

Carsphairn Community Council

Minute of AGM held at 6.45 pm on 24th April 2023 in Lagwyne Hall

Present

Elected Members

Liz Holmes (Chair)
Sylvia Sinclair (Vice Chair)
Anna Clark Kennedy (Correspondence Secretary)
Simon Holmes
Andrew Metcalf
Darren Challis (Treasurer, Minutes)
Clare Duggleby
Ben Ade

In Attendance

Steve Cowley (part)
Councillor Andy McFarlane
Judith Marsden (part)
David McMillan (part)
Fiona McQuinn
Mary Saunders
Ruth Williams

1/ Welcome and apologies.

Apologies were received from Matt Hickman, Christine Whipp. Fiona McQuinn, Ian Saunders, Melissa Ade.

2/ Approval of minute of meeting 27th June 2022.

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved.
Proposed AM, Second SS.

3/ Chairman's Report.

Attached

4/ Treasurers Report.

Attached

5/ Office Bearers and Examiner of Accounts

All Officer Bearers remain in position –
Chair - Liz Holmes
Vice Chair – Sylvia Sinclair
Treasurer – Darren Challis
Correspondence Secretary – Anna Clark Kennedy
Secretary and Minutes Secretary – Matt Hickman
Examiner of Accounts – Martyn Wheeler

6/ Committees.

The Resilience Group, Housing Steering Group and LEDS Steering Group remain formal subcommittees of the CC.

7/ Voting and Non-Voting Associate Members.

There are 10 elected members with voting rights (Liz Holmes, Sylvia Sinclair, Anna Clark Kennedy, Matt Hickman, Simon Holmes, Andrew Metcalf, Darren Challis, Christine Whipp, Clare Duggleby, and Richard Duggleby). Additionally Ben Ade is a co-opted member with voting rights. There are 3 non-voting associate members (Katch Holmes, Melissa Ade and Sarah Ade).

8/ AORB

None

The meeting was closed at 7.06 pm

CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

AGM IN THE LAGWYNE HALL

MONDAY 24 APRIL 2023

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Community Council cancelled meetings from March 2020 when lockdown started and we finally resumed live meetings in June last year. We had of course continued working for the community and kept them informed via bi monthly reports distributed to our public distribution list. This report covers activity from June last year to March this year.

Associate members

We welcomed three new Associate members of the Community Council: Melissa Ade – young children's activities and events including the regular playgroup Bairn Banter, Katriona Holmes with special responsibility to respond to forestry matters and Sarah Ade, editor of the Glenkens and Doon Valley Gazettes and member of the Glenkens & District Trust's community action plan steering group.

Ongoing work

VILLAGE PLANTERS

Dumfries & Galloway Council had removed the planters as they were in a poor state of repair. They have been repaired and planted. Thanks to Sylvia for seeing to this as it enhances the approach to the village.

WAR MEMORIAL

Work continues on the renovation of the war memorial with a view to hopefully having it completed by this year's Remembrance Sunday. A contractor will be selected to undertake the work. Safety measures such as resolving the slippery path are being considered as are plants for the rockery.

SPEED SIGNS

Despite the Community Council making two applications to date to CREFL for traffic calming signs in the village, CREFL remain unconvinced that such signs are necessary for the safety of residents from vehicles speeding through the village and despite accounts of accidents from residents in the last few years. Dumfries & Galloway Council will be monitoring the speed of vehicles driving through the village. The position of the monitoring equipment is not yet agreed and no date has yet been provided. The Council have stated that due to current budgetary and resource constraints, they are 'not in a position to provide new road infrastructure unless there are specific road safety concerns with an accident history'

COMMUNITY GARDEN

New tables with seating have been installed and the electrical box providing power for the Christmas tree lights has been repaired. The information plaque has also been replaced with a ten year guarantee and a new notice board has been installed to display posters of community events in a place easily seen by both residents and passers by.

