

CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minute of meeting held on 27th January 2014 in Lagwyne Hall

Present:

Elected members

Andrew Metcalf (Chair)	Sylvia Sinclair
Tony Challis (C. Secretary)	Matt Hickman
Liz Holmes (Vice Chair)	

In attendance:

Janet Spencer	Darren Challis (Treasurer)	Jean Cowley
Nigel Spencer	PC. Ian Johnson	Steve Cowley
Carol Middlemiss	George Prentice (D&G Councillor)	David McMillan
Harry Hall	George Jeffrey (Vattenfall)	Martin Temple
Elma Haining	Wendy Fenton (Minutes)	David Haining
Anna Campbell	Marian Legg	Ian Lockhart
Anne Rutherford	Maggie Phillips	H Wilson
Charlotte Brown	Jackie Locke	Vance Carson
Dave Page	W A Duggleby	Irene McCreath
Alan Laing	Brenda Carson	Margot McMorran
Karen Hall	Gary Parker (Ayrnet)	Nick Taylor (E-on)

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Apologies received from Simon Holmes

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Matters arising from Minutes of previous meeting 25th November 2013

- TC responded to Corsock & KPD CC re a moratorium on wind farm planning applications and was informed that they had received a positive response.
- On re-reading the Framework (NPF3) notes, TC noted the CCC response to the Longburn windfarm proposal was not relevant so he did not send a response.

4. Approval of minutes

Proposed: LH Seconded: AM

5. Treasurer's Report

Receipts for December and January were £818.02 (CREFL grant for garden mtnce) and £460.50 (Discretionary grant, D&G Council).

Outgoing payments were £40 (garden mtnce), £100 (minutes) and £9 (Heartstart leaflet), leaving a balance of £3599.61.

DC proposed that the payment method should be changed to electronic payments with a back-up of cheques if required, to be signed at meetings.

Proposed: AM Seconded LH

6. Police Report

PC Ian Johnson stated there was a continued problem with suspicious behaviour around forestry in the area and urged anyone seeing anything suspicious to report any details they could (vehicle registration, model, colour etc.) to the police. Theft or fuel from tanks, bowsers etc. is still occurring. A new Inspector is taking up post – Inspector Stewart Davidson, who is familiar with the area.

DM informed PC Johnson of an incident of a caravan being set alight and metal from it taken for scrap, with little response from the police. PC Johnson stated that the police will take action if details are reported to them.

7. D&G Councillor's report

GP had nothing to report.

GP was asked who on the council agreed with Scottish Power (SP) that the recent flood was not their fault as stated in the local paper. GP was not aware of this but said that SP met with D&G Councillors last Monday to discuss the event. He read out an email from SP which stated that all actions had been undertaken that should have been.

8. Floods In Carsphairn

A lengthy discussion took place about the flooding in the village on December 30th in which a number of properties were flooded. Many points were raised by community members concerning why it happened, who, if anyone was responsible, how it was dealt with and how the response could have been improved.

One resident, who had sent letters and received replies from Scottish Power and Dumfries and Galloway Council, will forward them to the Community Council together with the questions she wishes them to raise with Scottish Power Energy Wholesale (SPEW), SEPA and OFGEM.

Action: AM will invite reps from SP, SEPA, FC to next meeting or an extraordinary meeting.

Action: AM will investigate obtaining and storing empty sandbags and sand to use if required.

Action: GP will look into ensuring road closed signs are obeyed and investigating whether physical barriers could be put in place.

Action: GP will obtain figures from SEPA about the volume of water during the flood event as it is thought to have been unprecedented.

Action: AC indicated she was happy to show the committee around the local area to point out where the problems occurred during the flooding.

Action: AM will put contact details of the community council on the notice board by the shop so locals know who to contact if they have an issue.

Action: TC will raise the questions with SPEW, SEPA and OFGEM.

8a Resilience Plan

Item 8 indicates the necessity for this, to ensure that a plan of action is put in place so any future emergency such as power cuts, flooding, heavy snowfall, drainage issues, etc. can be better dealt with and that vulnerable people in the community are looked after. A group formed of local residents is required to take this forward.

TC had heard that a Hall Committee member had suggested obtaining a generator with a view to the Hall being used as an Emergency Centre. TC had identified a possible source of funding from D&G Council for the generator and had passed the relevant information to the Hall Committee.

