

BRORA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 18th May 2021

Conducted via online platform – Zoom

Chair: Russell Rekhy

Attendees: Ruwan Uduwera-Perera (Secretary), Margaret Mackintosh (Treasurer), David Andrews, Diana Royce, Lynne Paterson, George Gunn (Minute Secretary)

Also attending: Cllr Deirdre Mackay, Garance Warburton (Brora Community Enterprises), Ellen Lindsay (Brora and District Action Group - BaDAG), Debbie Sutton (Highland Council), Caroline McMorran (*The Northern Times*)

9 members of the public

Apologies: Andy Stewart (Communities4Coul)

	Item	Action	Responsible member	Review Date
1	Welcome and apologies The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Andy Stewart of Communities4Coul, who had been due to give a presentation.			
2	Gower Street Public Toilets The Chair welcomed Debbie Sutton from the Highland Council to provide an update and take questions regarding options for the Gower Street Public Toilets. Debbie advised that Highland Council are able to provide paint for the toilets if volunteers are willing to carry out the work. For any further work, generally it is expected that a community asset transfer (to a local development group), potentially with an interim leasing arrangement, should be undertaken. Diana Royce stated that she hoped to raise funds for more than painting (approx. £25,000), as more remedial works are required, including installation of a solar panel for hot water. Diana noted that she had corresponded with a potential funder on the matter, and they would require a 'letter of comfort' from Highland Council to release funds. Debbie responded by saying that such a situation would be up for negotiation, and			

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	<p>that a separate meeting could be arranged with community councillors to discuss the particulars on funding and choosing appropriate materials.</p> <p>Ellen Lindsay stated that BaDAG does not currently have the capacity to take on ownership of such a project, but that public conveniences do form part of a longer-term plan within the ‘Vision for Brora’ document.</p> <p>The Chair asked Debbie what the Highland Council’s budget is for public conveniences. Debbie noted that the budget is approx. £1.1 million annually for all public conveniences and comfort schemes. Debbie will provide a breakdown of the budget, including a breakdown of operating costs for the Gower Street facility.</p> <p>Debbie noted that if the Gower Street facility was asset transferred to a local group, then they would be eligible to receive monthly ‘comfort scheme’ funding from Highland Council towards this.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Debbie for attending and accepted her offer of a separate meeting as discussed and asked that she make herself available to return to a full meeting if/when required.</p>			
<p>3</p>	<p>Police Update No updates were received from Police Scotland.</p> <p>Cllr Deirdre Mackay noted that she had spoken with the Area Commander regarding the recent lack of updates and had expected that this would have been resolved. Cllr Mackay will follow this up again with the Area Commander.</p> <p>Ruwan Uduwera-Perera will make a courtesy contact with Police Scotland one week in advance of future meetings to obtain updates.</p>	<p>Obtain update from Police Scotland</p> <p>Send update reminder in advance of next meeting</p>	<p>Cllr Deirdre Mackay</p> <p>Ruwan Uduwera-Perera</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Minutes of last meeting The minutes of last meeting were accepted on the proposal of Diana Royce and seconded by Ruwan Uduwera-Perera.</p>			

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<p>5</p>	<p>Matters Arising <i>Glen Loth Hydro Scheme</i> Cllr Deirdre Mackay provided an update. Gillian Pearson had prepared a report for BCC in February, but an administrative error meant that the report was not sent. Planting will be undertaken at the site in Spring. Fencing is to be completed by 21 May 2021. The area has been re-seeded with grass. Trees and shrubs have been ordered. A delay had been experienced with fencing due to a problem in sourcing appropriate fence posts. Highland Council Community Services have been in contact with the developer regarding roads and drainage issues. The full report will be provided in due course.</p> <p><i>Grit salt bin locations</i> No responses have been received regarding potential sites. This will be an ongoing project managed by the Chair.</p> <p><i>Kilbraur Community Development Trust</i> The Chair contacted the chairperson of Kilbraur Community Development Trust (KCDT) and received a substantive response. KCDT has now taken onboard all of BCC's suggestions and has launched a website which provides all details of meetings and award criteria.</p> <p>A £10,000 maximum award is not stipulated in the Trust deed.</p> <p>In terms of the award given to Brora Golf Club, KCDT considered that the application met the required criteria, and the award helps to ensure the sustainability of the club.</p> <p>Diana Royce stated that the response and actions from KCDT is a great improvement and a move in the right direction.</p>			
<p>6</p>	<p>Reports</p> <p>Local Councillor Cllr Deirdre Mackay noted that a Communities4Coul meeting will take place virtually on 19 May 2021 and encouraged all to attend. Cllr Mackay queried a lack of correspondence from BCC and asked for ward councillors to be included in distribution lists in future.</p>			

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	<p>The Chair queried the status of tarring being undertaken on Rosslyn Street, and speed restrictions at Fascally. Cllr Mackay will report back to him on this and noted that the speed restriction work is currently in hand.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Cllr Mackay for her update and confirmed that all 3 ward councillors would be included in future mailing distributions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Include ward councillors in BCC distribution list</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Russell Rekhy</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Planning issues</p> <p>The Chair invited members of the public to raise comments about the current planning application for a campervan waste disposal unit to be situated in the Lorry Carpark, Gower Street.</p> <p>Louise and John Mackay expressed concerns around the potential noise, smell, parking issues, traffic management, road safety, and disrespect to local church congregations and Armistice and Gala parades. Louise and John raised an online petition against the development, which has received 190 signatures. In addition, 151 physical letters of objection were received. In total, Louise and John identified 341 members of the Brora community who are asking for the application to be withdrawn. Several comments were read out from responses, concurring with the issues raised by Louise and John. Some responses also raised the issue of a perceived lack of community consultation about the development. Louise and John do not support the application, do not believe it should proceed to be viewed by the planning committee, and asked BCC to object.</p> <p>Jim Cunningham stated that he fully agrees with and supports the views expressed by Louise and John.</p> <p>Kathleen Cunningham concurred with Jim and stated that she perceived there to be significant community feelings on this matter.</p> <p>Diana Royce explained that she had been approached by 2 families who had expressed concerns about the proposed development.</p> <p>Cllr Deirdre Mackay noted that as more than 5 objections had been received by the Highland Council, the planning application will be decided</p>			

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	<p>upon by the North Planning Applications Committee.</p> <p>The Chair closed the discussion by thanking members of the public for their input and recognised that a strong case had been made. He noted that BCC will take a decision in the coming days, and those wishing an update will be kept informed.</p>			
8	<p>Correspondence Ruwan Uduwera-Perera confirmed than no new correspondence had been received.</p>			
9	<p>Treasurer's Report <i>Margaret Mackintosh was unable to present this item due to technical difficulties.</i></p>			
10	<p>Community Feedback The Chair invited members of the public present at the meeting to provide any feedback. No feedback was received.</p>			
11	<p>AOCB No other competent business was raised.</p>			
12	<p>Date, time and venue of next meeting The next meeting of Brora Community Council will be the Annual General Meeting, which will take place on the 29th June 2021. A date will be set, and invites sent out in due course.</p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.08pm.</p>			