

CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of meeting held at 7pm on 27th February 2017 in Lagwyne Hall

Present:

Elected Members:

Liz Holmes (Chair)	Sylvia Sinclair (Vice Chair)	Matt Hickman (Minutes)
Andrew Metcalf	Anna Clark- Kennedy(correspondence)	Simon Holmes

In Attendance:

Martin Temple	Darren Challis (Treasurer)	Steve Cowley
David McMillan	Anna Campbell	Anne Rutherford
Trevor Molineux	George Prentice	
Richard Hopkins (D&G Raynet)		
Nick Robertson (D&G Raynet)		
Maggie Hopkins (D&G Raynet)		

1. Welcome and Apologies.

LH Welcomed all to the meeting.
There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Approval of Minutes of meeting 28st November 2016.

Following alteration of the drink driving figures to 13 for this year and 4 for last year, the minutes of the business meeting were approved -
Proposed ACK, Seconded AM.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Attached.

5. Police Report.

PC Chloe Ellis introduced herself to the meeting as the new Community Support Officer and advised there would be an informal drop in session on Wednesday 1st March from 1.00 – 2.30 PM at Dalry Police Station.

There have been 2 diesel thefts in the area in January - people are encouraged to phone 101 to report anything suspicious.

AM raised the issue of very bright warning lights on Police cars escorting wind turbines and expressed concerns that these could trigger epileptic episodes. PC Ellis will pass these concerns on.

AC described her problems getting an adequate response following phoning 101. The switchboard could not connect direct with Castle Douglas Police Station and had to make a return call. It was felt that centralisation of Police Scotland is causing problems in rural areas and a lack of understanding of local geography is resulting in delays to

Police response. P.C. Ellis explained that this was a central control issue, not the responsibility of officers on the ground and that improvements are underway. GP Raised the issue of windturbines being transported on the A713 during the day, passing through Parton at 7.50 AM. It had been previously understood that these loads would only be transported at night. PC Ellis explained that this was decided by the Roads Authority and Transport Scotland, not the Police. Sargent Dodds of the traffic department based at CD has offered to attend CC meetings to deal with issues like this if required.

ACTION

ACK to make CCES enquiry regarding windturbine transport during the day.

6. D&G Councillor's Report.

There has been no reply from Mike Grunwell following Councillor Prentices' enquiry.

ACTION

GP to contact MG and report back.

G.P. advised he will not be standing for election in our area in the future due to ward boundary changes. The Chair expressed the Community Councils genuine gratitude for his many years' service.

7. D&G Raynet.

Nick Robertson and Richard Hopkins introduced "Raynet" (Radio Amateurs Emergency Network) as a voluntary organisation providing amateur radio cover for events and emergencies formed in 1953.

Early projections indicate that it would be possible to connect Carsphairn to the outside world in the case of failure of telephone and internet services.

The project would rely on suitably trained and licenced operators resident locally.

Licencing requires a 2 day course in Stranraer. Licences themselves are free and need to be renewed every 5 years.

Forrest Estates have been very helpful in agreeing to the use of their radio mast, though some improvements may be required.

It may be possible to house radio equipment in Lagwyne Hall, there is no need for mains electricity as the equipment runs from a 12V supply.

Initial indications of costs include approximately £800 for equipment, £400 for improvements to the mast at Forrest Estates and £50 for training courses for each operators licence. Both AM and TM expressed interest in being licenced.

Councillors agreed this was a proposal that could be of future benefit to the community and that it should be on the agenda for further discussion at next month's meeting.

8. Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting 30th January 2017.

a/ Follow Up J.Parker

SS has not yet received contact details for Eon's Benbrack project and will contact James Parker.

SS advised that the proposed "Pre-Planning" agreement with Element Power was heritable if the development is sold in the future. She will circulate the agreement for comments before agreeing to sign at the next CLG meeting.

ACTION

SS Contact JP for Eon details.

b/ Flood Wall.

