

Barr Community Council Meeting

Thursday 10th January 2013

Village Hall 7.00pm

Present Mr A Smith(AS) Chairperson, Mr W Dunlop(WD) Treasurer,
Mr J Craig(JC) Secretary, Mr J Leil(JL), Mr J Gracie(JG),
Miss W Gracie(WG), Mrs A Connon(AC), Mr H Denham(HD)
Councillor A Oattes(AO). Mr A Johnston(AJ) Scottish Woodlands.

| Item | Minute | Action |
|------|---|--------|
| 1 | Apologies. Mrs P Lorimer | |
| 2 | Register of Interest. JC and AS intimated an interest in a funding application that was due to be discussed later. | |
| 3 | Police report. There being no police present there was no report. | |
| 4 | <p>Scottish Woodlands presentation by Mr Allan Johnston.</p> <p>In response to members' enquiries Mr Johnston confirmed that the land in question belonged to a Mr Ross Bull, that it amounted to about 20 hectares and was currently used for livestock grazing on short term lets to local farmers. He explained that Mr Bull who owns a considerable acreage of commercial forest in the area was seeking alternative use for the land. Scottish Woodlands are recommending non commercial amenity broadleaf as an alternative to commercial conifer as they believe that there is enough of this in the area already. AO asked if there were any dwelling houses in or in close proximity to the proposed planting area. There are none. There was some concern expressed about the proximity of tall trees close to the road but in fact there is already a stand of commercial conifer between the proposed site and the road which is due to be harvested in the next 5 years or so and this will be replanted as part of the ongoing timber production programme. There was also some concern expressed about the further loss of agricultural land in an area that has already seen significant losses. AJ emphasised the relatively low density (only about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the available land will be planted) and the amenity aspects of the proposal. He confirmed that there would be free access for members of the public. WD asked if the general public would be made aware of this proposal. Apparently the procedure is that if the proposal is to go ahead notification will be made on the Forestry Commission web-site with an opportunity for comment. AS thanked AJ for his presentation. Barr Community Council (BCC) will not oppose the plan but will write to Scottish Woodland seeking an assurance that local residents will be kept informed of further developments prior to implementation should they wish to comment further.</p> | JC |
| 5 | Minutes of last meeting. These were accepted as accurate. Proposed HD. Seconded WG. | |

6 Matters Arising.

- 6.1 AS has had some response to his Carrick Characters article in the Barrometer. A small group is being formed to take this forward. The chosen subject for Barr will focus on agriculture and particularly the predominance of sheep husbandry in the area. Allied to this and unique to Barr can be historical events such as the Herd's and Kirk Dandy Fairs. AS said that David Betts, who is in charge of linking the various communities' ideas will be happy to come along to support local groups. It was also agreed that WG with her knowledge of local folklore and tradition should join the Barr group.
- 6.2 AS raised the subject of the football field and play park and the possibility of linking with South Ayrshire Council (SAC) in partnership to develop these amenities. The possibility of achieving this through the Barr Community Development Company (BCDC) was discussed. WD reminded members that the BCDC had been set up expressly to purchase the football field and when this proved to be both not possible and unnecessary the company had been allowed to become dormant. JC said that it would be premature to bring the company out of dormancy until we had some concrete proposals from SAC (Jim McQuillan) about the partnership arrangements. When the company was brought out of dormancy it would be necessary to publicise its existence and encourage local residents to become members. These members could then appoint office bearers and decide on the future direction of the company.
- 6.3 AS gave an update on the Dinmurchie situation. Ailsa Horizons (AH) have reported that the meeting in Barr hall on 10th November 2012 had been very successful with about eighty people taking part. There have been two meetings since. HD as our nominated representative attended. A number of ideas for how land and buildings could be used have been put forward and these are being considered. Costing for various options are in progress but no figures are available as yet. Some of the proposals regarding the provision of either self catering or B&B accommodation were controversial as there was a feeling in some quarters that these facilities were well provided for in the area already. Hadyard Hill Community Benefit Fund Ltd (HHCBFL) with whom the Forestry Commission is negotiating has asked for valuations for various land/building packages and until these are forthcoming any decisions on what will be acquired and how it will be used are speculative at best. But present thinking seems to favour its use more as a dormitory base for visiting existing facilities rather than creating a new attraction in its own right.
- 6.4 JC said that the co-option of Mrs Paula Lorimer had been intimated for the mandatory three weeks and that no comments had been received.
- 6.5 JC said that as agreed the Scottish Government's Thirty Year Plan had been displayed in the hall foyer with information on how to respond.

7 Treasurer's Report

WD reported that the bank balance stood at £10,846-79. He also said that no top-up funds had yet been received from either HHCBFL or Carrick Futures (CF) in respect of their Community Council small grants scheme allocations. JC said that these top-ups had been applied for and that the applications had been accompanied by detailed explanations of how the small grants had been disbursed.

