

## Back Community Council Meeting held on 14 January 2025

Present: Colin Thompson (Chair)      Kinny Davis      Dave Eastwood  
 Andrew Morrison      Neil M Graham      Cllr Calum Maclean  
 Caldo Mackay      Cllr Donald Crichton      Margaret Ann Maciver  
 Alex MacRitchie      Carlotta Graham (Secretary)

1. Welcome: Colin welcomed everyone to the committee meeting.

Apologies: Neil Davis

2. Minutes of previous minutes: Proposed by: Andrew Morrison      Seconded by: Kinny Davis

	Agenda Item	Discussion	Action by
3	Polytunnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nearly there               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Still to tidy up the inside, clear timbers happening 15 Jan 25</li> <li>Down pipe on site – to be fitted</li> <li>AMK – have provided one tonne bags of soil</li> <li>Is a water butt required? Costs vary dependent CT to research cost and what's available</li> <li>NHS funding to be looked at as a potential source of funding</li> <li>27 planters confirmed</li> <li>Water to be turned on – Caldo to do to liaise with CT and DE</li> <li>A thank you to the committee for getting to near completion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	CT
4	Play Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NMG – Laura has been working on the play park project</li> <li>4 x trustee (changed since previous names announced) are now Neil Graham, Kennag Mackay, Anne Marie MacDonald &amp; Laura Mackay               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cost of equipment is expensive, potentially £100k                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catalogue of play park equipment is available to source and price</li> <li>To look at funding via Crown Estate funding</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
5	Picnic Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To apply for crown estates funding, opens up in the end of January - it is a straightforward form to complete.</li> </ul>	CT
6	Ferries update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No updates</li> </ul>	
7	Development Worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No answer as yet re the funding that was in place – can it still be used or returned? – likely to be required to be returned and that re-application may be necessary</li> </ul>	DC
8	Speed Sign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has proven to be a success, the speed sign will shortly be moved elsewhere. It is due to return to the Loch a' Tuath ward in the summer.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next location being at the Back free church junction</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
9	Vatisker Beach access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NMG – reported that due to the cost involved that it was prohibitive, therefore it was agreed that the proposed plan would not go ahead.</li> <li>Gress beach: noted that the coastal erosion is bad</li> <li>It was noted that Upper Coll beach currently is the most accessible beach</li> <li>Vatisker beach: it was noted that there a number of significant sized potholes in the main road down to the beach. The situation to be discussed with Seumas Murray, chair of the grazing's committee.</li> </ul>	CT
10	Defibrillator Fundraiser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The defibrillator has been ordered.</li> <li>CT to be informed when it arrives, a photo opportunity with the Colin Macleod (Minister) and Colin Thompson (Chair, BCC)</li> <li>ACES electrical have won contract for HHP, a requirement of their contract is that they to undertake projects that will benefit the community. Proposed plan for a defib draw of 5 areas, does Back wish to be considered. (For Loch a' Tuath Ward)</li> </ul>	CT

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£1800 raised but £2500 (including the batteries etc) required to pay (: Free Church / BCC: to fund half the deficit)</li> </ul>	
11	Finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AM reported on the current finances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current balance £17,234.60 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reserved Funds: £4,666 - Playpark £5,575.33- Polycrub</li> <li>General Funds: £6,993.27</li> </ul> </li> <li>There is a requirement to buy some equipment for the polytunnel</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	Bus Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Donald reported that BCC does not need to take any further action regarding the moving of the shelter – will go through the ward funding.</li> <li>Derek to be informed of the move</li> <li>Caldo to inform CT when the move relocation is completed</li> </ul>	CT
	Funding sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crown Estates (end of the month)</li> <li>NHS Capital funding (up to £25k) – due to be submitted on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan '25</li> </ul>	

12	<b>AOCB</b>		
i	Containers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To come off the agenda, as it is not a BCC</li> </ul>	
	Defibrillator (Gress)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defib in Gress ran out battery and pad - £360 to replace.</li> <li>Donna Graham: she deals with the Gress defibrillator. She is concerned that it in the wrong location, due to the fast road which is a danger. It has been suggested that it be relocated to the picnic area at Gress. Currently it is located on a streetlight. What would the cost be, to relocate it? There is a streetlight at the picnic area which may be a suitable location due to the off-road parking. New type of stand for new defib. Safe to stop at the picnic area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aces have been installing the defibrillators, Caldo to ask. Need to get permission to use a lamp post from CNES. Caldo to investigate and to report back</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	CMCA
ii	Coll Caravan Park	<p>There was some discussion regarding the unsightly look of the caravan park. After some discussion it was agreed that the owner be asked what his intention may be. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the owner Kelvin Walker to ask the position (MA has contact details)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	CT & CMG
iii	Gress Letter Box	<p>Letter box in Gress: has a sack over it since a number of months. BCC to enquire if it is to be repaired or replaced. Contact Kevin Clark, Royal Mail,</p>	CMG
vi	Over 60s dinner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sat 8th February unfortunately it is clashing with Harris Conference.</li> </ul>	

Colin thanked the committee and brought the meeting to a close.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 11th February 2025 at 7pm in Back Community Hut