

CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

*Minute of meeting held 27th August 2012
In Lagwyne Hall at 7.00 pm.*

Present

Elected members

Matt Hickman (Chair)
Margaret Richmond
Sylvia Sinclair
Liz Holmes
Maggie Phillips (Minutes)

Co-opted members

Tony Challis
Irene McCreath

In attendance

Cllr George Prentice
David McMillan
Darren Challis
Aletta McCallie
Daljit Singh (SCF)
Peter Seed
Rachel Seed
Ruth Williams
Amy Sutherland (Burcote)
Alex Bruce (Burcote)

Keith brander
Patricia Brander
Andrew Metcalf
Roy McCallie
Steve Cowley
Jean Cowley
Jane Evans
Lloyd Evans
Ian Ioveridge (Burcote)

1. Welcome and apologies

Matt Hickman welcomed all to the meeting.
Apologies were given from David Whyte, Finlay Carson and PC Bruton.

2. Minutes Secretary for this meeting

Maggie Phillips took the minutes for this meeting

3. Declarations of interest

None.

4. Minute of meeting

The minute of the previous meeting were accepted as correct.

Proposed: Tony Challis

Seconded: Matt Hickman

5. D & G Councillor

Following an article in the Glenkens Gazette someone had reported GP for bias regarding wind farms. He read out a letter from DGC exonerating him.

6. Police Report

There was no representation from D&G Police. Margaret Richmond had received a letter which she was going to take to the police, as it was requesting money from an unknown person.

7. Wind farms

Members of the public were asked if they would like to take part in a Public Forum, so they could make their comments and feelings known. The main focus of this part of the meeting was discussing the proposed building of 36 wind turbines being built above

Stroanfreggan, Carsphairn. There was an interesting presentation from Keith Brander, a near neighbour to the proposed development stressing that he did not oppose the development in principle but felt the scale was inappropriate and the number of turbines excessive. He felt a size similar to the neighbouring weather hill windfarm at 20 MW far more acceptable than the currently proposed 108 MW. Other members of the public expressed concerns regarding the cumulative impact of Weather Hill, Longburn and Quantans Hill windfarms on tourism and the noise generated. A near neighbour of the Weather Hill windfarm advised that they can clearly hear the turbines from 1500 meters away. The current proposal places a turbine within 500 meters of a newly renovated residence. Real concern was felt regarding the access along the B729, the disruption to local residents and the danger of numerous concrete waggon on a very narrow road with a long history of issues with timber transport. Aletta Ade felt that the council archaeologist should be consulted as there is an iron age hill fort on the site. Peter Seed questioned if the project would remain viable were it scaled back to a more acceptable size. Burcote Wind advised that they will be conducting a door to door survey of affected local residents to deal with issues such as these and reassured that all concerns would be addressed as best they could.

Alex Bruce from Orbitt communications then introduced the community consultation process. There will be a series of meetings to begin in November involving a broad cross section of elected representatives, public bodies and local residents. Burcote wind will work with the community to industry standards of best practise to ensure full public consultation in the evolution of the development. Very few developers go to the lengths of a door to door survey. Members of the community are encouraged to use this process to ensure the developers are aware of their concerns. During this debate real disappointment was expressed that in a clearly hierarchical list of stakeholders local residents appeared at the very bottom. Mr Bruce assured that the document was a draft and the community's comments would be taken on board.

There was then a presentation from Dalgit Singh of the Scottish Communities Foundation regarding their role in Administrating Windfarm Community Benefit Funds in Scotland. SCF work with many developers to help communities ensure this money is managed and spent to their own best advantage.

8. Forestry Scooping

Discussed by those present and no interest in making further representations.

9. Community Garden

CVSL has agreed to take the community garden in trust. It was agreed at the AGM of CVSL. A new Land Certificate has now been purchased. A letter will be sent to CVSL along with the Land Certificate, which will be held by a solicitor in their vault. Action by Sylvia Sinclair and Matt Hickman.

10. Future secretary

At present there is no Vice Chair or secretary of the CC. Also, the treasurer will only stand until another has been found. There is someone who has shown interest in being secretary, and it has been agreed to cover the expenses of the role.

11. Future of Community Council and Elections

Nomination forms for election of CC have to be sent in by Friday 7th September. 6 people have shown interest in being a CC.

12. Pub

There was nothing to report.

13. Community Council Solicitor

A solicitor will be contacted to take advice regarding finalising the community garden project. Action Margaret Richmond.

14. Welcome Leaflet

In April the final proof was produced, including changes which had been asked to be changed. The Community Council was told that there would be no charges. Thanks to be minuted to Nigel Martin for his help. This is now to be emailed to all Community Councillor's. This can now be printed when needed.

15. Examiner of Accounts

Martin Wheeler has agreed to examine the accounts.

16. Roads

There has been an on-going problem with the speed signs, so they have been tried closer to Castle Douglas, but will come to the village once this problem has been sorted. There are also no white lines on the B729. These will have to be painted by hand, due to the road being too narrow for the machine to be on the road.

17. Footpath to Bridgend

Donald Peacock has been to look, and said that there would be a quote for the job within 1 week.

18. Planning Applications

Nothing of note

19. Correspondence

A letter from Dumfries and Galloway Council has been received with regard the Community Council.

20. AOB

A member of CREFEL made the Community Council aware that the money in the account is for community use, but only if people applies. It has been suggested that some of the money is used as an electricity supplement, but this would ONLY be for people who own/rent property who are full time residents. Ruth Williams would be willing to help progress this. There will be more discussion at the next meeting.

It was suggested that the Community Council contact the council with regards the A713 and accident black spots. Dalry Community Council has made their thoughts known about the road, but they have concentrated on the road within their parish rather than the whole road. Margaret Richmond has agreed to make the contact on the Community Council's behalf.

The Community Council email inbox is becoming rather full. It was agreed that the emails in there be archived.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm
Date of next meeting : Monday 24th September 2012
At 7.00 pm

Chairman _____

Date _____

