

Barr Community Council

Minutes

Thursday 10th March 2016 @ 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Mr Hamish Denham (HD) Chair, Mrs Merlin Corbett (MC) Vice Chair, Mrs Isabel Kay (IK) Treasurer, Mr John Donaldson (JD), Mr Alexander Tait (AT), Mr Matthew Cross (MCR)

In Attendance: Cllr. Alec Oattes (AO), Sgt Kevin McKeown, Mrs Jacqueline Logan (Minutes Secretary), Mr David Trotter (BCA Chair). **Guest Speakers:** Lesley Jeffery and Donald Henderson (Community Resilience Programme), Ellen Traynor (Hadyard Hill Extension 3D Model), Lindsay Cunningham (MP Corri Wilson's office)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Minute</i>	<i>Action</i>
1	Sederunt: as above.	
2	Declaration of Interest: None	
3	Apologies: None	
4	<p>Police Report: - No incidents or crimes were reported in the Barr Parish. Sergeant McKeown reported that there have been a number of houses broken into in South Ayrshire over the past year: Ayr, Troon, Ballantrae, and recently in Pinwherry and Dailly. The breaks ins follow a pattern so please be vigilant and look out for strange cars parked outside empty houses or houses without alarms especially around dusk. Items such as jewellery, laptops, mobile phones etc. are being taken.</p> <p>Incidences of dog worrying sheep to be discussed in Item 9: Matters Arising. AT asked whether the Police report the dangerous condition of the roads to ARA. Sergeant McKeown confirmed that where a road is dangerous/hazardous then they report to ARA.</p>	
5	<p>Lesley Jeffery and Donald Henderson from the Community Resilience Programme explained the purpose of the programme and the steps Barr needs to take to create a Community Plan. Lesley provided three plans from other communities for BCC to look at.</p> <p>The starting point is to consider what we have and where we would meet. HD said that Barr had equipment such as tractors for snow clearance, the ability to deal with felled trees etc. and the Village Hall would be the meeting point. Lesley explained that although there was an understanding of how the village would cope in an emergency, Barr needs to formalise a Community Plan so that the whole community are aware.</p> <p>CCs or members of the community can draft Barr's Community Resilience Programme (CRP) which should include a persons at risk database (PARD). The CRP needs to address what Barr Community can do until SAC, power/water companies or emergency services can reach the village. Lesley provided a list of contact details for registering vulnerable persons with power/utility companies.</p> <p>The preservation of life is key: Donald explained that one day may be alright, but after two or more days people at risk can become vulnerable. Barr needs to have an emergency centre and a local community team who understand the plan and have ready access to the PARD with contact details of persons with special medical, dietary or other needs. The CRP needs to be reviewed annually to keep the information up to date.</p> <p>AT enquired if there was any funding available for perhaps getting a generator. There is no funding at present and future funding would likely be only enough to provide basic equipment such as grab bags.</p>	

