

1) **Welcome.**

CE welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) **Attendees.**

Claire Erskine (CE); Kim Mawer (KM); Mhairi McKenna (MMK); Sharon Adams (SA); Laura Cunningham (LC); Ruby Cunningham (RC); Andrew Macdonald (AM); Martin McCourt (MM); SAC Link officer Ryan Ward (RW); Cllr Alan Lamont (AL); Adam Van Der Valk (AV); Georgette Birch (GB); Chris Wilkinson.

3) **Apologies.**

Sean McIlwraith.

4) **Previous Minutes Approval.**

Approval of the January minutes, proposed MM and seconded by KM.

Approval of the February minutes, proposed by KM and seconded by MM.

5) **Matters arising and updates.**

SA to contact SAC to confirm SM as harbour master and to arrange for all future correspondence to be sent to him – Outstanding.

KM to ask Dad to assess whether the life buoy at the Barr can be repaired. - Works will need to be completed by a groundworks contractor and may involve re-siting the unit to ensure stable foundations. - SA to contact a local contractor to explore potential solutions.

The windsock at the harbour is damaged. AC to follow up – Ongoing.

AM to request a breakdown of cost from Chris McCulloch for £1,000 small grant application – Received.

MMK reported that there is no biosphere sign at the southern entrance to the village. AC to raise this with Ayrshire Roads Alliance – Ongoing.

LC reported there are 2 streetlights out on Main Street at the top of Shore Road. LC to confirm street light numbers and forward to AC – Complete.

6) **Reports.**

**a. Police Scotland.**

No report in period.

**b. Youth Club.**

No report in period.

**c. Ballantrae Trust.**

*Festival of Ballantrae:* Planning for 2026 is ongoing.

*Kings Arms redevelopment:* Community engagement event on 21/03/2026 was very successful, with around 80 attendees viewing plans and touring the building. Fundraising is now underway, with applications submitted to BCF, CF, and Kilgallioch Wind Farm funds. Crowdfunding is planned to begin in June, and an Expression of Interest is being submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Enterprise Fund.

*Cinema & Community Transport:* Community transport has now been discontinued. Approval has been granted to use surplus funds to support an upgrade to the sound system in the hall.

*Coastal Rowing:* No update.

*Cosy Spaces:* Programme concludes for the winter on 30/03/2026.

*Ballantrae Lunch Club (formerly BRICC Lunch Club):* Held every second Friday at the Kings Arms and open to all.

*Corra Hardship Fund:* £7,500 grant received (additional funding due to increased heating oil costs). A total of £10,200 has been distributed to families via email, Ballantrae Primary School, Invergarven School, Girvan Academy, and BRICC.

*Resilience:* Work continues in collaboration with several local groups.

*Thriving Communities:* Engagement ongoing with Thriving Communities in Girvan to explore work experience opportunities within the village.

*Website:* A funding application is being prepared to redesign the village website.

**d. Community Association Report.**

The AGM was held on 25 April and was well attended, following four weeks of advertising across the village and Facebook. The committee was re-elected without change: Georgette Birch (Chair), Caroline Roper (Secretary), Alasdair Pinkerton (Treasurer), and Claire Strain (Member).

The Chair reported a successful year, with the Community Showcase highlighted as a key event, alongside other well-attended activities including the Gaiety 1930s murder mystery, cinema group, and the introduction of the "Sound Waves" choir. The hall continues to support

regular user groups, with plans underway for new tables and refurbishment of existing furniture.

The new constitution has been formally adopted with no objections following circulation. Safeguarding guidance has been introduced and will be shared with all hall users.

The Licence to Occupy remains outstanding and will continue to be pursued with South Ayrshire Council. Earlier concerns regarding potential closure of the hall and library have been resolved, with confirmation that closures will not proceed for at least five years and staff positions are secure.

Affiliation fees will remain unchanged but will be reviewed in light of rising costs.

Good progress has been made on resilience work, including a dedicated storage room and near-completion of a generator installation.

Upcoming events include the Ballantrae Gala (27 June) and Fireworks Display (5 November), with volunteers welcomed.

Thanks were recorded to caretaker Barry for his continued contribution, and to all volunteers and groups supporting the hall. Parking arrangements have been supported through use of the doctor's surgery car park outside working hours.

**e. Traffic/travel/transport.**

Debbie emailed Amey to confirm that appropriate signage would be in place during the recent roadworks. It has been confirmed that this appears to be working as intended. SA stated that the sign regarding access to the pub car park for shop users was installed without prior permission being sought.

**f. Harbour Committee.**

The harbour requires dredging. The usual approach would be to redistribute the sediment away from the harbour; however, this method is not suitable on this occasion as it would need to be repeated too frequently. SM is reviewing options for how best to proceed, taking into account that the land is owned by the Crown Estate. SM to investigate further and report back.

**g. Planning.**

Application submitted for works to the Auchencrosh substation; this is for a convertor station for solar.

