

Minutes of the Meeting of Brora Community Council held on Tuesday 20th October 2015 in Brora Community Centre Lounge at 7pm.

<p>1. Chair's Welcome</p>	<p>The Chair, Kathleen Cunningham, welcomed Ross and Margaret McLeod, along with members of Brora Free Church Youth Club, and supporters. There were 5 other members of the public present. Brora Community Council has received notice of an uncontested Election for the new council, which will be inducted on 28th November 2015. Councillor D. Mackay has agreed to chair this meeting for the appointment of office bearers. . All candidates have been validated to serve on Brora Community Council (BCC). Two poppies, gifted to the community by two local men, John Duncan and Warren Heneghan, appeared beside Brora War Memorial. The gratitude and appreciation of the local community was expressed</p> <p>Chair wished Gordon McBeath well during his current ill-health. George McBeath intimated at this point that Gordon wished to retire, due to his ill-health.. Chair then expressed grateful appreciation for Gordon's many years of support as Independent Examiner, and instructed the Secretary to write a letter to him of appreciation and thanks.</p>
<p>2. Apologies</p>	<p>Russell Rekhy; Ronnie Sim; Lorraine Payne</p>
<p>3. Police Report</p>	<p>No representative from Police Scotland was present.</p>
<p>4. BCC Community Award presentation</p>	<p>Ross and Margaret MacLeod and volunteers have run a Youth Club at Brora Free Church over many years, which attracts children both locally and from further afield. The Chair presented Mr and Mrs MacLeod with their award saying that BCC was honoured to recognise their engagement with the young people of the village and beyond, acknowledging the respect of the Free Church Youth Group and wider community given to them.</p> <p>The group then had their photograph taken.</p>
<p>5. Highland Council Matters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor D. Mackay reported that the consultation on closure of the Brora Post office closed on 21st October. No objections had been lodged with the Community Council. • Scotia House – development of site was refused and an appeal lodged. The work currently being undertaken refers to 2 units which were approved 2 years ago. • Fuel Poverty in Sutherland– a Task Force to look at opportunities to mitigate the effects in the county, which has a high rates of fuel poverty All agencies are involved.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Mini-bus –research undertaken by a BaDaG subgroup is continuing and viability is being investigated. • Drummuie Scaffolding still there. A letter from BCC to be sent to Ward Manager and HC chief executive. • Caithness and Sutherland Area Committee emphasis on partnership and load-sharing rather than all being dealt with at Council level. There are themed partnerships (– such as health) – are focussed and action-led. This is fundamental change in Community rights – involvement is emphasised. Sutherland is first area to go ahead, but no extra resources available. The first meeting in the New Year. • Beachview Respite Care - still involved in legal proceedings so closure remains until this is concluded – need for respite care recognised. Staff redeployed to other care areas. The prevention agenda is priority. Carer and dementia training is recognised as essential for new recruits to the service. NHS Highland is setting up dedicated apprenticeships, to open up care sector career opportunities. Recruitment a problem locally. • Burghfield SVQ training in hospitality still ongoing, but operation of the hotel has ceased. Students now go out on placement instead. • Safer route to School – the cause of delay is not known as the tender has gone out and timetable is clear. Cllr Mackay will arrange a meeting. • This and Scotia House serve to highlight need for more community involvement.
6. Approval of previous Minutes	Proposed by Margaret Mackintosh and Seconded by Karen Mackay
7. Matters Arising	<p>Brora and District Resilience Action Update – The Scottish Resilience Fund oversubscribed so Brora’s application was unsuccessful this time. A favourable response is promised for 2016.</p> <p>The next meeting of the sub group - on Monday 9th November in the Scout Hall at 7pm. All named contacts and interested members of BCC are invited.</p> <p>Copies of the “Household Emergency Tips” leaflet are being prepared for distribution. 600 – 700 copies needed costing £210 (colour) and £120 (b/w). BCC agreed to fund the b/w version. Many volunteers have already signed up.</p> <p>Doll Ford – a 2 year on-going issue. Now large pot-holes making crossing difficult and dangerous. Ford is an adopted road. Cllr Phillips dealing, and e-mail trail to be forwarded to Graham MacKenzie and 3 councillors.</p> <p>The frontage at Graham Begg’s old shop – a letter or e-mal is required to alert the owner to its deteriorating condition.</p>