	<p>Lesley agreed to send information electronically to MC and HD. HD thanked Lesley and Donald and they left the meeting at 7:20pm.</p>	MC/HD
6	<p>Ellen Traynor kindly brought along the 3D model she constructed to show the impact of proposed turbines in the Hadyard Hill Extension. The model is being used to help fight the planned extension with particular emphasis on the visual impact, noise pollution, landscape, water supplies and nature/environment.</p> <p>Ellen explained that she has been intensively studying the documentation for the planned extension and she has uncovered inaccuracies and questionable methodologies. Amongst the concerns she has uncovered to date are:</p> <p>Hydrology maps appear inaccurate and the affect on public/private water supplies have not been addressed.</p> <p>Errors have been made with the noise monitoring, the SSE survey was incorrectly done – Ellen is awaiting the new results.</p> <p>The huge Borrow pits in the Stinchar catchment area required for 16-17 turbines on steep slopes are cause for concern. Ellen to send MC copy of information.</p> <p>550 cubic metres of concrete will be required for each 126m turbine, seepage into water supplies seems inevitable.</p> <p>Assessment of the 126m turbines needs to be re-done as the information has been lost.</p> <p>Decibel levels for the existing turbines are increasing with forestry clearances, no consideration has been made for this in the extension plans.</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) have many concerns and have made recommendations to SSE regarding the impact of the extension on the environment and wildlife. SNH remit is not to object, but to make recommendations. SSE appears to have ignored the concerns/recommendations and simply say there are no objections.</p> <p>Ellen explained that much of the assessments undertaken were desktop assessments.</p> <p>Ellen to keep in contact with MC. Next consultation with SSE will be in May.</p> <p>HD thanked Ellen for her presentation and she left the meeting at 8:10pm.</p>	
7	<p>Lindsay Cunningham attended from MP Corri Wilson’s office to discuss communication problems.</p> <p>Corri Wilson MP for Ayr, Carrick & Cumnock raised the issues and complaints across the constituency during a debate in Parliament regarding BT Service Standards on 09 March 2016. For the written transcript of the speech please see 9:50am at the link - https://hansard.digiminster.com/Commons/2016-03-09/debates/16030960000001/BTServiceStandards</p> <p>Lindsay explained that Corri’s office in Ayr has been experiencing the same ongoing problems as Barr and other communities with regard to BT and Openreach. She also pointed out that the debate highlighted the tales of woe across the country with regard to broadband, phone and mobile phone coverage in rural areas.</p> <p>Ofcom are to review Openreach and BT as it is felt that they are not separate enough. Government are discussing and supporting the opening up of cable links to other telecom/broadband providers who have problems working with Openreach. Corri will write to Parliament in support of the reform of BT.</p> <p>Corri wrote to Ed Vaizey, Minister of State for Culture, Media and Sport, her letter was passed back to Digital Scotland. Corri to meet with Digital Scotland to keep up the pressure.</p> <p>MC praised the BT engineers. MC said it appears that BT management are not speaking to the workforce on the ground and that the standard of BT Customer</p>	

	<p>Service is appalling. Individuals have to complain separately as BT will not accept a representative acting on people's behalf, even if that person is a CC. This means that every individual has to drive four miles out of the village to get a mobile signal to report faults. This is impossible for vulnerable people to deal with and many also fear they will be charged. MCr agreed with the inability to report a village-wide fault as an individual.</p> <p>MCr reiterated that due to safety concerns Barr should have a mobile phone mast. Sergeant McKeown agreed that coverage across the area in general posed a threat for communities and emergency services alike.</p> <p>HD thanked Lindsay for her contribution to the meeting.</p>	
8a	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting: Minutes of 11th February 2016 were accepted as accurate. Proposed by MCr, seconded by JD.</p>	
8b	<p>Minutes of meeting of sub committee: HD attended the Assel Valley Community Liaison Group meeting on behalf of BCC. The movement of turbines, notice of route etc. was discussed. There was an apology from Scottish Power regarding the cutting of the phone/broadband lines and lack of traffic management by the contractors. One year in and community benefit funding is still not forthcoming – should be available by 01 May 2016. MC reported back on progress at Tralorg. Work has been delayed until 2017 due to lack of connection via Scottish Power. The setting up of a Trust to distribute funding is ongoing.</p>	
9	<p>Matters Arising: <i>Item Police Report Jan 2016: Dog worrying of sheep.</i> Further to confirmation of incidents of dog worrying sheep in the area the Minutes of January 2016 have been updated to include IK's report of a dog being shot by a farmer in the Galloway Forest area after attacking sheep. Sergeant McKeown provided a letter from Police Scotland outlining the seriousness of the crime and the penalties it incurs. The dog owner or person in charge of the dog can be found guilty of an offence if a dog worries livestock on any agricultural land. Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953, the penalties for worrying livestock are: A Criminal Record and a fine of up to £1000 And The possibility of your dog being destroyed. A copy of the Act is available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/1-2/28 Further information for dog owners can be found at: http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com If you would like a copy of Police Scotland's letter please contact HD/JL. <i>Item 8(d):</i> Private fields flooding at Alton Albany Farm. SAC have reported that there are broken drains in the field. The roads department will only act when there is a problem. Forestry Commission Scotland to contact land owners. <i>Item 8(f):</i> MC met with Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) re-trails. FCS have agreed to do the trails signage. There is however, ongoing negotiation with regard to the Fairy Knowe Trail. FCS are looking at not including the Fairy Knowe Trail as a core trail due to the costs it will incur to make safe the steps. The trail will need funding to keep it as a core path. The plan is for the path to remain open, but not as a core path and to extend the High Changuie Trail at the dead ends. Concerns were raised that the Fairy Knowe Trail is one of the most popular and SAC had paid for the bridge to allow the Trail to be open. AO to chase up with SAC.</p>	AO

