

CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of meeting held at 7.15pm on 24th April 2017 in Lagwyne Hall

Present:

Elected Members:

Liz Holmes (Chair) Sylvia Sinclair (Vice Chair) Matt Hickman (Minutes)
Simon Holmes

In Attendance:

Martin Temple Darren Challis (Treasurer) Anne Rutherford
Steve Cowley Scott Bennett (Natural Power) PC Steele Johnston
Trevor Molineux Jeremy Sainsbury (Natural
Power)
Andy Precious (Natural Power)

1. Welcome and Apologies.

LH Welcomed all to the meeting.
Apologies received from Andrew Metcalf.

2. Declarations of Interest.

None

3. Approval of Minutes of meeting 27th March 2017.

The minutes were approved.
Proposed SS, Seconded LH.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Attached.

5. Police Report.

PC Johnston advised the meeting that there had been 3 reports of a couple engaging in sexual activity in the layby on Lamford Hill. This has been passed to Ayrshire Police to pursue.

Bogus workmen have been active in Dundrennan.

There will be a drop in session at Dalry Police Station on 1st May 6 – 7.30 PM

It was suggested a future session be held in Carsphairn. PC Johnston will look into this.

6. D&G Councillor's Report.

None present.

7. Energy Storage Scheme Update.

Scott Bennett made a presentation considering the 2 areas proposed for consideration in the energy storage scheme –

1/ Central storage

Investigation has indicated this proposal is not feasible due to the grid layout serving the village.

As an investment, the idea of having a large central electricity storage facility selling power back into the National Grid offers too low a return and cannot be recommended. It was felt this could be an area to revisit in 2021 when the economics may have changed.

2/ Decentral storage

This proposal also proved not viable due to the costs of the batteries and the relatively small difference between high and low prices of electricity.

Although the system would provide emergency electricity during an outage, it would only be at a low level of power. As SPEN are currently strengthening the grid, it is hoped power failures will become less frequent.

On the basis of the results above, the project was closed early and not all the grant funding approved will be claimed.

There remain some potential funding opportunities that may help balance the economics of the proposal including loans from the Renewable Energy Investment Fund.

It was agreed Natural Power would investigate these and report back in due course.

8. Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting 27th March 2017.

a/ Raynet

Remains on-going.

b/ Community Garden

A site visit will be arranged shortly to progress the electrical connection.

c/ Peat Removal

Following investigation by the enforcement team it appears that the peat has been removed from under an access road at SEPA's suggestion. No planning permission was required.

d/. Road Repairs

Some repairs have been carried out on the U172, although not to a very high standard.

ACTION

ACK to contact Roads Department and ask for more work to be done.

e/ Scheme of establishment

This is in progress and a submission will be made before the deadline.

9. Windfarms

a/ Benbrack – No Update.

b/ Windy Rigg – The CLG meeting was postponed as the developer is awaiting further consultation results. We have not yet signed the preplanning agreement.

c/ Wether Hill – No Update.

d/ Longburn – The preferred route for the pylon connection for both this development and the one at Lorg has been announced and a map was considered. There are presentations in the hall regarding this on 26th and 27th this month 4pm to 7pm.

e/ Windy Standard 3 – There has been a reply from Natural Power indicating the Community Benefit Payments will be £5000/MW.

f/ Magree/Blackcraig Connection – A meeting is arranged for April 27th 4pm – 7pm to provide further information.

g/ Kendoon to Tongland Reinforcement – No one was available to attend a recent meeting. We have requested a copy of the minute.

h/ The CC has received an adequate reply from the Police to the queries we raised. The majority of the turbines are now in position and impacts on local communities should soon greatly reduce.

10. Hustings for Councillor Elections.

This was held at the Catstrand and well attended. All candidates were present except John Thom.

11. Resilience Group Report.

Training in the use of the defibrillator will be held in the hall on 26th April
The grant payment from DGC has been received.

12. CCT Report.

Attached.

It was noted that activities planned by the recreation group are listed on the community website.

13. Planning Applications.

There has been an application for a windfarm mast on Cornharrow.

We have had a reply to the queries raised with the Planning Department regarding the declarations made on the weekly lists. It was felt more clarification was needed.

ACTION

ACK and DC to liaise and email planning department.

14. Correspondence.

This has been distributed by the secretary.

It was agreed we would support the petition for improved broadband, and contribute to the consultation on caring in the community.

ACTION

ACK to reply.

15. AORB.

D.C. has taken over administration of the community website from Jean Gibbon. The CC wished for it's gratitude to Jean to be recorded for her tireless work in initiating and maintaining this website over many years.

The Benlock Burn has been incorrectly signposted as the Knockgray Burn.

ACTION

ACK to contact DGC to get this corrected.

Thought needs to be given to further development of the community garden. It was agreed an application be made to CREFL for £500 for costs.

ACTION

DC to make application.

As it is assumed the May meeting would not be quorate it was agreed to cancel. The next meeting will be in June.

ACTION

ACK to advertise cancellation of the May meeting as necessary.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Date of next meeting 26.06.2017.