

CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of meeting held on 26th January 2015 in Lagwyne Hall

Present:

Elected Members

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

Members with Voting Rights

Simon Holmes

In Attendance:

Steve Cowley	Irene McCreath (Kirk Session rep.)	Charlotte Brown
Jean Cowley	Darren Challis (Treasurer)	David Page
David McMillan	Wendy Fenton (Minutes)	Anne Rutherford
Karen Hall	Trevor Molineux	Arnold Duggleby
Maggie Phillips	Joan Molineux	PC Patrick Couper
	George Jeffrey	PC Bryan Bruton

1. Welcome and Apologies:

AM Welcomed all to the meeting. Apology received from G Prentice by email.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of EGM and general meeting 24th November 2014

The minutes of the EGM were approved. Proposed: TC Seconded: AM

The minutes of the meeting were approved. Proposed: MH Seconded: TC

4. Treasurer's Report

The bank account balance at 26th January 2015 was £3,711.29 after payment for Garden Maintenance for the Community Garden.

5. Police Report

The police had nothing specific to report. Tom Dingwall is the new Community Officer and will attend these meetings in future, covering Castle Douglas and the Glenkens.

A number of those present praised the response of the police and fire service though the 101 number and during the recent flooding event at Carsphairn.

A vote of thanks was given to the fire and police services. Proposed: AM, seconded: MH

6. D&G Councillor's Report

None present.

7. Floods

CB reported how her house had been flooded again after just having put the new furniture in after the last flood. A discussion of the recent event ensued. Issues raised included:

- At the southern end of the village there appeared to be a problem with drainage, preventing water being drained away during high rainfall
- Water was seen bubbling up through drains and stopcock areas
- Flooding at the northern end seems to be associated with high volumes of water in the Strand or Water of Deugh.
- Self closing air bricks were in-effective, raw sewage was flushed into some houses and out of some road drains.

- High rainfall in the past has not led to these problems at the south end of the village so something has changed – possibly blocked drains after road works?

Action: TC asked for anyone who has experienced such problems to detail them to him by email (carsphairncc@gmail.com) or letter and AM will pass them on to the D&G Flood Risk Management team.

- It was felt disappointing that no reps from D&G Council were present at this meeting
- TC had asked D&G Council and Scottish Power for their comments on the floods and their responses detailing what actions they had taken during the time of the flood were circulated.

It was noted that the response from D&G Council indicated that they hoped that the flood study would be 'complete within the next few months' and that they would consider work on the Strand Burn, subject to SEPA approval 'in early course'. This was not considered acceptable.

Action: TC to write to the D&G Flood Risk Management Team and SEPA stressing the need for urgent action.

- MP informed the meeting that she and DP are happy to store the sand from the sandbags at the Smithy for villagers to use when required. Bags would be stored separately to keep them dry.
- **If more sandbags or containers are required please let CCC know and a funding application could be put to CREFL.**
- AD kindly offered the use of a portable electric pump to CCC.
- It was felt that the lack of progress by D&G Council on solving the Carsphairn flooding problem was due to our low population, it having just been reported that D&G Council were proposing to spend huge sums on flood schemes in other areas.

8. Matters Arising from meeting 24th November 2014

a) Glenkens Community Benefits Committee

SS has spoken to CREFL and this will be discussed at next month's meeting.

b) Community Garden Thank you letter

The letter has been sent.

c) Garden transfer/Power

SS is still trying to speak to the solicitor. SS feels that it would be best to transfer the garden to CCT. It was proposed to pay an invoice for £301.80 for work on the power. Proposed: TC Seconded: MH

d) War Memorial

Two quotes have been received for repairing the lettering.

