

CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of meeting held at 7.00pm on 25th September 2023 in Lagwyne Hall

Present:

Elected Members:

Darren Challis (Treasurer)	Andrew Metcalf Sylvia Sinclair (Vice Chair)	Matt Hickman (Minutes) Anna Clark Kennedy
Liz Holmes (Chair)	Ben Ade	Christine Whipp

In Attendance:

Mary Saunders	Steve Cowley	Martin Temple
David McMillan	David Bell	Councillor Andy McFarlane
Judith Marsden		

1. Welcome and Apologies.

LH welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Clare Duggleby, Simon Holmes, Ruth Williams, Councillor John Denerley

2. Declarations of Interest.

ACK declared an interest in item 9a Quantans Hill Windfarm.

3. Approval of Minutes of meeting 28th August 2023.

Proposed DC.

Seconded ACK.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Attached. ACK asked if the payment from DGC for community council representation at group meetings was still available. Apparently the payment is not offered this year.

5. Police Report.

Police report attached. There was a discussion as to whether the police had attended a recent non-injury traffic incident in the village. ACK to advise the police that they did attend and that the driver of the car suffered a hand injury.

6. D&G Councillor's Report.

The councillor informed the meetings of the planned decriminalisation of parking offences and charges for parking. The Council would have the ability to issue fixed penalty notices rather than the police. The SNP are against parking charges. Councillor McFarlane will be attending the PTC meeting in Dalry School on 28th September at 7.30. He is keen to work with the Parent Council to sustain education in the Glenkens and at Dalry School. He specifically questioned why James Smith, Headmaster, is not as invested in Dalry School as he is in Castle Douglas. BA raised the issue of the "Scotland Starts Here" signs seen all around D&G but not in Carsphairn. The signs carry the DGC logo. **ACTION** BA to forward photo to Cllr McFarlane.

LH advised the councillor that we have written to Stephen Jack explaining our aspirations that new road signs will include a Gaelic "Welcome to Carsphairn"

It was noted the Community Safety Van is not coming to Carsphairn. **ACTION** ACK to publicise this and establish if the community wishes for the van to attend.

We have received a communication from DGC regarding the glass recycling bin in the village. **ACTION** ACK to reply advising that there isn't one.

J.M. mentioned the missing cats eyes in the main road. **ACTION** Cllr McFarlane will check and report back.

ACK asked the councillor if there was anything that could be done regarding the almost impassible state of the B729. DM advised that this road is part of an established timber transport route and funding for maintenance may be available. There is supposed to be a limit on the number of lorries that can use the road per day but

this is clearly not enforced as the limit is routinely exceeded. **ACTION** Cllr McFarlane will investigate and report back.

7. Matters Arising from Meeting 28th August 2023.

a/ Tourism Signs. – Dealt with under item 6 above.

b/ Village Speeding and Traffic Signs. – AM advised that the speed signs now cost £4500 each excluding installation which the council have previously quoted for. **ACTION** DC to forward previous quote to A.M. who will investigate further.

c/ Community Garden Fencing and Gates. – Ongoing.

d/ War Memorial. – An email has been circulated to the public to gauge interest in a volunteer planting of the rockery and general tidy up.

e/ Hybrid meetings with regard to Cllr John Denerly's attendance. ACK offered to set up a zoom meeting to help and asked if it would be a good idea to have a sound system in the hall. **ACTION** SS will raise this informally at the next hall meeting.

f/ Community Market. It was agreed the market had been successful again with £150 raised for Bairn Banter. The record keeping for this money was discussed. **ACTION** DC will liaise with Melissa Ade to discuss.

g/ Sloping Pavement by School. This has been reported to the council along with the pavement on the other side of the road.

h/ Bairn Banter - Replacement Rylock Fence by the Hall. This remains ongoing. There is financing available in the Blackcraig fund. Bairn Banter will advise of the costs and the CC will pay in advance of any expenditure.

i/ Development Officer. It was agreed we will seek advice from Foundation Scotland and The Development Trusts Association Scotland. DM said that there were other community organisations that could use the services of such an employee. He was assured that the development officer would work for the whole community and that Foundation Scotland would organise a meeting open to everyone. It was agreed to invite Rachel Searle from Foundation Scotland to a future meeting.

j/ Rubbish Dumping. The rubbish has been removed.

k/ Laydown area. We had been told a member of the team would visit the site and produce an update. This has not yet happened. **ACTION** ACK to chase up.

l/ Play equipment at Dalry School. It transpires the collapsed roof was not asbestos so the equipment is mainly salvageable. No need for any contribution from us.

8. Windfarms.

a/ Quantans Hill. – The community council has responded. **ACTION** LH to ensure this is distributed to the public.

b/ South Kyle. – The school bus is still being obstructed by heavy windfarm traffic. A letter has been received from the developer. **ACTION** LH to draft reply for approval.

c/ Other windfarm business. