

APPROVED

BARRHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Meeting held on Tuesday, 14th September 2021, in
Barrhill Memorial Hall, Barrhill at 7.00pm.

No	Item	Action
	Sederunt: Barrhill Community Council: Collette Bailey (CB), Andrew Clegg (AC) (Treasurer), John Heath (JH), Robert Houstin (RH), Pearl McGibbon (PMcG), Celia Strain (CS) (Secretary & Minute Taker), Johnnie Thomson (JT) (Vice-Chair). In Attendance: Councillor Peter Henderson (PH) (SAC), 8 Members of the public. JT in the Chair.	
1	Apologies for Absence	
	None received	
2	Police	
	The Police were unable to attend and sent apologies. Reports for April to October 2020 had been sent on request and similarly in 2021 those for January to August had recently been received. The former contained 44 incidents, including 2 reported crimes, and the latter 30 incidents, including 4 reported crimes. Incidents varied, including Traffic, Suspect persons, Assist members of the public, Theft, Fraud, Domestic, Shoots etc. It was noted that staff levels had reduced considerably, with only 2 PCs currently at Girvan, with Sergeant Legge who covers Girvan and Maybole. PH informed there had been high Covid sickness rates.	
3	Minutes of Previous Meeting of 26th February, 2020 (no meetings held since, due to Covid-19)	
	These were approved: proposed by PMcG, seconded by JT.	
4	Matters Arising from the Minutes	
	Item 5: Matters Arising: AOB (Blocked Drains/Sunken Pavement) PH had reported this and understood all had been attended to. Members confirmed that the sunken pavement was repaired but not all drains cleaned out. PH will chase this up. Horse Riders' Signage: CS had passed on information re-this but had heard nothing further. Traffic Calming/Speed Restrictions & Other matters: On agenda.	PH
5	2020/21 Review Incl. Chirmorie Windfarm, 20mph Speed Restrictions, Community Council Elections	
	Due to Covid-19 all CC business since the last meeting in February 2020 had been conducted and dealt with by email. Chirmorie Windfarm: 5 Members (2 not on Zoom and 1 unable to connect) participated in a Zoom meeting on Thursday 28 th November 2020, at the invitation of Stewart Forsyth (SF) of Coriolis, to update the CC on the latest developments. The Grid Connection will not be available until September 2023 and the road access is still to be confirmed. Permission has been granted to use FLS roads but a further Planning Variation has been made for an alternative access through Stranoch Windfarm. Should this latter route be chosen essential work would be required at a new bridge, resulting in temporary access through Barrhill for a relatively small number of HGV and light commercial vehicles. Should the planning variation be consented, access could possibly commence in 6months' time. A further variation, which SF did not mention but was later contacted about, was an increase in turbine height from 146.5m to 149.9m. (Application was later approved by SAC.) Access Liaison Group: SF informed that residents would be kept fully informed about traffic movements. He expected to have more information in Spring 2021. To date nothing further has been communicated. CS to contact SF. 20mph Speed Restrictions: These had been in place for some months now and it was felt that they had not resulted in a reduction in speeding vehicles. A lengthy discussion ensued on speed enforcement. An email had been received today from a Scaurhead resident about the excessive speed near the settlement, resulting in numerous near misses. Currently traffic goes from a 20mph zone leaving Barrhill to 60mph. Residents at Scaurhead have asked for an extension of the lower	CS