Anna Campbell, Alan Laing, David McMillan, Anne Rutherford and Sylvia Sinclair volunteered to be on a steering group responsible for setting up a resilience plan.

9. Presentation by Nick Taylor, Eon

Action: NT sympathised with the flooding problem and promised to look into whether EON could help in any way such as supply a generator.

NT then outlined the current situation regarding the proposed Quantans wind farm. It was submitted to the Scottish Government on Friday 24th Jan. 19 turbines are proposed and the design was modified after local feedback. NT confirmed that there had been no recent major changes to their proposal and the cables will be underground. The control room is now to be sited over the hill rather than near the road. The documents should be validated in 2-3 weeks and then individuals and groups have 21 days to submit comments, with extensions possible if there is good reason. The CC is on the list of consultees. On Monday 3rd Feb NT will hold an open session in Dalry to answer queries. Carsphairn hall was booked up but as it was pointed out that the daytime session in Dalry would not suit many locals, he agreed

to another session at Lagwyne Hall. Some non technical summaries were made available at the meeting – this and all the full documents are available online (<https://www.eonenergy.com/About-eon/our-company/generation/planning-for-the-future/wind/onshore/quantans-hill>).

Action: NT will hold another meeting in Lagwyne Hall

Action: NT will rectify missing or inaccurate documents online

Action: TC will ask the Scottish Government for an extension to the response period for the Community Council

SC asked when the photographer would be out to take the photos promised at individual properties, about 18 months ago. NT said weather conditions had to be right but that it would happen very soon.

If anyone would like a visit from NT to discuss the proposals, let him know.

Action: NT will ensure a photographer will take the promised photos soon

Action: NT will provide a hard copy for the Thursday Coffee Morning in the hall.

10. Community Development Plan

KH has collated various toolkits and made a start on the plan but will need input from others in the community and was encouraged by the passionate people in the meeting, suggesting there would be sufficient enthusiasm. A small consultation committee would need to be formed in the near future and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

11. Strategic Review of Water Charges

Distributed to public on 16 December but no response to-date

12. Dalry Post Office Sorting Office Closure

Due to retirement of the postmistress, the post office is moving to Wrights shop and the sorting office will be closed. The nearest collection point for parcels will be Castle Douglas. Individuals could leave directions for parcels to be left with a neighbour or in a safe place.

13. Feedback on D&G Broadcast publication

D&G Council is seeking feedback on the 'Broadcast' publication. It was agreed to let them know that all that was wanted was a sheet listing relevant information such as contact details of council departments, bin days etc.

Action: TC to respond to D&G with meeting comments

14. D&G Budget meetings

None were attended by anyone present. GP informed the meeting that cemetery grass cutting times may be reduced eg. to three times annually plus special occasions/funerals.

Action: TC will inform the council that the Community wish to maintain the current cutting times.

DM suggested stopping cutting verges on roads through open grazed land (eg Moniaive –Carsphairn)

15. D&G Council Development Plan Scheme

Distributed to public 13 December but no response to-date.

16. Scottish Rural Parliament

No comments were received about this from those on the email list.

Action: TC to put a hard copy in the shop for DM.

Action: anyone who wishes to receive emails with news/correspondence relevant to Carsphairn should give their details to TC.

17. Community Safety Survey

This has been emailed out – (questionnaire about how safe you feel in your community)

18. Garden Trust

The flooding caused damage to the dyke. This is covered under the insurance, with £100 excess. Quotes could be obtained but it was suggested that the damage was minimal and could be put right without resorting to insurance.

Action: MH to look at the dyke and make a decision.

Action: DC: Payment required of £40 for the Christmas tree: Proposed TC, Seconded MH

19. Heartstart

TC has had no response for his request to publicise in the Gazette the siting of the defibrillator in the shop.

20. Planning applications

- Eon has applied for 2 year extensions for the wind masts on Quantans and Furmiston. NT said the eastern mast was to be moved nearer the centre on the site to help monitor and predict trends. Wind speed data can be supplied.
- Carminnows dangerous animal licence will be up for renewal shortly.

21. Correspondence

All covered within the meeting

22. AOB

- A discussion took place on compensation payable for the recent power cut. Some people received incorrect amounts, which were rectified after querying.
- SS asked if members from other Carsphairn community groups had been asked to attend these meetings. This has not been done yet.

Action: AM to send letter to local group reps. inviting them to the meetings.

The meeting was closed at 21.05

Dates of next meetings:

24th February, 24th March, 27th April