	<p>Sputie Bridge – local Doll group has agreed a new bridge and improved gates to give better access. Matt Dent, Footpaths Officer and Common Grazings committee are involved in the investigations.</p>
<p>8.Planning</p>	<p>West Garty Windfarm – July 2015 application was objected to by BCC, Highland Council and local residents. Developer has submitted an amended application with revised proposals, removing 1 turbine and reducing the blade tips of the remaining 17 to up to 110m from 120m. Deep concerns exist with regard to visual impact and damage to peat base and drainage. The Developer’s application states that all representations to previous proposals remain valid. Information placed in Library and advertised in local press. Deadline is 13th November 2015 for responses. BCC to resubmit objections. Highland Council, Scottish Natural Heritage also to respond. Proposal to be decided at Scottish Government level.</p> <p>Copies of responses should be sent to Highland Council E planning – EconsentsAdmin@scotland.gsi.gov.uk eplanning@highland.gov.uk ken.mccorquadale@highland.gov.uk</p> <p>Gordonbush Windfarm – Application for a further 16 turbines. The Project Team met with representatives of BCC to discuss concerns lodged in its initial response. Clarified that the extension lies further from the SLA than actual current development. There is no theoretical visibility from the property at Point.</p> <p>The developer stated that revised layout of turbines achieves best environmental and technical fit for the site.</p> <p>SNH response is that impact on golden plover and other birds should not affect population provided appropriate mitigation is applied during construction.</p> <p>Developer states that there is no proposed felling of trees as part of the extension, so exposure and visibility of turbines will not be affected. The developer will engage with Gordonbush estate to better understand future forest management.</p> <p>BCC felt that the level of local concern was relatively low. Open days were not well attended. Engagement with SSE’s project team remains open , responsible and informative.</p> <p>BCC retains its initial stance regarding this proposed extension, but strongly suggests that saturation point for any further Windfarm developments in this area has been reached.</p> <p>A response will be submitted to Panning departments as listed above. This to include liaison for A9 traffic handling, emergency services and school access be in place should the development be approved.</p> <p>Continued community liaison is appreciated and is vital.</p> <p>Final comments from BCC being invited. Submission is that</p>

	saturation point now reached.
9. Remembrance Sunday	<p>In absence of a Brora British Legion , BCC organises the Parade, with good cooperation from Police Scotland. British Legion Protocol is followed – Church of Scotland minister leads the Service with other denominations present. Order of wreath laying also according to protocol.</p> <p>Photographs by Louise Mackay.</p> <p>BCC agreed to host refreshments afterwards at Brora Golf Club..</p> <p>The issue of space for wreaths at War Memorial was raised and can be dealt with.</p> <p>Door-to-door and shop collections in place</p> <p>Secretary to contact R. Sim re counting and banking.</p>
10. Correspondence	<p>Items already covered in Minutes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BCC elections; ▪ Safer Route to School; ▪ Doll Ford; ▪ West Garty Windfarm ▪ Scotia House; <p>Other correspondence:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Letter of support to Kyle of Sutherland re Fuel Poverty pilot scheme. ▪ Consultation Events ▪ Digital engagement fir Community Council workshops – nearest is Moray. ▪ Centenary Memorials Restoration Fund ▪ Local Development Plan ▪ Draft Onshore Wind Energy Guidance ▪ Local Housing Strategy ▪ Community Transport Grants ▪ Changes to X99 bus service <p>Micro-grant Applications:- Beavers and Cubs – members trying to raise own funds for trip to Canada. BCC to investigate further support.</p> <p>Brora medical Practice – for staff training to carry out as many tests as possible locally to support those with long-term conditions.</p> <p>Criteria for this type of application to be clarified.</p> <p>Veterans’ Day- BCC agreed on continued support.</p> <p>Brighter Brora Village Christmas Trees- BCC to fund.</p>
11. Financial Report	This was circulated to the BCC members.
12.Public Discussion	<p>Fountain Square, Braes Hotel – wires hanging from the building which could present hazard.</p> <p>Moss on the cobble stones again. Cadets helped to clear last time.</p> <p>Highland Council responsible. Other local groups to help?</p>

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The date for the next meeting of BCC is Tuesday 24th November 2015 at 7 pm in Brora Community Centre.

Addenda to above Minutes:-

(Agenda Item 5)

Beachview Respite Centre - Re- opening is dependent on legal case time scale. All families and staff continue to be supported at this difficult time and alternative arrangements made. Staff have been redeployed, and no staff will be made redundant. There is confidence that Respite Care Centre will continue.

Carer Training - Confirmed that training is given before new recruits go to visit clients. Training is –

Formal induction

Safe handling of medication

Safe handling of aggressive/violent behaviour

Safe moving moving and handling techniques

Carers do not work alone with clients until above training is complete .

Subsequent training is ongoing to update and increase skill levels.

CLlr Mackay has arranged meeting with Head of Home Care and members of BCC to discuss worries expressed.

(Agenda Item 1.)

BCC has learned, since the above meeting, of the sad death of Gordon MacBeath. Sincere condolences from BCC will be sent to his family.