	<p><i>Item 9(f) Cemetery wall - ongoing</i></p> <p><i>Item 11(d): Grip steps for the bridge over the Gregg from the Village to The Clachan. Repairs done.</i></p>	
10	<p>Regular Reports:</p> <p>Treasurers Report:</p> <p>IK reported that the BCC books have been audited and everything was in order. The balance at 10th March 2016 stood at £13,792.04 with no cheques outstanding.</p> <p>HHCBF: HD and IK attended on behalf of BCC. FS to attend HHCBF meeting April to discuss Memo and Articles of HHCBF and review the Brunston options paper. Concerns were raised that the HHCBF set up is placing too much responsibility on Directors and Members.</p> <p>CF: MCr reported back. Funding applications were agreed for the Open Studios, money for Carrick bus and Girvan Youth Trust.</p> <p>CCCF: No meeting.</p> <p>BPDC: Consultants are in final stages of preparing the feasibility study report.</p> <p>MUGA – HD reported that Sport Scotland has no formal appeal process. HD to write a letter to Sport Scotland Trustees for their consideration.</p> <p>HHCBF & CF: BCC representatives/Directors are unable to discuss confidential issues discussed at meetings.</p>	HD
11	Correspondence:	
11(a)	Dr McFadyen contacted HD about his forthcoming retirement at the end of June 2016. His contract with Ayrshire and Arran Heath Board will end and they will be responsible for providing primary health care to the patients of the practice. At present there are no details on how healthcare will be delivered to patients of the practice. Future developments are being monitored and BCC have been encouraged to remain engaged with the issue.	
11(b)	A77 Ardwell to Lendalfoot will be closed 11 th March 2016 from 8pm until 6am 14 th March 2016. Next two weekends to be announced.	
11(c)	CARES conference 15 th /16 th March contact HD for details.	
11(d)	Alison Blair SAC is liaising with BT, Openreach and Digital Scotland regarding the poor telecom/broadband infrastructure in Barr, with particular regard to the upgrade to superfast broadband.	
11(e)	VASA and SAC. Strengthening Community Workshop 23 March 2016 – MC attending for BCC.	MC
11(f)	Barr road closure – ARA. Merlin to keep in touch and post dates as works have currently been delayed.	MC
11(g)	Community Council elections. Nine candidates applied so an election is not required. AO to Chair the first meeting of the new Council on 14 April 2016 when office bearers will be elected. It was agreed to have a presentation for JG's retirement at April's meeting to thank him for his many years of service to the Council. Barr Community Council AGM will take place 12 May 2016.	
12	<p>Funding Applications:</p> <p>Barr Teas – small fridge for functions £150 – Approved</p> <p>BCA – funding for Village Hall insurance £400 - Approved</p>	
13	<p>Open Forum:</p> <p>DT (BCA Chair) to submit application for Hall insurance as above. DT also reminded all that the Barr Community Association AGM will be on Monday 21 March 2016 at 7pm in the Village Hall. The meeting is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend where possible.</p>	
14	AOCB:	

14	<p>AOCB:</p> <p>MC queries re-hedge cuttings in The Gregg – HD said it is in hand and will be cleaned up in due course. MC re-condition of the steps from the Glebe up to Kirk Angus. The steps are slippery and dangerous with mud and rubble – AO to chase up.</p> <p>IK re-fencing around the Village Hall and Bowling Green. £150 for 6m plus installation. Approximately £7,500 for the fencing – AT suggested looking at the Community Payback Scheme to have the installation done free of charge.</p> <p>AO re-SAC budget. There are no direct implications for Barr, but Gala Day stalls will now be charged for. MC said Barr have a private supplier who is much cheaper.</p> <p>MC to send Alex Sharp’s details to Lindsey Cunningham and AO.</p> <p>HD to resend trustees e-mail for all to look at and send comments to HD.</p>	<p>AO</p> <p>AT</p> <p>MC</p> <p>HD/All</p>
15	<p>Arrangements for next meeting: To be held on Thursday 14th April 2016, 7pm in the Village Hall. Agenda to follow.</p> <p>AGM to be held on Thursday 12th May 2016, 7pm in the Village Hall. Agenda to follow.</p>	<p>HD</p>