

Borgue Community Council

Draft Minutes for meeting 10th March 2026, 7pm, Borgue Public Hall

1 Present: Steve Brown, Mike Calton, Ian Cruickshanks, Mick Dawson, Ray Ducker, Chris Evans, Richard Gilston, Angela Metcalfe, Annemarie Monteforte, Carol Ryall, John Shields, Ben Spencer, Janette Watson, Anne Bannatyne, Councillor John Denerley

Apologies: Scott Cruickshanks

2 Police Report

Nothing very local, have been burglaries in Kirkcudbright, arrests have been made.

3 Minutes and Matters Arising

AP No further info re Transient Visitor Levy; initially positive response with offer to come along to meeting on the understanding that proposals are currently still being considered by the Scottish Government but no response to invitation to meeting.

AP SEPA Flood risk Maps are now available: no immediate risk apparent to anyone in Borgue,

AP School bus Service: no reply to CCES enquiry, RD reported that school does inform pupils if they know there is going to be a problem in advance. We understand, following a discussion with one of the drivers, that problem was mechanical and now fixed.

4 Secretary's Report

a. Planning

25/2314/FUL Erection of Agricultural Building at Rattrra, permission granted.

b. Correspondence

i. Round 7 of the **Dumfries and Galloway Coastal Benefit Fund** is now open for applications, with the deadline for final submissions mid-day on 27 March 2026.

ii. National Cyber Security Centre are the technical authority on cyber security within the UK and have recently launched an awareness document titled Actions to take when the threat is heightened, currently advising UK organisations to strengthen their current cyber security controls. This change in focus relates to Pro-Russia hacktivist DDOS attacks.

iii. There are new insurance arrangements for Community Resilience Groups This new policy allows 25 individuals to be insured per group and aged between 18 and 85 years of age.

5 Treasurer's report

Expenditure since last meeting:

Unrestricted funding: £200 for venue hire.

Restricted funding:

- £73.89 from two payments to BT Business for hall broadband (the free 6 month period has ended);
- £743 will be transferred to the Hall later this month to cover subsequent bills and the remainder of the contract;
- £140 to purchase a lockable storage box for the sound equipment.

Note: monies for the above came from a Regionwide Community Fund grant and a CC contribution. The remaining RCF monies (£165) will go to purchase inside/outside cable safety covers and incidentals such as spare batteries for microphones.

Income Received: Unrestricted funding of £566.70 from D&GC discretionary grant plus £100 for attending 2 SCCF meetings.

Defibrillator funding: CR successfully submitted a bid for £6400 to the National Lottery's Community Fund which can be used to fund

- a new easy-to-use defibrillator and illuminated cabinet from BHF and free defib/CPR training from residents to be announced in coming months.
- 2 external notice boards to be used for community events as well as BCC notices. There was discussion about the siting of these, proposed at junction of C8 and Rainton road (where there is an off-road area which could be used for temporary parking, thanks to the generosity of the Sproat family) and secondly at junction where the Brighouse road joins the C8 (??). Other site suggestions are welcome but those which are chosen may require licence approvals/permissions and agreements put in place to cover public liability.

Community funding is required as part of the bid, our target is £500. We currently have £354, including a £200 donation from Potato Day; a Treasure Hunt has been proposed for late spring/early summer.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank those who have already donated and the Community Fund for their most generous funding.

AP Write to other Stewartry CCs re level of council funding

CR

6 Community Issues

a. Road repairs around Borgue. Two enquiries have been sent to D&GC Roads Dept, one about the general state of repair, the second about ownership of the road to Kirkbank. The response to the first was *"Our capital budget is greatly reduced and sections of surface treatments compete on a regionwide basis for funding. Our technical input schemes are limited and the decision process has to reflect the worst roads in the Stewartry...The area at Ingelston is a drainage issue running from the field and there are also blocked off offlets which the landowners need informing of as they obviously don't see it or choose to ignore it! The C54s was widened some 30 years ago for the Brighouse Bay gas pipeline and the area of sinking is noted and checked during inspections. The B727 from Barharrow back to C54s has two sections of surface dressing in the 2026/27 programme.....All other defects have been picked up and prioritised for repair in line with our inspection regime and are monitored until such time the defects are repaired."*

In response to the second question, D&GC state Kirkbank road is not owned by the Council but privately by the properties along it. AMM suggested that previously if there were more than 4 houses affected a council would have taken over maintenance of a road.