- 8 Secretary's Report.
- 8.1 Scottish Water Major Consultation We have been invited to take part in this consultation. Details can be found at www.scottishwater.co.uk/yourviewscount. Submissions to be received by 12th February 2013. AS will insert a small article in the forthcoming Barrometer giving details of how individuals might respond if they wished. AS
- 8.2 We have been sent copies of the Scottish Government's leaflet Coping with Emergencies- Building Community Resilience. After perusal it was decided to place these in the hall foyer where they would be available to all.
- 8.3 We have been sent an Email jointly by Newton Mearns and Dunoon Community Councils relating to the Scottish Health Campaigns Network. For further information go to www.shcnlive.co.uk . We will not as a council respond directly to this.
- 8.4 We have been sent a copy of the Benbrack Wind Farm Notification and Environmental Assessment Scoping Report. Responses to be sent to the Scottish Government. As it is out with our area, it is in Dalmellington, we will not respond.
- 8.5 We have received a letter (two in fact, slightly different) regarding future use of the village hall. One of them invites comment before the next Barr Community Association (BCA) meeting on 15 January. Unfortunately the lack of information relating to any changes makes meaningful comment impossible. AS will liaise. AS
- 8.6 NHS Ayrshire and Arran Telecare Services have sent us a list of equipment available to elderly and vulnerable people. They will come and discuss these with us if we want. AS said that this could tie in with information he had been asked to collate relating to elderly and vulnerable people in our area. AS will respond as appropriate. AS
- 8.7 Community Council Elections. We received a request to agree to a change of date for the forthcoming Community Council elections to avoid clashing with Easter. On behalf of BCC JC agreed. Significant dates are as follows-
 Adverts placed by 1 February.
 Closing date for nominations 21 February.
 Declaration of results (uncontested elections) 1 March.
 Last day for receipt of ballot papers (contested elections) 20 March.
 Counting of votes and declaration of results 21 March. AS will make sure that this information is carried in the next issue of the Barrometer along with an invitation for people to consider standing for the Community Council themselves
- 8.8 JC reported that he had asked Billy Pollock at SAC on 21st December 2012 for copies of the SAC Scheme and Handbook for our three new members but to date he has had no response. We will try again. JC
- 8.9 The Association of South Ayrshire Community Councils (ASACC) have sent us a reminder about the Carrick Characters consultation events. These are -
 Feb 19th 2013 Burns Birthplace Museum Alloway 2- 6 PM and
 Feb 20th 2013 McKechnie Institute Girvan 1.30- 7 PM.

9 CCCF Report.

JL gave a resume of proceedings at the last CCCF meeting which was on 13th Nov 2012. Of particular interest was the news that the ASACC have secured funding for the Bruce Trail and have engaged Xchrome Associates to undertake this work. Also that the Carrick Tourism Project has progressed well. The web site has gone live and 30,000 Welcome to Carrick Ayrshire booklets have been printed. Locally 25% have already been distributed, a further 25% will be distributed soon. The remaining 15,000 are for distribution across the whole of Scotland. AS reported that a project was being launched to try to ascertain the requirement for elderly care services locally. What is the need? How can this need be established? Can BCC help to compile a list? AO asked if there were any elderly orientated group meetings already in existence in the village but was told that there were none. AS will look into how the required information might be obtained and made available.

AS

10 Planning Matters

10.1 Erection of a meteorological mast at Pinmore Mains has been permitted.

10.2 Erection of a wind turbine at Glengennet Farm has been permitted.

10.3 Alteration and extension to dwelling house and erection of a garage at 3 Changue Rd has been permitted.

10.4 Erection of an agricultural shed at Cairnwhin Farm has been permitted.

10.5 An application to erect a wind turbine, substation and associated access road at Pinmore Mains has been withdrawn.

10.6 Erection of a dwelling house on land to the north of 15 Glenginnet Rd, Barr has been permitted.

11 Funding Applications.

JC said that during 2011/12 we had distributed the whole of the HHCBFL allocation of £5,000 and £1,650 of the CF allocation. Re-imburement has been applied for but not yet received so there is only £850 available at the moment. We also have two applications before us that total £946 so we will not be able to grant both of these in full. BCA has requested £500 towards the £1,018 cost of replacing the cooker in the village hall and Barr Bowling Club has asked for £486 for seed, lawn sand and fertiliser for the village bowling green. After some discussion it was agreed to fund the BCA request in full and give the remaining £350 to the bowling club.

12 Open Forum. With no members of the public remaining after the Scottish Woodlands presentation there was no open forum.

13 AOB

Following on from the discussion earlier about the possibility of forming some sort of partnership with SAC to develop the football field/play park and the possible acquisition of Dinmurchie WD raised the subject of the village hall. He reminded members that HHC BFL, on behalf of Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) had, for a number of years now, been holding a considerable sum of money earmarked for the development of Barr Village Hall. Under current benefit fund conditions this money cannot be made available while the hall is under the ownership and control of the local authority. Over the years both BCC and BCA have sought to engage the wider community in discussions on how best to secure the future of the hall. The outcome has always been inconclusive with fairly entrenched views both for and against community ownership expressed.

WD was particularly interested in obtaining the views of community council members as to whether we should expect HHC BFL to continue to hold this money for the hall given that the situation appeared no nearer to being resolved after nearly nine years had passed. In the debate that followed it was agreed that the decision whether or not to relinquish this offer could not rest with BCC alone. SAC as the hall owners together with BCA who have responsibility for the letting as well as the community at large would also need to have their views considered. Also the management board of HHC BFL and SSE as the originator of the proposal and provider of the funds. On the particular issue of the Community Council view it was decided by a majority vote that it would not be reasonable to expect HHC BFL and SSE to continue to ring fence this money indefinitely. In coming to this conclusion it was accepted that should this money be freed up for other projects it would always be possible if, in the future a community takeover of the hall became necessary, to re-apply to HHC BFL or CF or other fund providers for financial assistance. It was agreed that a note of this opinion should be conveyed to the HHC BFL board and copied to other interested parties such as BCA and SAC.

JC

The time now having reached 9.20 PM no further AOB items were invited and the meeting closed.

Date of next meeting 14th February 2013.