

# Barr Community Council

## Minutes

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 7pm Barr Village Hall

**Present:** Tom Walker (TW) Maggie Bunnett (MB), John Bunnett (JB), Hamish Denham (HD), Lesley McCleary (LMcC), Matt Cross (MC), Councillor Alec Clark, Jill Tomlinson SAC (JT), Colette McPherson (CMcP), Elaine Schendel (SAC), Fiona Ross (FR), PC Andrew Thorne Police Scotland, Sgt Martin Prendergast Police Scotland, Annie Sealey (AS)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Minute</i>	<i>Action</i>
1	Sederunt: as above.	
2	Declaration of Interest on Agenda items: None	
3	Apologies: none (TW) Welcomed Alec Clark and thanked Alan Lamont for his help during his time as our councillor. Fiona Ross and Elaine Schendel were introduced from SAC Neighbourhood Services.	
3b	<p>Fiona Ross and Elaine Schendel visiting to discuss the shrubs on the Clachan Banking, trees/shrubs along the Gregg and the ongoing issues with the trees opposite the hall. Agreed that SAC would remove the shrubs along the Clachan banking as these are proving to be a issue, problem when mowing and in danger of falling as inappropriate for the space.</p> <p>In addition agreed that, provided safe access, shrubs (mainly sycamore &amp; ash) would be removed or taken to base of trunk along the Gregg. (FR) did say roots would be left to provide stability for banks.</p> <p>(MB) reported that a number of councils, locally and nationally, still actively pollard trees. (FR) was adamant that it was not a policy of SAC. (MB) reported that the trees opposite that hall are shallow rooted and one has recently blown over (taking our railings at hall), whilst this was being removed the tree surgeons reviewed the rest and advise that a number were in poor condition and likely to have issue in the short term. (FR) has agreed to arrange an inspection of these trees. (HD) asked about the process to remove these trees, increase size of layby and install EV charging. Stating this would be of benefit to the villagers and visitors alike, especially if hall hub progresses. (MC) was not keen on tree removal, but it was stated that more appropriate size trees could be planted along the area left.</p> <p>(MC) stated that it was an appropriate time for SAC/CC to rethink the centre of the village taking into account current requirements, traffic, walkers etc</p> <p>(FR) was thanked and wished a happy retirement as leaving in August and Elaine Schendel would be our contact ongoing.</p>	<p>SAC</p> <p>SAC</p>
4	<p>Police Report – Sgt Prendergast and PC Andrew Thorne were welcomed. They informed us that community provision should now result in a minimum of an emailed report but hope to be able to visit meetings.</p> <p>They reported: 12 incidents raised within the period 01/01/26 to 12/03/26, with no crime reports being raised within this period. 8 planned shoots, 1 Police Information Call, 1 Neighbour dispute, 2 Assist member of the public. New Campus PC at Primary School PC Meredith</p> <p>Timber lorry issue was mentioned by the Police but it appears to have been sorted and no</p>	

