

Borgue Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 14th November 2023, Borgue Public Hall

Present	Derek Adams, Shona Adams, Gary Baker, Pam Baker, Giselle Brown, Carl Burn, Mike Calton, David Clark, Keith Cooper, Anne Corson, Ian Cruikshanks, Mark Cruikshanks, Fraser Cruikshanks, Mick Dawson, Chris Evans, Kevin Evans, Sian Easton, Richard Gelston, William Graham, Anna Hale, Dave Heywood, Magdalena Heywood, Colin Halliday, Jean Horn, Claire Irving, Curly Kershaw, Louise Kershaw, Cathryn Lapworth, Paul Lapworth, Jim Lauder Malcolm Lindsay, Billy McMath, Robert Maitland, Liz Matear, Angela Metcalf, Annemarie Monteforte, Gordon Mursell, Anne Muir Mursell, Mark Neill, Carol Ryall, Paul Sanderson, John Shields, Rod Slater, Janette Watson, George Wishart, M Wishart, Scott ?, Anne Bannatyne
Apologies	Cllr A McFarlane
1	<p>Changes to BCC, Election of BCC chair</p> <p>a. Carol Ryall was proposed as chair by John Shields and duly elected. Three members of the committee have resigned: Syd Davison, Alan and Cathy Yates.</p> <p>b. Communication Plan</p> <p>i. CR talked about her personal commitment to improving how BCC works so the community as a whole can move forward. We have listened to comments about consultation, had training and taken advice from the Community Council team at D&G Council and drafted the following communications plan which will be posted on the website, FB page and noticeboard. We will review at the time of the AGM next year but comments for improvement welcome as we go. Everything is subject to available resources.</p> <p>ii. Meetings are advertised on the website, Facebook page and external banners giving 7 days notice (14 days for the AGM). Banners are available for use by other community groups.</p> <p>iii. At meetings, everyone has the right to be heard respectfully. To ensure more people have an opportunity to contribute during meetings, we will try a maximum of 3 minutes per person when expressing a point. Points already raised should not be repeated unless time permits. Anyone considered to be bullying, disrespectful or discriminatory will lose their right to speak at that meeting.</p> <p>iv. Planning applications are advertised by the council weekly, we will put information about each local proposal on the website, FB page and noticeboard at the hall.</p> <p>BCC will not respond to applications unless comments are received in writing (with a signature and address/contact number in order to meet the requirements of the D&C Community Council scheme) and BCC encourages not only criticism but also support and ideas for how applications might be improved.</p> <p>Not everyone feels comfortable speaking at meetings so we will accept written communication from people who haven't spoken or attended</p>

<p>AP</p> <p>AP</p>	<p>meetings, via email to the secretary at borguecommunitycouncil@gmail.com or to a member of the community council, the latter will retain a confidential written record.</p> <p>We will anonymise responses before they are made public, make a summary of points raised and give an idea of the strength of feeling about proposals in any submission to D&G Planning.</p> <p>v. We will try to arrange meetings with developers to discuss plans, and use issues raised by people during the consultation process to try to negotiate if there are community benefits eg footpaths/seating/other facilities as part of the application.</p> <p>It is also open to people to object to applications on an individual basis but these must be made on valid planning grounds, advice will be available on the website on how to do this.</p> <p>vi. The chair will remain impartial at any consultation organised by BCC, but may ask questions to clarify issues or make points of order to ensure all relevant facts are forthcoming.</p> <p>Other councillors will be treated as any other member of the community, so any personal views must be made in writing and will be given the same weight as any other resident.</p> <p>vii. We will arrange training for new members of the committee, within 4 weeks of them joining, on the responsibilities, ethics and the workings of the D&G scheme which sets out how councillors work, done either by the Community Councils team at D&G council or by more experienced members of BCC.</p> <p>viii. CR is currently trying to raise funding to buy a basic sound system/projection screen for the hall which will allow better communication during meetings.</p> <p>ix. We will produce an annual newsletter.</p>	<p>AB/CR</p> <p>CR</p> <p>All</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Police Report No incidents to report, nor questions/concerns from the community.</p> <p><u>FACTS LAID BARE</u> In August 2023, 27 people were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs in Dumfries and Galloway. We need to emphasise the dangers and impact this has. Roads Policing Sergeant Kerr states “This is an obscene figure and reflects utter disregard not only for the law but also for the dangers each one of these individuals are putting themselves, passengers and other road users in. The ignorance, negligence and lack of consideration shown by these people is beyond words.”</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Minutes and matters arising Minutes accepted.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Secretary’s Report</p>	