#### **h. Licensing.**

An application has been received from Stena Line to dredge Loch Ryan in order to reopen the channel. Following advice received, it is not considered that the works will adversely affect fishing in the area local to Ballantrae; therefore, no objection is raised.

#### **i. Environmental**

AM attended a meeting with Voices of Nature, which was successful and included discussion on red squirrel conservation. MMK received an email from SEPA regarding an ongoing public consultation on flood protection - KM to post the information on the BCC Facebook page.

#### **j. BESS**

No update at this time. Correspondence has been issued; however, no responses have been received. It was agreed that the letters of objection will be re-sent to all relevant companies. CE to follow up.

#### **k. Fun on the Foreland**

The event is planned for early August, with a provisional date of 6 August. A variety of inflatables are being arranged, and the pizza shop in Girvan has been contacted to provide catering. The organisers are also considering submitting a funding application for fairground rides. A raffle and tombola will be included as part of the event. Stallholders will be sought. A licence application is due to be submitted shortly.

### **7) Treasurer Report**

Account balances to date

Special interest-bearing account

	Opening balance	£41,332.50
27/02/2026	Interest	+£30.12
	Closing balance	£41,362.62

Community Benefit Fund account

	Opening balance	£3,318.50
02/02/26	Cheque 398 – Parent Council	-£437.75
13/02/26	Cheque 399 – Early years	-£856.68
	Closing balance	£2,024.07

£1,000 of the closing balance is reserved specifically for the Christmas events held by the events team.

#### Harbour Account

	No Statement	£1,932.55
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#### Admin Account

	Opening balance	£511.00
17/02/26	Chq 33 – Min sec	-£60.00
	Closing balance	£451.00

A payment of £80,407.83 will be made to the SIB account from Scottish Power, representing an increase of £2,856.62 compared to last year's funding of £77,551.21.

A discussion was held regarding the amount to be transferred, and it was agreed that £10,000 will be transferred.

The up-to-date balance of the CBF account is £880.55 a transfer from the SIB account should be made to cover any further payments. SA will make a phone call to transfer

Insurance of £97.20 has been paid for the forthcoming year.

It was agreed that the name "Ballantrae Trust" will be removed from any accounts held by the Community Council that currently include it. Once the minutes are approved, they are to be signed by all sitting Community Councillors.

#### **Small Grants**

##### Ballantrae Trust

We would like to provide packed lunches to children in the Ballantrae postal code area over the Easter holidays, they will be available to collect on 5 different days over the 2 week period and will be made by volunteers, they lunch would consist of a breakfast bar, a sandwich, a drink, a yogurt, a packet of crisps, a piece of fruit and a biscuit. I have costed for 40 lunches each day. The total cost would be £542.76. - approved

##### C. McCulloch – Red Squirrel Preservation (deferred)

Grant application submitted to support the preservation of red squirrels in the Ballantrae area. Chris is working in collaboration with D. Ollier and V. Diamond on this project.

The application requests funding for feed, a printer for photographs, fuel, and other sundry items. All items are sourced locally, and supporting photographs have been provided. It was noted that there are currently no grey squirrels in the area (with one previously recorded sighting). Other wildlife present includes pine martens, badgers, foxes, and deer. Following discussion with the applicant, it was highlighted that worsening weather conditions and increasing costs have significantly raised the expense of feeding the squirrels.

An initial funding request of £1,000 was submitted. A further breakdown of costs has since been provided as follows:

12 × 20kg bags of peanuts, 3 × 25kg bags of maize, 5kg hazelnuts, 2kg carrots — £586.40

SD cards and batteries — £264

Fuel (720 miles) — £300

Total: £1,150 – Approved at £500, with a further £500 ringfenced subject to the production of evidence of expenditure and demonstrated need.

Harbour Ayrshire

They have applied for £1000 for marketing materials to raise awareness, pens, notepads, stress balls, keyrings etc to be distributed from an awareness stall at Fun on the Foreland. Harbour Ayrshire currently offer a drop-in service in the village – Applicant to be asked to provide a fully itemised list of costs and to confirm whether the funds will be used solely within the Ballantrae area.

Community Association on behalf of Ballantrae Choir

An application has been submitted by the Community Association on behalf of the Ballantrae Choir for funding towards audio equipment, the costs are broken down as follows:

1 × Dynamic cardioid vocal microphone — £229.00

3 × 6 metre microphone cables — £45.00

3 × Microphone stands with boom arm — £99.00

1 × Dual handheld radio microphone system — £499.00

Total: £872 - Approved, subject to the standard dissolution clause that the equipment will remain with BCA should the choir cease to operate. The equipment is also to be made available for use by other community groups.

## 8) Funding Reports

### Ballantrae Community Fund

Meeting due to held on 16<sup>th</sup> March, was cancelled due to fund advisor illness. Meeting rescheduled to 13<sup>th</sup> April.

### Carrick Futures

Report on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026

No funding meeting in period.

Business meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February applications of new member for Ballantrae approved, Sue McDougall will be inducted before next funding meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Chair resigned at the end of last funding meeting in January; Laura Cunningham is new acting chair until AGM in May. AGM scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> April. EGM to be held later in the year to approve updated and modernised company articles of association.