	further instances have occurred.	
5	Minutes of previous meeting Proposed (LMcC) 2 <sup>nd</sup> (JB)	
6	<p>Matters arising not on agenda CC elections, these were advertised as required. Information on results did not arrive from SAC, Post seems to be an issue. (AC) advised this seems to be a common theme around the villages. After chasing a copy was supplied by email. Notification has been placed on notice board. As off the 1<sup>st</sup> April the new scheme will be in place, email version has been sent round but paper copies will be handed out at next CC meeting.</p> <p>Tom Walker, Hamish Denham. Matt Cross, John Bunnett, Lesley McCleary &amp; Maggie Bunnett have all been re-elected.</p> <p>(MB) asked if AGM process had changed, (JT) advised not.</p>	
7	Stinchar Connections (JB) nothing to report, AGM as now a SCIO was being arranged date TBC	
8	<p>Foundation Scotland:</p> <p>FS have reported that 89 out of 141 households have so far have registered for their £260 fuel grant, feedback has been extremely positive, FS hosted a drop in at the end of Feb which had a steady flow of attendees. (HD) gave a brief overview to (AC). With the emails being collected via this scheme community engagement will be at the front of funding going forwards.</p> <p>Carrick Futures have asked the CC to nominate new members</p> <p>SSE Legacy Fund (HD) updated (AL) on background. The last of the funds available from the monies given at start of Hadyard Wind Farm in 2006, portion had been spent on previous hall plans, the Playpark and Muga. The balance being £130,000.</p> <p>In discussion with SSE a ballot was organised of 141 households (HD) mentioned it was a disappointing return. (MC) was disappointed and felt that as a normal right to buy needs a 60% return did not support the result. A robust discussion followed, (AC) disagreeing on a number of points. The monies would be nominated but with conditions, including only to be used for RIBA 5 construction, if not used by Oct 28 to be returned, etc.</p> <p>Voted: 4 for, 1 abstain, 1 Against – Pass Email SCIO: Prop (MB) 2<sup>nd</sup> (MC) Subcommittee to agree email to SSE/FS Prop (HD) 2<sup>nd</sup> (MC) Publish ballot on Website/Facebook</p> <p>(MB) some feedback from both the Fuel Grant &amp; Ballot was that a number of residents just bin communications to “The Occupier” asked if it might be an idea to purchase a stamp “Communication from Barr Community Council” Agreed</p>	<p>HD/MB TW/MB</p> <p>MB</p>
9	<p>Treasurers Report current balance £26,538</p> <p>Planning (HD) reported the there have been no applications and permission does not seem to have been passed for the development at the Lanes Farm.</p>	

	<p>Outstanding Work (SAC) – (Cllr AL) provided an email update as handover to (AC). (MB) reported that (AL) was keen to take forward the items he had been covering. (AC) said that was not required.</p> <p>(MB) asked (AC) to report back on the monies left in the VAT Recovery Fund as it would be an amount that could be used to improve such as the Stile on the Dinmurchie trail. Updated Action Log to be sent to (AC)</p> <p>SACCA – nothing to report</p>	<p>AC</p> <p>AC</p>
10	<p>Correspondence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Siobhan Brown Wildfire Information only</li> <li>b. Daljedburgh Felling/replanting – information only but passed to local resident</li> <li>c. (MC) reported that he was involved with the Ayrshire Voices but questioned relevance of the Biosphere</li> <li>d. Eco Museum is interesting but geologically irrelevant Barr</li> <li>e. Advise LPP that happy with what they are doing but not really applicable to Barr</li> </ol>	
11	<p>Open Forum.</p> <p>(AC) reported that rural housing was in the new SAC budget and there is one space at the end of the Clachan which might be used. Mentioned that the new holiday lodges at Dailly had been passed. Impressed with both Wavemobile and our new EE coverage in Barr, as we have good broadband we should push this but we have a low level of housing stocks.</p> <p>(MC) mentioned strategic planning for village and (AC) suggested we are put in contact with place planning person – Audrey Gatt – (MB) mentioned that previous one never got beyond a draft (MC) reported it was poorly support and skewed.</p>	
12	<p>AOCB</p> <p>EE 4g seems to now cover much of the village, other providers should be making use of the mast but this could take some months. Agreed to leave Wavemobile running until at least Vodafone was live, monitor usage, review in 6 months or sooner if needed.</p> <p>(HD) asked if we had had any correspondence regarding the extraction of timber from Lambdoughty – chase as the B734 is already in a very poor condition and further logging lorries will exasperate road condition.</p>	
14	<p>Date of next meeting : AGM 9<sup>th</sup> April followed by normal meeting</p>	
15	<p>One funding application was discussed Barr Primary Parent Council</p> <p>It was agreed that if the new pupil needing funding for planned residential had started at the school we would cover this, however as the parent council had had a main fund grant to pay for the other attendees and cover transport we would not cover a duplicate request.</p> <p>The Farming Day funding previously agreed has been sponsored by Barr Primary Parent Council as required by the microgrant rules and will be paid.</p>	