

## CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minute of meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014 in Lagwyne Hall

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Elected members</b>	<b>Member with Voting Rights</b>
	Andrew Metcalf (Chair)	Simon Holmes
	Tony Challis (C. Secretary)	
	Liz Holmes (Vice Chair)	
	Sylvia Sinclair	

#### **In Attendance:**

Alan Lang	Darren Challis (Treasurer)	L.Duncan
Karen Hall	PC Simon Kennedy	Steve Cowley
Jean Cowley	Finlay Carson (D&G Councillor)	Martin Temple
David McMillan	George Jeffrey (Vattenfall)	Susannah Counce (E- On Senior Stakeholder Executive)
P. Smith	Joe Brown (E-On Project Leader)	

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies:**

AM welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies: M. Hickman, W. Fenton, Cllr G. Prentice

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

None.

#### **3. Minutes of meeting 25th August 2014**

Cllr G. Prentice had apologised but his email had been delayed.

The minutes of the meeting were approved.

Proposed: TC Seconded: AM

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Bank account balance at 29 September 2014: £4,097.29 after payment of costs for minute secretary's fee, village plants, poppy wreath, vigil insurance and garden maintenance.

#### **5. Police Report**

PC Ian Dunn still off sick, no imminent return. In the meantime PC Simon Kennedy is the contact regarding future CC meetings and any queries for the police. The number to call for Police Scotland is 101 and SK said callers may need to be patient as the staff answering calls would not necessarily be local. Little to report crime-wise, most issues have been traffic related. Despite warning signs the bend on the A713 by Carsfad Loch has seen 3 deaths in the last 3 years and several accidents. He warned of break-ins in vacant properties whilst the residents are absent, not holiday homes, and advised those going away not to inadvertently advertise the fact e.g. ask neighbours to pull back/draw curtains, collect mail etc. Theft of oil from tanks, bowsers etc. is likely to increase with the onset of winter.

SK reported scams mainly in Castle Douglas and Dalbeattie where vulnerable people were being asked to pay exorbitant amounts for gardening they did not request, including taking the 'victim' to the bank to withdraw money to pay them.

#### **6. D&G Councillor's Report**

FC reported that DGC will shortly organise a public meeting where the surveyors charged with investigating the causes of last winter's unprecedented flooding will present a flood 'model' and plans to combat this issue.

After the resignation of all SNP councillors on DGC the aim now is to form an all inclusive council to get a consensus rather than one political party making all the decisions.

DGC's Safety Partnership has grant funding up to £1,000 to support a range of various projects e.g. engaging young people, neighbourhood watch schemes. Iain Howie is still involved with the partnership.

FC is now the chair of the Stewartry Area Committee who aim to encourage communities to take more responsibility as to where money is spent.

## **7. E-On (Benbrack)**

SC and JB gave a presentation on the proposed Benbrack windfarm and stated they had had extensive consultation with relevant parties. Of the 18 turbines proposed, the nearest turbine to the A713 is 1.3 km away. A single storey visible substation will be permanently installed if approval is granted but this can be disguised and could be stone clad. There would also be a temporary compound area installed. A traffic management system would be put in place if the windfarm is approved. E-On will hold a developer day showing photo montages for people to see what is proposed before representation is made to the Government by the end of November.

Community benefit is part of the package - £5,000 per megawatt but E-On is unwilling to discuss the benefit at this stage as they do not want it seen as a bribe. SC stated that as regards community benefit, E-On will act according to the community's wishes.

Representations can still be made to move the position of some of the turbines before planning approval is sought. There are no plans to extend Benbrack at the moment. The presentation will be emailed to TC for distribution.

## **8. Election of Co-opted Councillors**

Alan Lang was co-opted as a CC councillor with full voting rights.

Proposed: TC Seconded: AM

## **9. Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting 25th August 2014**

### **a) Community Garden**

TC had checked with the insurance company re barbecue insurance and informed them we had prepared a Risk Assessment. Reply copied to the Kirk Session. No further action required by CCC. Martin Temple has accepted the garden maintenance job, has already started work and is looking after the tools. The wind turbine has burnt out. D. Richmond is investigating the replacement cost. It is hoped that the requisite power can be sourced from the solar panels.

**Action:** AM is to thank Jacqui and Stewart Locke for their work in the garden before MT started.

### **b) Community Futures Plan**

A good response was received from the survey sent to all individuals resident in Carsphairn - 79 responses from the over 180 sent out. The children in Carsphairn Primary school and those under 16 years resident in Carsphairn and attending Dalry Secondary were also consulted. The prize draw is yet to be sorted. The survey results are expected imminently.

### **c) War Memorial**

Martin Holden advised that oil paint would be the best thing for the lettering but currently no company has been found to provide paint suitable for granite.

**Action:** SH to ask the monumental masons in Patna for advice.

### **d) Letter re School Head**

A response was received from Colin Grant, Director of Education, stating that classes up to and including S4 at Dalry Secondary will remain in operation for this coming session.

Beyond that, we are embarking on a process of consultation on the best way forward. This ongoing situation will need to be closely watched.

### **e) Carsphairn Flood Study**

See point 6, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph.

### **f) Broadband/O2**

MH had written to James Pocock NGB Programme Manager enquiring as to fastspeed broadband in Carsphairn as there may be plans to lay fastspeed cable in the area.

Currently nothing appears to be confirmed. Faster speeds via cable however, will not support businesses located in the hills where cable will not be laid. DGC is committed to working with those communities who may be in the remaining 5% and will work with these

communities, and Community Broadband Scotland (<http://www.hie.co.uk/community-support/community-broadband-scotland>), to support and enable access to broadband that is faster and more reliable. The Digital Scotland website (<http://www.digitalscotland.org>) should be upgraded shortly to provide more detailed information on the roll-out along with the provision of some indicative timescales for delivery.

**g) Windy Rig Wind Farm**

TC had received and distributed the Scoping Report, also the Benefit Agreement which was copied to CREFL. The pdf of the presentation which was requested was not supplied.

**h) NHS Survey**

TC distributed the survey to the Public Distribution list. It was known that at least one person had responded.

**i) Local Development Plan**

In response to a query to the Community Council Enquiry Service we were informed that, due to a grid reference error, the Waste Management Site shown near Carsphairn on the plan was in fact scheduled for Thornhill.

**j) Community Records**

The Hall Committee were willing to have Community Council records stored in the Hall (under the stage, rodent proof boxes were recommended). D&G Council may offer a facility to store minutes. Action will be taken when it is known what needs to be kept. (D&G Council have been asked if there is a record retention policy for Community Councils).

**10. New Constitution EGM**

An EGM will be held prior to the regular CCC meeting in November.

**11. CREFL Report Information Only**

AM read out a list of successful CREFL funding recipients.

**12. Planning Applications**

Nothing of note.

**13. Correspondence**

The correspondence report has been circulated. Highlighted items were the Road Report now being received and the completion and submission of the paperwork for the 2014/2015 Discretionary grant.

**14. AORB**

- The Scottish Government has issued a 'Good Practice Guide' for dealing with windfarm community benefit. FC recommended using the Community Benefits Officer.
- CCC noticeboard - invoice has yet to be received for rehanging it on the shop wall.
- The windfarm steering group will hold another meeting in the near future.  
**Action:** SH to organise.
- DM reported blocked gulleys.  
**Action:** AM to contact roads department about this.

The meeting was closed at 9.00pm

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7.00pm in Lagwyne Hall