Next funding deadline 25<sup>th</sup> May for late July decision.

CE has applied as a new member from Ballantrae, - approved by all councillors present.

### Kilgallioch Community Fund

No meeting in period.

Next meeting 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026 and if required, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

#### 9) **Councillor report from SAC**

AL to chase up the provision of a new bin at the Bennane. KM to forward details of the proposed siting location.

CE asked whether AL could also follow up on the large potholes on the Foreland. CE to forward photographs to AL for reference.

#### 10) **Thriving Communities report**

Update provided on the Access to Work scheme for individuals returning to work and school leavers. Easter activities to be held in the village over the school holidays, these are listed on the Active South Ayrshire website.

#### 11) **Correspondence**

MMK to email the log in details for Scottish Power Renewables community benefit portal to CE, KM and SA.

KM the rabbits on the Foreland are now being fed by a member of the public. KM to contact Environmental Health to ask for assistance.

KM received an email from Heartstart to promote CPR training sessions for the village residents across all ages. KM to report back.

KM received an email from the shop raising concern that a reduction in footfall to the Post Office may put the future of the shop into question. A discussion was held regarding the validity of these comments. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with Scotmid management to discuss their concerns, as well as wider village concerns regarding the ongoing intermittent closure of the shop and Post Office.

MM passed on concerns from the business owner regarding business rates for Trae Bakes. AL advised that this matter was investigated last year and that Trae Bakes were subsequently updated. AL to contact Trae Bakes directly.

MM recorded that the condition of the Laggan Road up to the timber harvesting site has deteriorated significantly during the contracted works period. He raised concerns regarding the reinstatement of the verges, as well as the carriageway.

MM reported that the Trust had met with a Community Energy Advisor to discuss potential community energy opportunities, including generation. A discussion was held. MM will liaise further with the advisor to obtain additional information and report back.

KM received notification from South Ayrshire Council regarding the nomination of new Community Councillors. No election is required, as the number of vacancies did not exceed the available places. The following are duly elected:

Sharon Adams	Mhairi McKenna	<b>To be co-opted</b>
Claire Erskine	Adam Van Der Valk	Chris Wilkinson
Kim Mawr	Sean McIlwraith	Andrew MacDonald
Martin McCourt	Shirley McIlwraith	

## 12) **A.O.C.B**

SA reported that a SAC subcontractor had threatened a member of staff, SA will forward email chain to AL for him to follow up.

GB reported that planning has been submitted for BRICC development, GB offered to attend a meeting when this comes in front of BCC to answer questions.

AV reported that, as a member of the public, he had been in conversation with Elaine Stewart at her local surgery regarding the setting up of a Community Speed Watch scheme. Ms Stewart

advised that she would investigate this further, and would also contact Police Scotland to explore the possibility of carrying out village speed checks.

AV asked for clarification regarding parking in the pub car park. MM confirmed that the lease agreement for the pub states that the car park is for the sole use of pub patrons.

SA proposed amendments to the Micro Grant application form, including the removal of the sponsor organisation section and the inclusion of a summary cost breakdown. This was agreed. SA to update the form and distribute via Facebook and to all community groups.

Date of next meeting will be 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 19:00

Items	Actions		By when
5i	SA to contact SAC to confirm SM as harbour master and to arrange for all future correspondence to be sent to him.	Sharon	ASAP
5ii	SA contact suitable contractor to assess the life buoy at the Barr and explore possible re-siting and associated groundwork solutions.	Sharon	ASAP
5iii	The windsock at the harbour is damaged.	Alan	ASAP
5iv	No biosphere sign at the southern entrance to the village. AC to raise this with Ayrshire Roads Alliance.	Alec/ Alan	ASAP
5v	MMK to forward email from SEPA regarding ongoing public consultation on flood protection to KM.	Mhairi	ASAP
5vi	KM to post details of SEPA ongoing public consultation on flood protection on the BCC Facebook page.	Kim	ASAP
5vii	CE to resend letters of objection to all relevant companies.	Claire	ASAP
5viii	SM to investigate further options for the dredging of the harbour and report back	Sean	ASAP
5ix	CE to forward photographs of large potholes on the Foreland. to AL. AL to follow up with ARA.	Claire / Alan	ASAP
5x	MK to email the log in details for Scottish Power Renewables community benefit portal to CE, KM and SA.	Mhairi	ASAP
5xi	KM to contact Environmental Health to ask for assistance with the rabbit issue on the Foreland	Kim	ASAP

5xii	KM/CE to arrange meeting with Scotmid management to discuss their concerns, as well as wider village concerns regarding the ongoing intermittent closure of the shop and Post Office.	Claire/ Kim	ASAP
5xiii	AL to contact Trae Bakes regarding concerns over business rates.	Alan	ASAP
5xiv	SA will forward email chain from SAC approved contractor to AL for him to follow up.	Sharon/ Alan	ASAP
5xv	SA to update micro grants application form and distribute via Facebook and to all community groups	Sharon	ASAP