

# Borgue Community Council

## Draft Minutes of the Business Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Borgue Public Hall

Present Anna Hale, Anne Corson, Jean Horn, Anne Muir, Richard Ryall, Janette Watson, Colin Holiday, Ian Cruikshanks, William Graham, Richard Gilston, Kevin Evans, Christine & Guy Clement, Robert Maitland, ?, Rod Slater, Mike Calton, Mick Dawson, Curly Kershaw, Louise Kershaw, Councillor John Denerley (and signer), John Shields, Carol Ryall, Angela Metcalf, Claire Irving, Anne Bannatyne

Apologies No apologies received

### 1 Police Report

No reports of crimes, Police Scotland are now recruiting, for more information contact [scotland.police.uk/sign-up](https://scotland.police.uk/sign-up)

### 2 Minutes and matters arising

- AP** Write to elected members for the area re process for Forestry Grants Scheme AB/CR
- AP** BCC response to D&G Council to indicate we welcome development of new builds but not granting of further Short Term Let licences. AB/CR
- AP** The sum of £598 has been transferred to Borgue Village hall funds
- AP** Contact AMcF with details of what/where to chase up D&G Council re Billy McMath's problem with road effects on septic tank outlet; no response as yet. CR
- AP** Contact D&G Council to raise possibility of installing a bin at east end of Brighthouse Bay: response was that they do not have sufficient resources to add a bin at that location.

### Secretary's report

#### Planning

Applications for a dairy unit at Culraven and a storage shed with fence at Brighthouse Bay have been approved while one for conversion of a farm building to two dwellinghouses at Senwick Farm under a DPA has been sent back for full planning approval.

An appeal (against the failure of the council to determine a planning application within the statutory period) to the Scottish Government on behalf of EnergyKontor Ltd for installation, operation and decommissioning of seven wind turbines at Garcrogo and Barmark Hills was refused.

### 4 Treasurer's Report

**Expenditure:** £68 for auditing of accounts and printing to Kirkcudbright development Trust; £35 for hire of hall for SCCF meeting (which will be reimbursed); £320 for annual rental of village hall.  
Balance is £2159.

### 5 Community Issues

**a. Presentation by Katrina Dick** about the Southwest Scotland Coastal Way.

The plan is to create a 250 mile long coastal path from Gretna to Portpatrick using the existing core pathway network as far as possible to provide facilities for walkers. Both locals and tourists will benefit with a view to attracting people to rural areas to support local amenities including shops and accommodation providers. Funding/support is coming from the People's Project in Dumfries, D&G Council, FEC (recycling money raised from the Landfill Tax), the Coastal Benefit Fund, and Robinrigg Windfarm although some fundraising is still in progress. Some lengths are finished, surveys are currently being carried out between Kirkcudbright and Glenluce, the areas round Borgue will be included given the support of the community.

It will not always be possible to create a 3m wide path because of factors like erosion or positioning of dykes so it cannot be fully accessible but the path will be constructed in the least-restrictive way. Finding and liaising with landowners is important for the success of the project. Some capital works are also being done eg repairing steps, replacing gates.

AP John Shields will liaise with Katrina for Borgue. JS

**b. Councillor Denerley** gave a report of recent Council issues:

At the last full council meeting it was decided to freeze council tax for the coming year, but to increase tax on second homes by 100%. There is a projected funding gap of £30 million over the next 3 years.

The issue of potholes and a need for better repair methods to deal with weather damage was raised; there is £6.4 million available for road repairs.

AP **c.** The community council suggested writing in support of fundraising by the Public Hall Committee, no objections raised. AB/CR

**d. Local Place Plan.** The initial meeting of the working group with the Place Plan Team from the council will take place at 6.30pm on 21<sup>st</sup> March. There is a lot of information on the D&G website and £2K funding available on application, community backing was sought for this, no objections raised.

CI had been involved with the planning process and stressed the aim is to make local voices heard and allow discussion of the "good" in large scale developments for the benefit of the community.

AP Invite those who expressed interest in being involved to meeting. AM/CI

AP **e. Website update.** JS has re-designed to make more easily-accessible, migration to new site should take place before the next BCC meeting. JS

Thanks were expressed for the work previously done on the website by Carl Burn.

**f. Planting at Knocktall** has been largely finished, all roadside gates are open or removed; some repairs to a dyke at the Smiddy Plantation remain to be completed. The CC will compare what has been done with the planting plan.

**g.** There was discussion about fundraising for AV equipment (possibly the projector/screen which currently belongs to the PTC) and broadband connection for the hall.

Broadband could be installed for £420 (setup and 12 months running costs or £840 for setup and 24 months). There is a need for connectivity to run events like

the Christmas Fair.

**h. Martin Thomson** at Borgue Hotel had enquired about timescale of upgrading broadband in the village which at the moment is fibre to cabinet covering the village as far as Chapelton Row. Digital Scotland has no plans to update further till 2026.

**g. National Park Meeting** BCC's intention was to have an open meeting with a Q&A session with representatives of various interested/influential parties (representing tourism, the Council, Planning, NFU, Chamber of Commerce) followed by a discussion within the community to produce a community response. The aim was to develop a full understanding of the NP proposals for the area.

RM asked why it wasn't possible to discuss at meeting; suggested CR was failing to provide opportunities to discuss; suggested there was no way for people to express an opinion and that Rob Lucas (chair GNPA) should have been present to answer questions.

IC had attended two NP consultation meetings and felt there was a lack of welcome from the representatives present; stated that Dame Barbara Kelly (president of GNPA) had stated there was no place in a national park for intensive dairy farming; said Borgue was quoted as being supportive of the NP in available literature and asked how that had happened.

CI had the opposite experience of NP consultation meetings to IC.

CR replied that there had already been about 100 public consultation meetings organised by the GNPA and that RL had attended the CC to discuss previously (see minutes of the November 2022 BCC meeting).

RM accused CR of pro-NP bias in her answer and pressed for a show of hands to demonstrate the feeling of the meeting.

It was pointed out that such a show of hands would not be representative of the entire community and one attendee suggested she would not be willing to take part as she did not wish to become a target for a section of the community.

MC asked if the CC would represent the majority view, CR replied that the CC must represent all views in the community.

There was further discussion about how to gather enough information to make an informed decision, how the entire community could be consulted (CR suggested flyers could be distributed but the CC would need help to do this), how the consultation process will work, whether the community will have any real influence on the decision making process. There is also an NFU online survey dealing with the NP proposal.

AP Organise meeting to discuss as above

CR/all?

7 **Date of next meeting:** 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024