

Barr Community Council

Minutes

Thursday 11th June 2015 @ 7pm in the Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Cllr. John McDowall (JMc), PC Hendry, PC Graham.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Minute</i>	<i>Action</i>
1	Sederunt: as above.	
2	Declaration of Interest: None	
3	Apologies: Mrs Jacqueline Logan (minutes)	
4	Police Report: - Dog issues are being addressed with leaflet distribution and signage. There were no incidents of crime in Barr Village, but continued vigilance is required regarding agricultural equipment and quad bike theft. BCC query regarding forestry incident is covered by data protection so no further information is available. Two individuals have been apprehended in connection with rural thefts and will be charged.	
5a	Minutes of the previous meeting: Minutes of 14 th May 2015 were accepted as accurate. Proposed by AT, seconded by JD.	
5b	Minutes of meeting of sub committee: <i>Item 7(7):</i> Assel Valley Wind Farm Community Liaison Group. MC reported that the meeting was a consultation regarding the imminent works and road closures at Glendrissaig. Updates will be posted on the website and FB about the possible impact to traffic etc. JG mentioned helicopter drops at other wind farm sites as a possible option, but costs were probably prohibitive.	HD
6	Matters Arising: <i>Item 9:</i> HD had not yet contacted Connie Loban re- signage for Play park preventing dogs. JMc offered to investigate <i>Item 14(a):</i> Potholes are still an issue and flooding at Alton Albany still has not been addressed properly. JMc informed the CC that there was additional funding for the roads, however, it was felt that the community was possibly disregarded because of the small population. MCr pointed out the poor workmanship and bad planning, i.e. cutting back hedging/trees when there is low growth and no action being taken on high growth, leading to dangerous blind corners and blocking sight lines. There was a general consensus that the Roads Alliance and contractors displayed a lack of common sense and false economy. Potholes in the roads around Barr are seriously dangerous in many areas, damaging tourism and residents vehicles. <i>Item 14(c):</i> MC has not yet received quotes for the replacement of the Village Notice boards. <i>Item 14(d):</i> Hall Steering Group meeting with SAC Tuesday 19 th May 2015. It was felt that it would be helpful to get back to basics and rein in over ambitious plans in order to progress realistic outcomes. A meeting is to be arranged with Gus Collins and Colin Love of SAC as soon as they are back from holiday. The legal status of Barr Village Hall still needs clarification from SAC.	JMc/HD JMc MC

7	<p><i>Regular Reports:</i></p> <p><i>Treasurers Report:</i> IK gave the BCC account balance as £12,273.95 at the date of the meeting. IK had a cheque which had not been cashed for the former minute secretary. It was agreed to re-issue. IK and HD to fill in fund forms for CF and HHCBF</p> <p><i>HHCBF:</i> a meeting was held of the remaining board, Foundation Scotland and AT for BCC. The Board agreed to overhaul HHCBF memos and articles and to examine the structure and function of the Board with FS advising. Consultation is ongoing with agreement that FS will be the new secretariat for HHCBF. There will be a statement and follow-up meeting to move forward changes by the end of July. Funding applications will still go through AH at present. AT and HD will advise.</p> <p><i>Carrick Futures:</i> MC and MCr gave a short report on CF applications and the new application forms that are now available on website. Simpler and easier to follow guidelines are also available.</p> <p><i>CCCF:</i> The meeting was cancelled due to the poor health of the Chairman. A question was raised as to why meetings could not go ahead with the Vice Chair or a stand in Chair. A new date has yet to be set.</p> <p><i>BPDC:</i> The Ambition Fund application for funding by BPDC has been successful. The engagement of a professional consultant to develop a feasibility study and business plan for Barr Community Wind farm proposal was discussed. An application is to be made for a “start up grant” to fund a project management consultant. Concerns were aired regarding the pending Government announcement to cut/remove subsidies for wind farms, with the possibility of the added risk of low returns affecting the viability of future proposals. BPDC agreed to proceed with caution. MC gave an update on Barr Bikes. A funding application has been made for training and match funding for storage. Bikes are currently available through MC/ACE until storage can be sourced in the Village.</p>	<p>IK, HD</p> <p>AT, HD</p>
8	Correspondence:	
8(a)	Scottish Water have submitted an application to erect a wind turbine at Penwhapple Reservoir. The planning application is available to view online. The feeling was that it would make little difference amid the forest of turbines already in place on HH.	
8(b)	SAC has written to Community Councils reminding them of their right to comment on and object to licensing applications.	
8(c)	The restriction in the use of the road to Pinmore and Pinwherry was noted. A request was made for better signage about the restrictions, i.e. at the road end at Alton Albany. JMc to contact Braidwood the contractors.	JMc
8(d)	Pauline Alison is working with Development SSE as the new Project Liaison Manager. It was agreed that BCC should offer her an invitation to attend a meeting.	MC
8(e)	Altercannoch – update pre-consent PNE meeting 23 rd June 2015. AT to attend on behalf of BCC. HD suggested that as BCC is only informed and not actively involved that BCC would request future updates by mail only.	AT
8(f)	There was a discussion regarding the publication of the book on the History of Barr. The cost of publication is estimated at £6,262. It was suggested that an application for funding to CF and HHCBF be made - Accepted unanimously. The matter is to be referred to the BPDC to make the applications.	JD
9	<p>Funding Applications:</p> <p>Parent Council of Barr Primary School and Nursery Class: £198.98 requested for barbecue – Approved</p>	

	Barr Bikes: safety equipment - £500 requested HH – Approved Barr Bikes: replacement helmets/ head lamps - £500 requested - Approved	IK
10	Open Forum: None	
11	AOCB:	
(a)	JD expressed his disappointment with Laing Construction following their work at Penwhapple Reservoir. Laing Construction had offered to improve the Back Road steps at their own behest but have now apparently reneged in doing so. It was questioned why they had made an unsolicited offer if unable to follow through. Unanimously Agreed MC to contact again and copy in MD of Scottish Water.	MC
12	Arrangements for next meeting: To be held on Thursday 9 th July 2015, 7pm.	HD
	There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:50pm.	