	<p>a. Planning: there will be an application for a house adjacent to body shop, will put details on website once we know more.</p> <p>b. Call from Zero Hours for support for the Climate and Environment Bill which will receive a second reading on 24th November was not supported.</p>	
5	<p>Treasurer's Report Expenditure of £40 for wreaths laid at the war Memorial expected to be reimbursed. No other income received or changes since last report.</p>	
6	<p>Community Issues</p> <p>a. Knocktall WC, Ref: Forestry Grant Scheme Case Ref:23FGS75314 Apologies made for anonymous leaflet. There seem to be 2 main strands of opinion on the proposal, the majority against on the following grounds: loss of arable farmland, the planting mix with a high proportion of sitka spruce and lack of biodiversity in sitka forests, possible effects on wildlife including great crested newts, no oversight by a qualified landscape architect, possible effects of run-off affecting local beaches and fisheries, acidification of local water courses, lack of benefit for local community, no local job creation, negative effect on tourism, lack of an Environmental Impact Assessment, apparent contradictions with statements on both EJD Forestry and Foresight websites about planting policies, damage done with clear-felling, impact of increased traffic in the area on roads not suitable for large vehicles. A minority opinion was that in view of Britain being the second largest importer of timber in the world (importing 80% of the timber we use), and the relatively poor quality of the affected land, the proposal should go ahead. There will be a further meeting with Ted Downs (Chair of EJD Forestry) on Thursday 16th at 5pm in the Hall. BCC will respond to the proposal to reflecting the various points of view expressed at the meetings and directly to us in writing.</p>	
AP	Collate community responses to proposal, place on website for information	All/AB
	<p>b. Christmas Fair – will be held in the village hall from 1-4pm on 3rd December. There's still time and space to book a stall, please speak to either Carol Ryall or Laura Moodie or email borguecommunitycouncil@gmail.com.</p>	
	<p>c. Broadband Rollout Advice is to approach your existing supplier first and beware of the "small print" (companies will survey and may have to pay extra for installation), Uswitch good for up-to-date price/service comparisons CR asked who hadn't been connected as all hardware in now in place. Current details of what's available can be found at www.borgue.org/fibre</p>	
7	<p>AOB</p> <p>a. Place Plan for Borgue (LPP) Roll of BCC should be to improve the lives of all who live in Borgue, one way</p>	

	<p>to do this would be through a Local Place Plan. We're looking for a small number of people to look at what would need to be done to involve communities across Borgue in developing a plan.</p> <p>D&G Council is now required to take LPPs into consideration in development of future Local Development Plans (LDP) and (Scottish Government Circular 1/2022, paragraph 88) and also as a material consideration for individual planning applications. So an agreed LPP might be a useful format to develop policies, eg controlling holiday lets, encouraging new housing for families or protecting farmland. The first stage would be to meet with D&G officials one evening in the coming weeks.</p>	
AP	Arrange initial LPP group meeting	CR
	<p>b. Borgue Public Hall BCC has been invited to take a seat on the village Hall Committee, currently CR. The hall needs a lot of work, currently including improvements to provide a new accessible toilet, changes to floor levels in kitchen and toilets, an updated kitchen and eventually roof replacement. The committee are waiting for estimates for the cost of proposed changes. There will be an appeal to raise money and the committee would also like to increase the number of regular lettings – there is a suggestion for a table tennis club at the moment. The committee would like to hear from anyone with ideas to raise income or usage, please contact Anne Corson, Janette Watson or any other member of the committee.</p> <p>c. Culraven planning application. Robert Maitland outlined details of a planning proposal he has submitted for a dairy unit and related house at Culraven. which will bring employment (and a family with children) to the village. Initial support was given at the meeting for the proposals, in relation to additional employment this would provide plus a family with young children moving to the village. When received from Dumgal, the links to the planning applications would be placed on the website for people to access the full details and respond in the agreed way.</p>	
8	Date of next meeting: 9 th January 2024	

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