	<p>speeds. CS understood that 30mph zones have still to be installed and PH explained that the signs had been on order for 6 months and are still awaited. He will request an update. The plans published in the local press indicated that the A714 30mph zone will extend 160m northwards and 197m southwards. Is this sufficient? The CC had not been directly informed of the plans. A resident informed that while Police Scotland had carried out a speed check since the introduction, time spent on actual monitoring was limited. He felt that more frequent speed checks should be carried out but PH explained that Police staff levels are very low at present, mainly due to Covid. The resident also enquired about previous plans for Community Speed Checks at weekends, which had been mooted 4 years ago. At that time Police Scotland did not recommend them. CS to contact Police Scotland on several matters re-speeding, including confirmation of the legal position of Community Speed Checks and what the chance is now to implement them. AC questioned if the use of cameras would be legal.</p> <p>Another resident had heard that the new 20mph flashing signs would be installed next month. PH informed that for 7 months during Covid the workforce was banned from working on the roads. At times only 41% of the workforce was available and resources severely limited. Mention was made of the speed activated traffic lights in Springholm. The CC had previously looked into this, to no avail. PH understood they were now to be dismantled.</p> <p>Community Council Elections: Postponement of these (originally due March 2020) was announced in January 2021. PH anticipated these will probably occur in November, with the new 'Blue Book' now finalised. CCs were also informed that SAC will no longer undertake accounts auditing for them.</p> <p>Public Enquiries: The PEs for the proposed Arecleoch Windfarm Extension and the Clauchrie Windfarm were held in February and May/June respectively. To date there is no outcome in spite of statements that these decisions would be announced at the end of August.</p> <p>CC Defibrillator: The surgery had ordered a new battery several months ago but supplies are still not available. The Practice Manager is constantly checking on this. (The reliability of the defibrillator is not affected).</p> <p>EU Settlement Scheme: A lot of publicity had been received about this. Opinions were sought through various surveys, including on LDP2, SAATS, SAC's Budget, National Planning Framework, Scotland's Housing to 2040. PH had attended meetings with the Minister re-STPR2 (Strategic Transport Projects Review), as it contained no mention of Ayrshire. £88million is available for the A77 and new Customs facilities are due to be created for the Stranraer/Cairnryan ferries—due to open in December. The awarding of the new roads maintenance contract to AMEY was welcomed and PH informed that the firm had voluntarily cleaned along the A77, lifting tons of rubbish.</p> <p>Private Water Supplies: Extreme drought caused water shortages in August on some rural properties in the area. SAC distributed bottled water supplies for these. PH informed that Planning consider provision of water supplies when new application are submitted.</p>	<p>PH</p> <p>CS</p>
6	<p>Confirmation of Community Council Co-options</p>	
	<p>Shortly after the previous meeting of 26/02/2020, nominations for co-option onto the CC were received from Collette Bailey and John Heath (March & April 2020 respectively). These were approved by email. Confirmed. Required notice to be displayed in community.</p>	<p>CS</p>
7	<p>Treasurer's Report</p>	
	<p>AC circulated copies of his report. Very little had been spent (other than essential web hosting, Information Commissioner fees etc) and the current overall balance in the bank is £9,840. The actual CC balance is £1,196.30 but the CF balance is now £8,644.18. AC informed that unless more grant money is paid out CF would not provide more funding. AC was thanked for his report.</p> <p>A discussion then followed regarding possible projects for funding, with suitable projects to be encouraged. Ideas asked for from all. Suggestions included exercise equipment, marquees. JT then informed that there had been a demand for business rates from SAC, which had unbelievably been sent to the wrong address—an empty property—and not received, resulting in bailiffs being sent. Discussions are ongoing between the BCIC/BDT and SAC but PH will investigate. BDT is a charity and therefore should not be liable to pay business rates. Comments were also made on the excellent floral displays and work done by Liam for BCIC. Thanks also due again to the Primary School pupils. PH confirmed the Green Agenda currently being followed by SAC, and it is hoped that the projected tree planting at Arnshen Park by the PS pupils, will now take place.</p>	<p>PH</p> <p>CS</p>

8	Review & Updates	
	<p>a) BCIC/BDT: JT informed of some of the activities over the last 18 months. At the start of the pandemic Covid plans were put in place, including setting up a food bank in the Hall. Planning permission for the alterations to The Trout had finally been passed after a lengthy delay and tender prices obtained. The contractor (from Newton Stewart) had been appointed but the start is delayed due to shortages of materials. Development Officer: Position re-advertised and interviews to take place shortly. Fire Alarms: These had been purchased and supplied to all properties. Windfarm Funding: There are important changes to how the allocation of funding by the BCIC/BDT is recorded. This will be stricter with more rigid reporting. Foundation Scotland has been appointed as the new Secretariat. Teas: 70+ teas were provided to households during the pandemic.</p> <p>b) Carrick Futures: AC reported on the last CF meeting, which was a funding round, with numerous groups/organisations receiving grants.</p> <p>c) South Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership Locality Planning: CS informed that meetings had been stopped for some time at the start of lockdown, but since recommencing were held via Zoom. Numbers participating on Zoom were generally low. She was not participating, but from minutes received was kept aware of matters under discussion. The usual matters are ongoing. At the August meeting the postponement of the September re-launch of the 6 LPPs was confirmed and there was a report on VASA Services, including Foodbanks. The September agenda included the National Care Service Consultation; Rolling Items (incl. Dementia Friendly services, Chairs' Meeting and Community First Responders' Update. A list had also been made of all defibrillators in South Carrick. The LPG was informed that there was a second one in Barrhill at the Memorial Hall. A member of the public was of the opinion that the code number to access the defibrillators should be given out to all residents but this was not generally supported. Vandalism had been known to occur elsewhere. On calling 999 code numbers are given. National Care Review: PH was extremely concerned about the effects of this as the current serious situation in the Care Service depends on it.</p> <p>d) Kilgallioch Community Benefit Company: AC reported that the last meeting had been a funding round. The result of the review of the fund will be announced shortly.</p>	
9	Planning Applications & Decisions Lists	
	<p>Planning application lists were absent for a number of months after lockdown commenced and infrequent at times afterwards, as were the Decisions Lists, with none of the latter received for 9 months from October 2020, then only recently received en bloc. With the exception of the application in March 2020 for the Arecleoch Windfarm extension, which was not approved by SAC, (triggering the Public Enquiry) all those relevant to Barrhill had been permitted. Some Planning Applications of note: Laigh Drumlamford: JT had received a complaint from a resident enquiring why a neighbouring property had not received neighbour notification of plans, which involved sourcing a shared water supply. CS had contacted Planning for a confirmation of criteria for this and was informed that unless a property is within 20m there is no requirement for 'neighbour notification'. All that is required is a notice in the local paper. The CC felt that this was insufficient at a time when fewer residents bought a local paper. PH will pass these views on to Planning. Extreme drought conditions were referred to with PH reporting on action by SAC, which had delivered emergency supplies of bottled water, as previously stated. The Manse: Siting of residential caravan; Creeside: Erection of holiday accommodation. The CC had been requested to write a letter of support, which was agreed; Arnsheen Kirk: Installation of solar panels; and most recently, August 2021, SPR at Arecleoch: Further application so as not to comply with Condition 2—proposed met mast, 3 year extension. <i>All planning applications can be found on SAC's Planning website.</i></p>	PH
10	Small Grant Applications (To be ratified)	
	<p>Barrhill Bowling Club: 3 applications dated 12/04/2021, for a total of £499, were approved by email. (Purchase of a Birchmer Sprayer, scarifying attachment, weed control products) Barrhill Community Council: Application dated 13/08/2021 for £81.66 to fund purchase of weedkiller and PPE equipment to undertake a spraying programme for Japanese Knotweed, which is spreading on the banks of the Crosswater and also invading a resident's garden. This was also approved by email. In addition:</p>	