Action: AM to seek advice from Martin Holden and investigate funding opportunities and also to ask Mr Clark-Kennedy if he knows who owns the memorial.

e) Windfarm Steering Group Meeting

A meeting was held on 15th December but most of it was taken up with the presentation and questioning of Element Power. It was agreed that a community windfarm policy should be drawn up to help give the community a baseline to assess new windfarm applications and ask relevant questions, including checking that all local residents had been consulted. This could be used to help assess applications and produce relevant and appropriate responses by the CCC to the planning authorities. It could also be used to help individuals respond to applications. Draft minutes of this meeting have been emailed to all those who attended. SH is working on a draft of the proposed community wind farm policy.

f) Benbrack/Loch Urr Wind Farm Comments

TC requested an extension to a response by CCC and was given a date of 20th February. It was confirmed that CCC can also comment on the Loch Urr application as the infrastructure may impact on Carsphairn. He has therefore lodged an objection to the Loch Urr Windfarm behalf of CCC.

g) Seniors Dinner

The dinner went ahead on 22nd December. There were 60 invitees, with 25 attending, 25 declining and 10 no replies. SS apologised if anyone was missed out, it is a difficult task to diplomatically find out who qualifies! The evening was a great success despite the short timescale. Some attendees have expressed their appreciation to both CCC and volunteer helpers. Thanks to all the volunteers.

h) Resilience Plan

TC carried out all actions requested at the last meeting. Trevor Molineux and Margo McMorran have also offered to help out so they, along with Alan Lang, will form the committee to take the plan forward. Hugh Clark-Kennedy has agreed to represent the hall on the Resilience Group.

CCT had offered to work with AL and other volunteers to take the Plan forward. MH proposed and AM seconded that this offer be accepted. AL will report back to CCC.

9. Windy Rig CLG

SS and SC attended the meeting in very poor weather. Other communities involved include Dalry, New Galloway, Tynron, Penpont, Sanquhar, Moniaive. SS asked why Carsphairn were not consulted on Twenty Shilling Wind Farm, awaiting answer. SS will also request meetings to be held at Carsphairn as the host community. The power transmission route has still to be decided. DM noted that the B729 is the most likely route for turbines to be taken in and that Southern Upland Partnership are the most likely fund holder for communities requiring this facility. An on-site visit is proposed for 25th April.

10. D&G Council – Supplementary Guidance

MH explained that the policy known locally as the ‘Small Holding Policy’ was dropped two years ago as the council felt it has not run in keeping with the intentions. After objections locally, it has now been re-instated. The email link with information on this is: <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=15342&p=0>. Tying of the house to an agricultural business does not now apply but to qualify, applicants must submit a business plan demonstrating that the majority of household income will be derived from the land. Houses must be low carbon by virtue of scale. MH acknowledged the assistance of Jamie Dent from DGSCHT in preparing our objections to the draft LDP.

11. Scottish Power Planning Applications for Quarries

Planning application has been submitted for four large quarries in Carsphairn Forest, each covering about 50 acres, to extract 1.5 million tonnes of stone for road making underneath the proposed site of the new overhead transmission line. It will cause significant disruption, with 75,000 20t trucks carting stone over 18 months. The new road would not be a public highway.

12. D&G Council Budget Development 2015/2016-2017/2018

TC has distributed the documents via email and anyone who wishes to can comment.

13. Planning applications

The quarry application was the only one of note.

14. Correspondence Secretary

TC announced he is standing down at the AGM in April after three years as Correspondence Secretary. A replacement will be needed and if anyone is interested

Tony is happy to talk through the requirements of the post. It will be considered as a paid position.

15. Correspondence

The list has been issued. Of note, the Community Benefit Fund proposed by DGC of a 50:50 split with local communities and a region wide fund has been scrapped. There will be a facility for holding and managing funds by any communities who wish it.

16. AORB

- CCT will hold a Resilience Plan meeting in the next fortnight. It is hope anyone who is happy to help out will attend to support Alan in drawing up the plan.
- DC asked that CCT use the CCC email facility to advertise such events.
- DM listed the following issues on the roads.
 - Road sign on A713 at Meadowhead Junction is lying on the ground
 - The village traffic island keep left sign has fallen and has still not been replaced
 - Lights at the Heritage Centre car park have not been fixed
 - Potholes: Between Meadowhead junction and Eriff was mended but is now worse. The B729 between Muirdrochwood and Auchenstroan cattle grid is a bad section of road
 - There is a badly blocked culvert between Muirdrochwood and Smittons.

Action: TC will send a letter to the roads department.

The meeting was closed at 9.10pm.

Date of next meeting: Monday 23rd February 2015 at 7.00pm