

Borgue Community Council

Draft Minutes 14 February 2023, Borgue Public Hall

Present Carl Burn, Christine Clement, Liz Matear, Rob Maitland, Carol Ryall, Rob Hale, Anna Hale, John Shields, Anne Bannatyne, Councillor John Denerley, Cameron Denerley (trainee translator)

Apologies Syd Davison, Angela Metcalfe

1 Police Report

No report was available at the meeting. *Update: A Police report was received but not in time to be available for the meeting.*

Minutes and Matters Arising

Previous minutes proposed CB, seconded CR

Mill of Plunton Woodland Update

BCC sent its comments on the proposals to Scottish Forestry. Reply from Woodland Officer indicated that:

Information about carbon trading is available at Woodland Carbon Code assurance scheme available at woodlandcarboncode.org.uk.

Request for additional shrub planting agreed to an extent by agent and will be discussed with BCC. 25% of gorse to be cleared to facilitate planting but will increase on open ground as part of scheme - applicant will discuss with BCC.

3-4 car spaces already agreed, no expectation of increased traffic.

Path maintenance agreed to an extent by agent and will be discussed with BCC.

Path linkage - access from north and south has been discussed with landowners, full details will be agreed (including additional gates and potential bridging of Pulwhirrin Burn) and applicant will discuss with BCC.

Landscape impacts - Scottish Forestry say scheme will be barely visible from south and west. Screen of native broadleaves along edges, so only minimal impact on landscape from north and east. Planting of conifers/ native broadleaves on a small/ medium scale will enhance existing knolls and drumlins, especially as plenty of typical local landscape character left unplanted.

AP Contact FFC as reply made no mention of contribution to hall repairs

SD

Soup Kitchen Housing application

Council declined to consider application because not sufficiently amended from the original.

Broadband follow-up

Digital Scotland is showing further delays to broadband improvement in the area. Previously said would be completed by end 2023; now expected between 2023-26. No phone number on website and contact proving

difficult.

AP Contact again

AB

3 Secretary's Report

Planning:

Barmagachan House. –window installation & garage had been agreed
Little Ross Island. Two applications for renovating existing cottage and conversion of derelict building to holiday cottage. No objections raised at meeting.

4 Treasurer's Report

Finance

Income Received £466.70 from D&G Discretionary Grant.

Other Expenditure £ 167.50 donated to 1st Stewartry Rangers (50% of Xmas Fair profits). £40 sent for annual registration with Information Commissioners Office.

AP ask D&G why grant level has not been increased for many years

CR

Community Resilience – Emergency Planning Update Organisation phone numbers, website & Facebook links etc useful in an emergency are available on BCC website – use Local Links tab and click on Emergency Information. Report anything missing or links not working to BCC.
Most old analogue phones will work for a time during power cuts so handy to keep for emergencies. Reminder to keep smartphones charged so you can access useful web links in an emergency and/ or power cut.

E-bike Event Update Second E-bike/ cycle event, funded by Cycling UK, at Gatehouse Community Centre on Fri 17 Feb 10am-1pm. Free E-bike try-outs and 3 workshops - one on repairs - to help people get back into cycling. Free regular cycle try-outs available from Wheels of Fleet. Photo ID needed for tasters available.

AP Explore need, possible locations and funding source.

CR

5 Community Issues

Stewartry Community Council Network ,next meeting is 21 Mar. AB/CR to attend.

Climate Action Network meeting 24 Feb Newton Stewart, AB to attend.

Surveys from D&G Council - Interim Care LM & JS had attended drop-in consultation event held in Kbt on 13 Feb. Many had turned up to support the case for re-opening of Kbt hospital, which many considered was part of the interim care system and had been closed without consultation. Event staff though would not discuss it. A survey is also available online until 3 Mar -

those who had looked at it considered it poor, and posters were not clear.

AP **BCC** to write and indicate concern at unclear publicity and support re-opening of Kbt hospital.

Wind farms – Meeting raised concern that i) wind farms applications keep coming back with larger turbines, and ii) the highest proportion of appeals concerning wind farms in Scotland are from D&G because the Council has failed to determine the applications within the required timescale.

Actions: Cllr JD indicated that larger companies profiting from carbon offset so not interested in local benefit – give him more info and he will respond.

AP Write to the Council saying that we do not support larger turbines, and concerned at the lack of non-determination locally which then leaves it to government to determine the applications. AB

Local landscape changes – Despite Regional Scenic Area designation, there have been incremental changes to local landscapes with removal of ridges and associated vegetation, hedgerows and field boundaries, field entrances widened etc. Impact mainly arises from economics, changes to farming practices, and competing land uses. Community has had no opportunity to express its views on this and feel it is piecemeal. JS had lukewarm response from Biodiversity team at Council. Discussion was on how we could talk constructively and achieve right balance. Measures are needed so the community and farmers can understand both sides and agree way forward.

AP BCC to explore formats and seek reps from both sides. AB

6 **AOB**

Borgue Public Hall refurbishment CC explained proposed improvements to hall including changes to floor levels in toilets/ kitchen and creation of disabled toilet facilities, all to improve accessibility, new kitchen and repairs to roof. Difficulty in getting quotes from contractors. Funding sources are being explored. Will launch appeal when costs calculated and will be substantial.

D&G Budget Cllr JD explained Council's finance situation. Scottish Gov not providing enough money so £13.5m blackhole. Full Council will meet end of Feb. Cuts for 3 years will be needed. Likely council tax increase 3%-8%*. Non-essential services may well face cuts. Essential services like Education, Care etc will be protected. **Update: Council set rate at 5%.*

7 **Dates for BCC meetings in 2023-24**

Consistency important – second Tues in the month where possible, generally avoid July/ Aug. All still at 7pm.

2023 Apr 11th
June 27th * AGM followed by normal meeting
Sept 12th
Nov 14th
2024 Jan 9th
Mar 12th

**Note this date has been moved from June date proposed at meeting.*

AP Send list to relevant D&G Councillors and Police contacts.

AB

AP Book rooms

CR

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT