

CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of meeting held on 23rd February 2015 in Lagwyne Hall

Present:

Elected Members:

Andrew Metcalf (Chair)
Tony Challis (C. Secretary)

Liz Holmes (Vice Chair)
Sylvia Sinclair

Members with Voting Rights

Alan Lang

In Attendance:

Steve Cowley	Irene McCreath (Kirk Session rep.)	Charlotte Brown
Jean Cowley	Darren Challis (Treasurer)	Anne Rutherford
David McMillan	Wendy Fenton (Minutes)	Anna Clark Kennedy
Anna Campbell	Trevor Molineux	
Emily Peaston (Natural Power)	Nic Coombey (Biosphere)	
Marie Scaife (Natural Power)	George Prentice (D&G Councillor)	

1. Welcome and Apologies:

AM Welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies received from Matt Hickman and Simon Holmes.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of meeting 27th January 2015

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

4. Treasurer's Report

The bank account balance at 23rd February 2015 was £3,142.86 after: payment for expenses for the Seniors' Dinner; Community Christmas tree; minutes and website hosting along with Garden Maintenance for the Community Garden. A Discretionary Grant of £459.30 was received from D&G Council.

5. Police Report

No Police were present

6. D&G Councillor's Report

GP had nothing to report. TC has emailed the council about the Heritage Centre lights. AL noted that the last drain clearance visit by the council for this financial year was due.

7. Nic Coombey, Community & Learning Officer for the Galloway and South Ayrshire Biosphere

Nic described the origins of the Biosphere (UNESCO designation for areas of high nature value) and its aims of promoting education and sustainability within a large part of SW Scotland. It does not include any extra rules or regulations. A significant D&G Council-led landscape project is being developed, seeking Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Funding, covering the Ken-Dee catchment from Carsphairn to Kirkcudbright and anyone with ideas for a local project to be included can contact Nic (nic@gsabiosphere.org.uk) or attend a meeting at Dalry Town Hall on 12th March. Ideas might include heritage trails, community buildings, archaeological sites ie specifically connected with heritage, not the arts or business.

8. Marie Scaife, Emily Peaston (Natural Power, NP): WS2, WS3, Quantans Hill updates

WS3: Proposal is now a 20 turbine extension with some 125m high (Waterhead) and some 177.5m high (Meaul Hill). It will be submitted to planning in the next 2 months, with a 28 day consultation followed by 12 months to be determined and a

further 2 years to obtain consents. Planned output is 67.5MW. 7% (£5.4m) is planned to be spent within D&G and 36 FTE jobs created during construction. Based on £5,000/MW (installed) the local area should receive £4.5m over its lifetime.

Action: NP will find out if there is a possibility of community ownership of a proportion of the turbines.

WS2: 30 turbines are proposed with a capacity of up to 75MW. A construction track for the buildings required will be made in 2015. Turbines will be delivered in June 2016, with a grid connection planned for Autumn 2016. The power connection line will be to the north. The construction contract award is imminent.

WS1: This is 20 years old now and will either be decommissioned or may be repowered.

Quantans: This is in planning. NP were asked about upgrading of power lines and new lines and where the Quantans connection would be, along with that from Loch Urr which appears to be coming through the Carsphairn area. Eon have proposed underground connections to the village but they only control this where they own the land.

NP: will respond about planned Quantans connection.

Contact details for any queries about these three windfarms:

emilyp@naturalpower.com and maries@naturalpower.com

9. Matters Arising

a) Floods

TC wrote to D&G Council and emailed SEPA. SEPA are happy to work with D&G council once they have contacted them. The letter received from D&G Flood Risk Management was read out to the meeting and included the fact that they are looking into flood mitigation options. They will meet with CCC in due course. Road gullies have been cleaned out twice, including removal of chippings. Silt was sucked out and some drains are now successfully draining water for the first time in many years. Drains were tested with dye and some were found to be static, but the sewer drains are working. Local records have proved very useful but an overall survey of the village drains would be useful.

A request was made that the council should inform locals when lay-bys were being swept of chippings so cars could be removed. AR offered to do another survey of the drains and submit this to CCC.

Action TC will email D&G council with a formal request to survey the drains. He asked that people notify him with specific issues to enable a more targeted response.

Action: AM will ask for early meeting with KAYA – within a month of the report completion.

b) War Memorial Lettering

Martin Holden recommended that the lettering should not be sandblasted but cleaned with solvents.

c) Road Issues

TC emailed the roads dept. and has received no response but DM noticed that a number of repairs had been carried out. (Not sign in village or lights). TC asked that people report any issues to him and he will use the council enquiry service to report to D&G Council.

The A713 may be closed again for two weeks this summer, but no formal notification has been received.

AC noted that the road to be created for the new overhead power line will not be retained after work is completed unless landowners so request. Tree felling is planned for this April for this work.

10. Resilience Plan

SC informed the meeting that a successful first meeting had been held with a good turnout. TM is heading up the group. The next meeting, to build on the impressive start made last year, will be held on March 9th.

Action: AM to chase up query about public liability of resilience team.

AC asked that the work done by her and her team on the initial version of the Resilience Plan be submitted to D&G Council.

Action: TC to send

11. Garden Insurance

TC proposed that the garden insurance be paid by direct debit. AM Seconded

12. Planning applications

None of note.

13. Correspondence Secretary

An advert was placed in the Glenkens Gazette at a cost of £31.50+VAT and there has been a response to it. TC proposed payment, AM seconded. A CREFL grant has been awarded to fund this post.

Action: AM to advertise this position on the village noticeboard.

14. Correspondence

The list has been issued. Dog fouling was highlighted as an issue in the village.

Action: AL to ask shop if they will keep dog bags available if supplied by council.

Action: LH to ask D&G Council if they provide dog bags free of charge and what their policy is regarding dog fouling.

15. AORB

- SS has received a reply from solicitor about the community garden ownership which suggests that while the purposes of CCC and CCT are similar, there are some differences.

Action: SS and LH to meet with Mr Laurie and ask him to contact the CCT's solicitor and discuss the differences in the two constitutions.

The meeting was closed at 9.00pm.

Date of next meeting: Monday 30th March 2015 at 7.00pm