

CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of meeting held on 30th September 2013

in Lagwyne Hall at 7.00 pm.

Present:	Elected members Andrew Metcalf (Chair) Liz Holmes (Vice Chair) Tony Challis (C. Secretary) Sylvia Sinclair Matt Hickman	Co-opted Voting members Simon Holmes
In attendance:	Darren Challis (Treasurer) Billy McCreath [CREFL Chair] Karen Hall George Prentice D&G Councillor (part) George Jeffrey (Vattenfall Wind Power) Wendy Fenton (Minutes) Brenda Carson Euan Hutchison (Natural Power, part) David Buchanan “ “ “	PC Jim Drysdale (part) Jean Cowley Steve Cowley David McMillan Martin Temple David Metcalf Kane Mitchell Ruth Williams

1. Welcome and Apologies:

There were no apologies

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. Minutes of previous meeting – 26th August

The minutes were approved

Proposed: TC

Seconded MH

4. Matters arising

Discussed under agenda items

5. Treasurer's report

There were no transactions in the past month. CREFL Garden report: the account is still £518.02 in deficit.

6. Police Report

No significant incidents to report but there has been some fish poaching at Kendoon and continuing rural thefts of power tools, quad bikes etc. Fuel theft is likely to start again soon. A reminder was given to never give personal details to strangers or by phone. Forms for the text message alert scheme were handed round and, once returned to TC, will be forwarded to the station. The messages cannot be emailed to participants, only texted.

Action: JD will enquire about the possibility of using email.

7. D&G Councillor's report

GP attended a broadband meeting recently and reported that superfast broadband installation is progressing and it is hoped to get 2-24mb speed to 95% of D&G by 2015 and the remaining 5% up to 2mb by 2017.

GP confirmed that with section 37 windfarm applications (those aiming to produce over 50MW), which go straight to the Scottish Government, the CC send any comments straight to the Government rather than to the Council.

GP stated he was waiting for a response to his enquiry about the 7.30 bus

8. David Buchanan from Natural Power

DB gave a short presentation on the progress of the Windy Standard Extension (WS2) and distributed a summary leaflet. The extension is scheduled to begin generating in February 2016 and should generate 69MW from 30 turbines (120m high). A new grid connection required for this should be in place by November 2015 and this will provide spare capacity for other wind farms in the area. The access route will be the same as Windy Standard 1.

TC asked what the community benefit would be. DB explained that as there was no structure in place when the extension was consented in 2007, all the money would be going to the communities of Carsphairn and New Cumnock, at the same ratio split as for Windy Standard 1 (about 70:30). The rate offered for WS2 is £2,500 per MW. (Funds from windfarms consented now are expected to be split 50:50 with the local community (within a 15km radius) and the Council for a region-wide fund.) SS noted that it was odd that this farm has gone through planning without any discussion with the local community about community benefit.

DMcM noted that in 2007 the community were led to believe there would be no such extension.

2 turbines at Tor Hill were granted permission but had to wait until the grid was extended. DB said they were unlikely to go ahead now.

Action: AM to set up meeting with Brochloch Windfarm Ltd to discuss community benefit.

9. Response to Longburn Section 36 Application

LH set up an exhibition in Lagwyne Hall to gather responses from the local community in order for the CC to send a response to the Government. 26 questionnaires had been returned so far but to be statistically significant, 15% of the relevant population must respond. It was decided that this should be everyone in the community over the age of 16.

There was a discussion over the questionnaire content but it was agreed that this had been a trial for future responses and was not an official document, just a means of obtaining views from the locals to pass on. The form can be amended and discussed at a future meeting prior to being used again.

Comments included

- Names and addresses being required (they were optional on the form) to ensure no dubiety and the organisation's name being on the form but being a small community, it was known that all responses were genuine. To overcome anonymity that some people might prefer, a numbering system could be used for the eligible residents.
- Concern over the question of whether people were worried about more turbines might prejudice future applications
- Concern over the accuracy of the information – numbers of turbines change as applications progress and this is difficult to keep track of with the current number of proposals. Could the information be acquired from the council?

TC proposed that once 15% of respondents had been achieved it should be sent to the Government. AM seconded.

Action: LH to ascertain the number in the community over the age of 16 to determine how many required for 15% and, once achieved, send response to TC who will forward to the Scottish Government prior to November 3rd.

10. Community Development Plan

A Foundation Scotland (FS) meeting was attended by LH, SH, MH, SC and DMcM. FS could meet with Carsphairn to discuss how they could help prepare a plan. There would be no charge for the meeting but plan preparation by FS could cost £5-15,000. It was agreed it would be preferable for the new trust, CCT, and CREFL to attend. SC noted Cadispa (Conservation and Development in Sparsely Populated Areas) could offer a similar service at a possible cost of £15-20,000.

Action: BMcC will fix a date suitable for CREFL members as soon as possible. Their next meeting is mid November. RW asked to avoid Wednesdays as the hall is booked.

LH to contact FS to set up a meeting once BMcC has ascertained suitable dates.

11. Progress of Welcome Leaflet

A final copy has been produced after much work, by Anne Rutherford and Margaret Richmond. Approved by SS, seconded by AM. It is for distribution to new members of the community and self catering cottages. It was agreed that it would be uploaded to the Carsphairn Community website

Action: TC to send to Jean to put on web site.

TC will be responsible for updating the Welcome Leaflet based on input from the Community.

When a new member arrives in the community a neighbour can alert the nearest CC member, who will visit the newcomers to welcome them to the community and point them to Carsphairn website for the Welcome Leaflet. They will be given a hard copy of the Leaflet if they have no internet access.

12. Greystones/CCT

The application for charitable status is progressing, with minor amendments requested (the constitution had to be ratified), and we should know in about 2 weeks if it has been successful. The current owners of the property will be informed once it has been secured but are aware of progress. The area of benefit stated in the CCT constitution is a radius of 30 miles from Carsphairn – this is to allow for Carsphairn joining forces with other local groups for any larger projects that may be considered. It is hoped to purchase the building and make it watertight before the winter sets in.

Action: The committee will ask Sandy for an estimate of his costs, to be paid by CCC

13. CREFL notice of meetings in shop

The shop have requested for the CREFL notices to be removed from the shop window as they now have lettering on it. It is in the CREFL constitution that meeting notices will be displayed there so an alternative has to be agreed.

Action: CREFL will ask the Hall committee if they can be displayed in the hall window short term and the CC will look into a new noticeboard site at the next meeting.

14. Glenkens Community Benefits Committee

This was formed by various members of the Glenkens community with the aim of creating a body to discuss windfarm benefits to the local area with the developers. It has not been formalised as such and only held two meetings to date, but at the recent Foundation Scotland meeting the impression was given that it is the local

organisation to deal with funding for the area. Carsphairn and Moniaive have distanced themselves from it and would rather use the existing local community councils. The concern is that if, in the future, Glenkens secures funding from an organisation it will prevent individual Community Councils from accessing that same funding organisation.

Action: AM to send letter drafted by MH to explain CCC's position that CCC wish to deal with any funding for Carsphairn.

15. Garden Trust

Deferred.

16. Shop developments

The shop is open and running well and it is hoped it will be supported by all in the community.

17. Broadband in Lagwyne Hall

The hall committee decided it was not a good idea to install broadband at present, partly as the hall is undergoing renovation in the next 12 months and partly as it was felt it was a high cost. It can be revisited in 12 months.

18. Heartstart

This is taking place on Thursday 10th October from 7-9pm. Numbers attending are sufficient but more are welcome.

Action: TC will send a general email out

19. Local Organisations

Action: MH will invite local organisations to attend the CC meetings

20. Resilience Plan

The template for this is available if anyone wishes to carry this out.

21. Planning applications

The shop has been granted an off-licence.

22. Correspondence

TC has submitted the application papers for the discretionary grant.

23. AOB

- Sarah McNeil is preparing an article on Carsphairn for the Glenkens Gazette. It was agreed to send her the windfarm map used at the recent exhibition.
- GJ asked if a letter of support could be provided for the South Kyle windfarm application. CC cannot provide such but any individual who so wishes could. TC noted there had been no request for views from the Government as yet.
- MH requested to highlight that bins placed at the Lamford road end are for use by residents only, not for commercial/builders waste.
- DMcM asked if there was any progress on the CC asking the Core Paths officer to carry out a footfall survey of the Bridgend and Leadmines paths. Continued to next meeting.

Action: AM to contact core paths officer

24. Dates of next meetings

28th October, 25th November, 27th January 2014

The meeting was closed at 9.10pm