EVENTS

Jubilee gathering

A social gathering for residents of Carsphairn was held in the Community Garden on Sunday 5th June to celebrate the late Queen's platinum jubilee. Around 75 guests enjoyed the buffet and the performance of the Kilmarnock brass band and the weather was just about perfect. The two plum trees purchased to commemorate the occasion perished in the hot weather but have been replaced, to provide fruit for residents. Thanks go to Ian and Mary Saunders for the gazebos, to Lindsay Duncan for the buffet and to the brass band.

Community market

A community market was held on 24th September with mainly plants, crafts and home baking. The proceeds of £227 were donated to Bairn Banter.

Seniors' Christmas dinner

After an absence of two years, the Community Council was able to organise this event again. 39 guests accepted the invitation, ten more than in 2019. The guests enjoyed a festive meal followed by music performed by two local musicians.

Young Deciders' film show

Vattenfall's Young Decider funding covered the costs of a children's film show in Lagwyne hall on February 19 this year. The featured film was 'Stange World' and around 25 adults and children enjoyed the film with free popcorn.

Bairn Banter

Melissa Ade continues weekly sessions of Bairn Banter providing learning and entertaining activities for young children. Other activities such as gardening and games at Easter and at other times attract young children in both Carsphairn and the wider Glenkens and help to promote Carsphairn as a place of activity for children. Thanks to Melissa for her hard work on this continuing project.

LEDS

This highly successful project continues with an amount of £400 being granted to each household before Christmas last year. All residents are benefitting through this scheme and it is especially helpful as everyone faces higher living costs. Thanks to Darren for running the scheme.

Resilience group

The resilience plan is being revised and we thank Bryan Cockburn for agreeing to be the resilience co-ordinator. A resilience team meeting will be arranged to consolidate the team and update operations.

Windfarms

Wind farm developments continue to be applied for in Carsphairn, amongst those approved recently or in the process of construction are the Lorg, Benbrack and South Kyle whilst others neighbouring Carsphairn include Whiteneuk,, Cloud Hill and Appin. Applications to the Energy Consents Unit for consent include windy Standard I Repowering and Quantans Hill. The Community Council continues to appraise applications from proposed developments in Carsphairn and negotiate community benefit where needed and respond with comments and surveys distributed to the public distribution list.

Forestry

The Community Council responded to the following consultations - the future of Carsphairn forest and Dalshangan Woodland Management

Carsphairn School

A report was issued by the Education and Learning Directorate in August last year after which the statutory process regarding the proposed closure of Carsphairn school started. The Community Council challenged many of the statements in this initial report including the fact that there had been no prior consultation with the community before it was decided to start the statutory consultation for closure. The claim that Carsphairn school was unable to meet the demands of the Curriculum for Excellence owing to small numbers of children in a single teacher school was also challenged.

Factual errors in the reports, the non adherence to both the Education Act and the statutory guidance regarding proposed closure of rural schools and the demand from some parents for Carsphairn school to re-open to educate their children amongst other arguments made a case for re-opening the school as soon as possible.

The strong opposition to closure was made clear to John Thin, head of education and others from the Council's education department at the public meeting called to discuss the proposal. 40 members of the community attended the meeting and voiced their opposition. The Education Scotland inspector whose visit to look into the closure proposal was part of the statutory process concluded that the case for closure had not been made. The Community Council wrote to each individual member of the education committee prior to the meeting to decide the school's future with the many reasons not to close the school and in fact to re-open it owing to the existing demand to attend the school from children in the Carsphairn catchment.

A journey of up to 20 miles to school for young primary children is unacceptable on the roads in our part of Galloway, as has been recognised by the education dept in years past. Furthermore, a mothballed school does not attract families with young children to settle in Carsphairn.