IC objected to the wording of one of the CCES enquiries as singling out Rattra Farm for criticism; JS replied that the problems are caused by the increased size and volume of traffic on the roads, to which farm vehicles contribute.

IC is continuing to try to get a pipeline in place for transport of slurry to Chapelton.

AP Keep reporting potholes

All

b. South of Scotland Community Councils Convention and Unified Statement. There was a meeting attended by 47 community councils throughout the south of Scotland in January to discuss issues around renewable energy developments in rural areas and decide whether or not to join CCs in Highland region to support their Unified Statement. The latter (viewable

on the BCC website) calls for:

- elected representatives to support their communities as developments are frequently given permission by SG over the head of local objections.
- the SG to undertake a planning enquiry commission to assess the overall impact of all major renewable energy infrastructure developments.
- a pause on major new developments until there is a national plan and economic assessment of damage to the tourism industry.

After some discussion it was agreed to support the Unified Statement.

AP Write to Bob Hope (organiser of the SoSCCC) to confirm BCC support.

AB

c. Borgue Community Benefit Society report. AM reported that the BCBS has received a grant of £5K to allow survey of the property and production of a business plan. Once the initial information has been collated there will be an opportunity to apply for Stage 2 funding which can provide up to 80% of the purchase price, and the next step will be to organise a Share Offer to raise the remaining balance.

In response to questions, AM said that to successfully apply for Stage 2 funding the backing of a majority of the community is needed (and so encouraged people to join the Society), they envision employing a manager and a chef (if financially possible) and that the business would operate like a “warm hub” with a cafe during the day.

Updates are available on their website and **there will be a drop-in session on 28th March** for members and anyone else interested to find out more.

d. Councillor Denerley’s report.

- The councillor expressed concerns about the Lairdmannoch Energy Park proposal on rounds of damage to tourism, biodiversity, overproduction of electricity, problems with carbon off-setting and relative costs of electricity for local people affected by renewable energy developments.
- **Budget 26/27 update.** The council needs to save £34.8 million so Council Tax has increased by 8.5% to protect spending in some areas eg social care, anti-poverty provision.
- Improvements are currently being developed to improve the safety & accessibility of the Queen Street pedestrian crossing in CD, to be implemented during summer school holidays.
- There is currently a 3 week consultation about the Kbt bridge to allow the current temporary restrictions to be made permanent. There will be permanent traffic lights and improved signage to improve safety for pedestrian and cycle users. Funding for a permanent replacement for the bridge will have to come from the SG.

7 AOB

a. Borgue Litter Picking Group was established in 2023 with 15 volunteers, at the most recent pick on 8th March there were 34 volunteers, all roads in and out of Borgue were covered and 24 bags of rubbish collected. AMM reported that they have received support from:

- D&G Council, collect the rubbish and have supplied green bag, hi-vis vests, gloves and litter pickers.
- Sustrans funded the purchase of litter hoops.

- Keep Scotland Beautiful, Borgue picks are registered on their website.
- The Hall committee donated a storage box for equipment.
- BCC funded the purchase of 6 Keep Slow signs.

Anyone interested in joining the group please speak to AnneMarie or Janette or email borguelitter@icloud.com.

BCC will fund purchase of a further 4 "Keep slow" signs from a local supplier to facilitate a litter pick on the A755.

There was discussion about how to reduce the volume of litter dumped locally.

b. MD pointed out that the CC meeting had not been publicised using the existing boards and after some discussion agreed that he would take responsibility for displaying the relevant information.

AP Arrange for existing signage to be passed on and displayed

MD/CR

8 Date of next meetings: 12th May 2026

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT