the next Community Council meeting, as they had rarely required significant amendments.

3.Financial Report: Peter informed that £46.75 was spent on Welcome packs, leaving a balance of £858.87. The invoice for insurance has not been received.

4.Police Matters: Celia said that the Community Police Officer is now Gillian Porteous. She sent a general report covering East Dunbartonshire. There had been some break-ins, but not in Baldernock. The local police officers can be contacted by e-mail or in person at the 'Cuppa with a Copper' in a local café. Celia has the details.

5.Correspondence: The following correspondence was received

- Information on Tenant Participation Strategy Review
- Notification of the expansion of local recycling
- OPAL Bulletin: OPAL is a free information and support service for residents of East Dunbartonshire, for support before, during and after Covid
- Sense and Science- information about the launch of 'Evidence Week', the topic being whether or not policymakers have the tools to deal with scientific information.

6.Planning:

(a)Proposed woodland planting on land owned by Caledonian Estates:

Anne said that a letter had been sent to Mairi McAllan, Scottish Minister for the Environment, who had responded, writing that the application was still at the pre-application/ due diligence stage. Guidance states that grant applicants and Scottish Forestry will work together with the local community.

Anne said that there is a Register online of applications for grants for tree planting; there were no recent applications for East Dunbartonshire. We should continue to check the Register.

Danny said that there had been a meeting between local farmers and the representative from Galbraiths, agent for Caledonian Estates. The representative had acknowledged that the description of local farmland as 'unproductive/grazing land' was wrong. He explained that the tree planting plan was currently at a consultative stage. He appeared surprised that there was some opposition to the plan. The farmers had suggested areas of local land which would be suitable for tree planting, including land at Kenmure, Bishopbriggs. The agent had said that this area was unsuitable because of mineshafts. Danny wondered if there was any knowledge about mineshafts in this area?

Antoinette and Danny pointed out that farmland which had trees planted on it could not be reclaimed for farmland for the foreseeable future. Danny said that nationally food produce had dropped by 60%, and there were implications for the half a million people employed in food production, were similar plans implemented nationally. David Ralston pointed out the economic gains to be made by Caledonian Estates by tree planting.

At this point Cllr Pews joined the meeting. Peter brought him up to date with the discussion. There was some criticism of the management of the local woodland.

Isobel Ewing suggested that a sub group be set up to prepare a submission, should an application for a grant be made. This was agreed, the group to be comprised of Elspeth Fulton, Anne McNair, Antoinette Imrie, Kathryn Mellor, and Christine Lyons.

(b)Application for building plot, Glenorchard Road, Balmore (Ref TP/ED/22/0164) It was noted that permission had been granted, with conditions. but any building proposed would still require planning approval.

(c) Application for change to garden ground, Newlands, Glenorchard Road, Balmore (Ref TP/ED/21/0632) It was noted that this application had been refused.

7.Roads: Celia stated that she had written to the Roads Department about the drainage problems next to the Sailing Club.

She noted that the corner of Fluchter Road was also bad.

There were several complaints from residents present regarding flooding and potholes. The Linn Road had become almost impassable due to deep potholes.

Lesley made the point that, if the drainage problems were sorted, there would not be as many potholes.

Gary said that he had reported to Council officials all of the problems with local roads which had been raised at Community Council meetings. However, there were difficulties with the budget available for road repairs.

Celia said that, if residents let her know about the problems with local roads, she would collate the information and send it to the Council.

Ros Jarvis suggested that a representative from the Roads Department be invited to a Community Council meeting again. Vehicles travelling along local B roads remained an issue.

8.Broadband: Lesley provided an update. Out of 430 local properties, 350 are eligible for vouchers. 123 households have pledged for the scheme; another 64 are required to make

the scheme viable. It might be that the people in properties in Torrance are not aware of the scheme, as they do not receive the information distributed in Baldernock. To ensure that people are aware of the need to sign up, it may be necessary to 'knock on doors'. Lesley will co-ordinate those present who volunteered to do this.

9. Baldernock Tartan Group: Fiona Grier informed that the products made from the two bolts of lambswool had been sold out, and there was a waiting list for items. The tartan is owned by Baldernock Community Council in that the Council's permission is required before anyone can weave or use the tartan. The Community Council's ownership is registered with the Scottish Register of tartans. It had always been intended that any profits from sales of the tartan should be used to benefit the community. Up until now the finances have been dealt with by a personal bank account; a more business-like approach is required. Accordingly, it is the intention to deal with the funds through the auspices of Baldernock Trust, which could also market and promote the use of the tartan. The ownership would remain with the Community Council and the Tartan Group would continue to report to the Council. The Group hope that they, the Community Council and the Trust can work together to ensure that Baldernock Tartan maintains a high profile for the future.

10. Baldernock School: Jill Carr reported on current progress. There had been a spring clean of the outside area, including the bottle greenhouse being taken down. The plan is to replace it with a polytunnel, (at a cost of approx. £700) to grow vegetables inside it and in the outside area. The garden club continues to thrive.

Jill hoped that the Covid restrictions would continue to ease; they were able to have their first assembly for two and a half years this week. For the youngest children this was their first experience of an assembly!

11. Baldernock Childcare: Kathryn informed that she had stepped down as chairperson; Angus McKinnon would be the new point of contact, and a new treasurer was required. Baldernock was no longer a low-key local provision, but a professional childcare resource. The financial position was healthy, and numbers satisfactory.

12. Registration with Public Sector Geospatial Agreement: Fiona Howie explained that she had been working on addresses of properties in Baldernock. Each property has a unique property number, which she had been collating with addresses held by the Post Office, then had looked at Ordnance Survey information. There are three different lists. She had been in touch with East Dunbartonshire Council, who had said that, if anyone was having difficulty with deliveries due to confusion with addresses, they would be willing to liaise with the delivery companies.

13. Signage at Balmore Village: There are three billboard type signs at the roadside, all of which are there without permission. Jane Logan has been pursuing this. Cllr. Pews informed that enforcement certificates for their removal have been issued by East Dunbartonshire Council. If the signs are not removed by the responsible parties, the Council will remove the signs and bill the parties for the costs.

14. Queen's Jubilee: Isobel Ewing said that Baldernock Church's Session Clerk had inquired if the Community Council wished to do something for the Queen's Jubilee. Isobel said that she would like to see something happening and had a few ideas, but it would depend on whether or not there is an appetite for it. Mags said that she would be interested in helping; at the previous Jubilee there had been an event at the Sailing Club, which had been well attended.

Celia said that she would send out something, to try and gauge the level of interest.

15. Community Council Chairperson: Celia asked if anyone would be interested in taking this role; there were no volunteers.

A.O.B.: Celia said that a quotation had been received for work to provide disabled access to the Church Hall - £3,720. This had arisen because of the Council's plan to stop using the hall as a polling station because of the lack of disabled access.

Ros asked if disabled toilets would also be required. Cllr Pews said that if it were only for the purpose of using the hall as a polling station, then this would not be necessary.

Celia said that the matter of disabled access would be up to whether the Church wanted it and would be able to bear the cost. Isobel said the Kirk Session would look at it at the next meeting, but they would require a drawing of the proposed works.

Next Meeting: Monday 9th May 2022 at 7.30pm.