This is on-going.

c/ Traffic Survey

Dealt with under item 6 above.

d/ Garden

The plans to link in to the street lighting supply remain on-going. We have not yet heard if the application to CREFL has been successful.

e/ Police Consultation

Ian Howie has agreed the response from our questions regarding the reduced police presence was adequate. Current proposals indicate there will be no change to the Police Station at Dalry.

f/. Defibrillator Lighting

This has now been completed.

g/ Bus Service Consultation

We have still not had a reply to this.

ACTION

ACK to chase this up.

h/ Peat Removal

The Planning Department have replied that they do not intend to take any further action as the removal of peat has stopped. It was agreed this was not an adequate response. The CC needs to be made aware if further movements of peat are seen.

ACTION

ACK to email.

i/ Energy Storage Scheme Update

SS and AR attended a meeting with Natural Power on 7th February. It is expected the report will be finished by the end of March and will indicate the cost effectiveness of the proposal. Some of the funding may remain unspent. The CC will be informed when the report is issued.

j/ Hall Bookings.

These have been made.

9. Resilience Group Report.

The funding application to DGC has been successful and the award agreed. It has been decided to site the resilience equipment store on the land above the Community Garden in front of the garage. The CC wishes its gratitude be recorded to B. McMorran for the kind offer of the use of this land.

10. CCT Report.

SC offered his thanks as Chair of CCT to all those who completed the recent 2 surveys. The results were –

Support for woodland project? – For 40, Against 13, Neutral 3
Membership of management group? Yes 32, No 21, Neutral 3
Become a director of group? Yes 13, No 39, Neutral 4

The group is currently waiting for a reply from the Scottish Land Fund and will then consider an application for funding for a feasibility study.

26 people made suggestions for 27 new recreational activities, details of these will be advertised.

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11. CREFL Report.

Deferred to the next meeting.

12. Windfarms.

The Community Survey on the Windy Standard 3 development solicited the following results from 25 replies –

84% Against.
16% For.

On the basis of those results LH proposed the CC record a formal objection to the planning application, seconded by SH

ACK made a counter proposal that we do not object on the grounds that successfully obstructing WS3 may advantage the neighbouring development at Lamford Hill. As this did not get a seconder the original proposal was carried and the CC will object.

ACTION

LH to draft objection.

It was noted there has been no discussion on community benefit for this project.

ACTION

LH to contact the developer to open discussions.

The Community Benefit Pre Planning agreement for the Windy Rigg windfarm was discussed under item 8/a above. In addition, it was noted that, though we are the host community, there has been no discussion as to how the fund will be divided between the 10 eligible CCs. Concerns were also expressed regarding the new proposal to investigate using the route over Windy Standard for access to the site as it may increase traffic through the village. Further environmental information has been published for this development and is available in the Hall for public viewing.

Further environmental information has been produced for the Enoch Hill proposal.

ACTION

SH to read and advise CCs by next meeting.

13. Planning Applications.

None for our area.

DM advised there has been notice in local press of road building above Carsphairn.

ACTION

SS to check into this.

14. Correspondence.

This has been distributed by the secretary.

Of particular note is the drop in surgery for Internet Broadband at the Catstrand on 6th March. Also a survey issued by Scottish Fire and Rescue and a further survey from "Trees, Woods and People"

ACTION

LH and ACK to consider our response to these surveys.

2 sets of replacement keys for the noticeboard have been received. MH took one set to display minutes and agendas. ACK will hold the other set. DC will pay the invoice.

15. AOB.

Note was made of the deteriorating condition of the A713 to the north of the village and the U172s by Lamford and the dangerous nature of some very deep pot holes.

ACTION

ACK to email requesting work be done.

AR raised the matter of the apparent stagnation of the Community Futures plan. CCs will give this consideration before discussion as an agenda item at the next meeting.

MH has checked the Forestry Commission website and found no relevant felling licence applications.

A reply is required to the consultation on the CC scheme of establishment. This will be dealt with at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Date of next meeting 27.03.2017.