

Minutes
Borgue Community Council, 20th June 2017,
Borgue Village Hall, 7:00pm

1. Welcome & Apologies

Present: John Shields, John Enos, Carol Ryall, Laura Moodie, Paul Sanderson, PC John Brown, Patsy Gilroy, Brenda Burkitt, James Burkitt, Noel Weatherley, Carl Burn, Liz Matear, Doreen Storey (GoF), P. Chambers (GoF), Franca Bruno (GoF), Diana Carson, Vic Odell, Cathie Tennant
Apologies: Mary Wishart, Susan Finlay, Katie Stovell, Dougie Campbell, Jane Maitland. Patsy Gilroy did attend the meeting but due to her role on the planning committee she could not remain for the discussion of the wind farm and Coo Palace proposals.

JS welcomed all to the meeting. Due to the high turnout of people interested in the Wind Farm and Coo Palace proposals, it was decided to alter the agenda to discuss those issues first.

2. Community Issues:

2a. Knockendurrick Wind Farm – printed visualisations were made available at the meeting and discussed.

Concerns were raised on the following issues:

- Lights on turbine blades and the impact on the Dark Skies Park,
- Visual impact on Carrick Shore and National Scenic Area
- Potential impact on tourism of industrial development
- Legacy of the development and future decommissioning
- Potential of development to open the door to more, larger wind farm proposals
- Indirect community benefit scheme and the burden placed on community councils of administering grant applications.
- Difficulty of the development on the heavily contoured drumlins on the Glengap site.
- Turbulence and disruption to wildlife, especially birds and bats.
- Impact on the historic drover's road path through the site

John Enos reminded those present that Borgue CC is here to represent the community of Borgue and consider our response as formal consultees. There are three options open to the Community Council on planning applications– to comment, object or support along planning lines.

In this case those planning considerations are:

- Material planning impact, especially the visual impact on the views of residents of Borgue.
- Landscape impact – a previous DGC Landscape architect survey states that on this site there is; "No scope to accommodate turbines over 80 metres." And on the adjacent drumlins there is; "No scope to accommodate turbines over 50 metres in this landscape."

There have been 1,800 submissions to this planning application, many of them standard letters from those both for and against the proposal.

Borgue CC feels it is important for those residents with strong views on the proposal to put in individual objections but will form an opinion and submit a response to the application based on feedback from the community in Borgue at this meeting.

Of the 5 Borgue residents present (excluding CCs), none were in support of the application and all were in favour of objecting. The Community Council had also received requests to object to the application by e-mail from one resident and from Holiday Property Bond, the company developing Corseyard Dairy. LM abstained from the decision due to the potential conflict of interest registered at the last meeting.

ACTION: JS to draft an objection on planning points discussed above by 29th June.

All those in attendance except Community Councillors left the meeting at this point.

2b. Corseyard Dairy development - update

The latest planning application submitted pulls the various applications underpinning the project together. So far there have been two approvals, the first for the original site development and the second for the amended plan with the leisure centre.

The current plan includes building up into tower. A new full planning application is required due to additional accommodation units above those outlined in the original plan.

JE: Felt that the new plans could better reflect the historical context, for example by ensuring an unlit area in the tower units that would correspond to the location of the old water tower.

CR: Felt the plans were on the edge of over-development of site.

The Community Council will submit no further comment but will resubmit a variation on our last comment. The company does need to demonstrate that it is listening to local residents.

ACTION: JS to revise previous comment.

3. Minutes & Matters Arising

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

3a. Broadband

Follow-up on actions: JE emailed Finlay Carson, Fergus Ewing, Audit Scotland. Things had been going in right direction but were now stalled and there was a lack of feedback. A month on, this is still an urgent and outstanding matter and no sign of the planned Green cabinet. SCVS forum CCs raised it on their agendas. There is an opportunity to go back to the media on the issue. We are never going to make a business case in dispersed rural communities. This could be an opportunity to write to our new Conservative MP.

ACTION: JE to draft further email. Need specific communication to specific community councils by August.

4. Police Report

PC Brown provided the following report: Re: the vehicles seen at Kirkandrews and Ross Bay, Marine Scotland have the details and will monitor the area and link it to any other reports they receive.

The toilets have been damaged at the Dhoon beach and Seaward Caravan Park. Enquiries are ongoing to identify those responsible. A further update will be given at the next meeting.

The Community Safety Team was invited to a meeting a little while ago. It was proposed to invite them to the next meeting, along with our new ward worker. LM is in touch with CS regarding possible clean up events.

ACTION: LM to follow-up contacts with Community Safety and our ward worker.

5. Secretary's report

This was accepted as submitted.

6. Treasurer's report

The current balance is £938.62. CR has established two new spreadsheets for monitoring our finances. The accounts have now been submitted to Anne Corson at SCVS for auditing in anticipation of applying for our annual discretionary grant.

LM suggested some funds could be spent on communications, for example website content or newsletters. Now the AGM is over, it was suggested that getting the website ready to launch should be a focus over the summer. We also need a watching brief on available grants.

ACTION: JS, CR & LM to work on the website as communications sub-group.

7. 20's Plenty Consultation

The CC discussed Mark Ruskell MSP's proposed *Restricted Roads (20mph Limit) (Scotland) Bill* which is currently out for consultation. Current Scottish Government guidance favours 20mph for residential streets. However, while some local authorities have taken action to roll out 20mph in localised areas, the approach across Scotland has been piecemeal so far.

The current process to lower speed limits in urban areas is complex, time-consuming and costly for councils. The proposed Bill intends to make it easier for local authorities to pursue and implement 20mph speed limits for the benefit and safety of us all.

Although the Community Council felt the idea was good in principle, the costings provided seem optimistic and it was difficult to see how it could be implemented in rural areas. The CCs agreed it may make more sense to concentrate on areas where the reduction could be more effectively policed and where physical changes to the built environment were more practical. Several councillors also felt that better implementation of the existing legislation and higher fines may be more effective ways to improve speeds. That said, we would like to see more consistency across Dumfries & Galloway and in particular would like to see a flashing lights 20mph zone in place at Primary School drop-off and collection times in Borgue.

ACTION: LM to draft a response.

8. Borgue Fair 13th August

LM updated those present on plans. The next community meeting to discuss this will be in the Borgue Hotel at 6:00pm on Tuesday 25th July.

9. Roads Maintenance / CCES

LM felt recent queries to the CCES about potholes had enjoyed a swift and effective response, though problems persist around Knockbex, Chapelton and Barharrow with deterioration of the road surface at the verges.

The reflector lights that have been missing for some time from the sharp corner on the B727 between Senwick Woods and the turn-off to Ross Bay have still not been reinstated, despite Councillor Wyper contacting the roads maintenance department in the spring.

ACTION: LM to ask councillors for assistance.

10 AOCB

10a. New footpath gates from Kirkandrews to Borness have been installed but the new signs have been sited at the wrong ends, e.g. the signpost reading "Kirkandrews 2.5 miles" is at Kirkandrews and should be at Borness.

10b. Participatory Budgeting

An email was received from Colin Freeman regarding grants available as part of a new participatory budgeting project. This could be a means to secure funds for the village hall improvements, a community development plan or another scheme. Grants of up to £20,000 are available. The examples provided were in much bigger communities.

ACTION: LM to email Colin and copy in Ward Worker.

Dates of next meetings:

Tuesday 15th August
Tuesday 17th October
Tuesday 19th December + mince pies and mulled wine!

2018

Tuesday 20th February 2018
Tuesday 17th April 2018 (AGM)