	Barrhill Craft Club: New application dated 08/09/2021 for funding of £195 for one year's hall rental. It was noted that this amount was £45 more than a previous identical application and as there was no increase in hall charges, CS to request a breakdown of the figure. The application was approved in principle, subject to receiving a satisfactory breakdown.	CS
11	Correspondence	
	<p>All email correspondence during Covid-19 was circulated and responded to where necessary as directed. Amongst items received were several consultations regarding Forestry plans. Forest Management Stewardship Scheme: Forest Management assessment carried out by UK Forest Certification Ltd</p> <p>Scottish Forestry's Eldridge Fell---Felling permission application; Scottish Forestry's National Forest Estate---Felling permission application at Kilgallioch; FLS Kilgallioch Forest Design Plan; and Tilhill: Barjarg Hill—Proposed native broadleaf woodland creation scheme.</p> <p>Windfarm Scopings/Applications: These included: Artfield Forest (New Luce); Kilgallioch Extension –Removal of solar panels; Mark Hill Substation Extension; Kilgallioch Battery Energy Storage System; and LUC – Consultation on Knochodhar and Clauchrie Connection project. South Ayrshire Council: Fireworks Consultation; Housing Needs & Demand Assessment. Scottish Renewables: Energy Roadshow at Dumfries 24th September 2021. Post Items: Thank you card from Barrhill Craft Club; Various brochures re-Playpark equipment/Litter containers etc. Litter Signs: The provision of signs requested by a former C Councillor through the 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' scheme was then raised. This was a few years ago and they had never appeared. PH will investigate. <i>Other items previously circulated.</i></p>	PH
12	AOB Council Members/Members of the Public	
	<p>SAC Councillor's Report: PH expressed concerns over the proposed removal of Universal Credit, with 400+ employees of SAC currently receiving this. There were serious concerns re-the Welfare Budget and he asked that all be vigilant of any problems in the community.</p> <p>SAC Meetings; These have all been held online so far, due to Covid, in spite of criticism received. SAC are also very keen on pursuing their 'Green Agenda', which is going ahead.</p> <p>Dornal Road: RH referred back to Matters Arising to inform that the flooding there still occurs. PH will raise the matter again with ARA.</p> <p>Car Park Litter Bin: A member of the public referred to the CC minutes of November 2019 (Cllr Clark to action) and January 2020 (PH) regarding the replacement of the litter bin at the Car Park/Primary School. PH explained that this matter had been raised again, with Waste Management of the view that the one in place was advisable. PH will further pursue.</p> <p>Station Car Park: No further news of any progress with this had been heard. PH understood that the question of a land lease as opposed to the sale of land was being considered. AC informed that the grant approved by Kilgallioch CBF was dependent on the Rail Partnership actually owning the land. CS to contact the Chair of SWSCRIP.</p> <p>New Cemetery: A complaint had been received earlier in the year regarding the state of the ground due to sheep droppings, molehills etc. Cemeteries had dealt with this.</p> <p>Biosphere Village Signs: These were now in place and an offer was made to meet with any who wanted further information about the Biosphere.</p> <p>Arnsheen Park: CS had received enquiries about Arnsheen Park from 2 other CCs. She had forwarded photos and referred them to BDT. The BCIC's Fire Alarm scheme had also been of interest to one of the CCs.</p> <p>Skip Timetable: Provision of skips had finally returned, with the first on 16th July. There are 2 further in 2021, on 22nd October and 3rd December. Noted.</p> <p>Postal Deliveries: These had been erratic in recent weeks but investigation showed extreme staff shortages. The situation is expected to improve before long.</p> <p>DATA Protection: The fee for the next year's registration with the Information Commissioner had been paid.</p> <p>Rail Timetable Consultation: Deadline is 1st October – all encouraged to complete.</p>	PH PH CS
	Date & Time of next meetings:	
	<u>Wednesdays, 27th October & 24th November 2021 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.</u> NB: There is no meeting in December.	