However, the decision made by the committee followed the recommendation made by the education department to mothball the school for another two years, which, although preferable to closure, does not progress the situation. This decision means that the whole consultation process would be re-started in two years' time. The Community Council plans to keep an eye on the situation and continue to work towards re-opening the school

Affordable Housing

The Community Council has started to work with the South of Scotland Community Housing group with a view to providing affordable housing to attract families to settle in Carsphairn to rejuvenate the community. The housing shortage has been an issue for many years but the community benefit from the many windfarms that Carsphairn is hosting should support this important work. Both the Housing Need and Demand Assessment report and a Carsphairn site appraisal have now been completed and we will be discussing the next steps with SOSCH.

Carsphairn Community Council

AGM

24th April 2023

Treasurer's Report

Financial Year ending 31st March 2023

There were a number of projects undertaken during the financial year and Carsphairn Community Council are very grateful for the funding provided by a number of organisations:

- CREFL for funding the Local Energy Discount Scheme, Bairn Banter and part funding the Community Garden maintenance, Jubilee Celebration and Seniors' Dinner.
- Temporis Capital (via their Blackcraig Small Grant Fund) for funding repair and maintenance of the village planters; resilience shed keys; website domain and for part funding the Community Garden maintenance and Seniors' Dinner.
- Vattenfall for the Young Decider's Project which allowed film showings to take place
- Inspiring Scotland for funding the Housing Project

The details of income and expenditure for the financial year were provided in monthly treasurer reports, bi-monthly Community Council reports, presented at business meetings and included with the meeting minutes.

A Statement of Accounts for the period has been provided below.

Carsphairn Community Council – Statement of Accounts – 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023

Income	2021/22	2022/23
Community Garden (CREFL)	£1,500.00	£2,700.00
LEDS 2022 (CREFL)	£0.00	£40,555.86
LEDS 2021 (CREFL)	£28,607.62	£0.00
Bairn Banter (CREFL)	£775.33	£4,943.00
Temporis Capital Blackcraig Small Grant Fund	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
Bairn Banter	£127.04	£0.00
Young Deciders (Vattenfall - South Kyle)	£1,000.00	£0.00
Jubilee Celebration (CREFL)	£0.00	£1,723.49
Bairn Banter – Furniture (CREFL)	£0.00	£1,564.71
Housing Project (Inspiring Scotland)	£0.00	£5,000.00
Seniors' Dinner (CREFL)	£0.00	925.00
Total Income	£34,009.99	£59,412.06
Uncleared from last year now cleared		£0.00
Balance of Bank Account @ 01/04/2022		£6,203.31
		£65,615.37

Expenditure	2021/22	2022/23
Community Garden (CREFL)	£1,735.11	£4,657.72
LEDS 2022 (CREFL)	£0.00	£40,555.86
LEDS 2021 (CREFL)	£28,607.62	£0.00
Bairn Banter (CREFL)	£300.00	£1,270.58
Temporis Capital Blackcraig Small Grant Fund	£3,044.26	£463.39
Bairn Banter	£81.79	£0.00
Young Deciders (Vattenfall - South Kyle)	£111.01	£493.18
Other	£307.27	£62.20
Administration	£130.00	£135.00
Resilience Group	£78.81	£0.00
Jubilee Celebration (CREFL)	£0.00	£1,723.49
Bairn Banter – Furniture (CREFL)	£0.00	£1,564.71
Housing Project (Inspiring Scotland)	£0.00	£5,000.00
Seniors' Dinner (CREFL)	£0.00	£1,107.85
Total Expenditure	£34,395.87	£57,033.98
Uncleared cheques and banking		£0.00
Balance of Bank Account @ 31/03/2023		£8,581.39
		£65,615.37

Registered Assets @ 31/03/2023:

Community Garden, DG7 3TQ

Darren Challis – Treasurer	Date
	24.4.23

Elizabeth Holmes – Chair	Date
	24 April 23

Examiner's Report

We have examined the Carsphairn Community Council Statement of Accounts for the year to 31st March 2023, without audit and hereby certify that they are correctly prepared in accordance with the books and other records supplied to us.

Martyn Wheeler – Examiner	Date
	24/04/2023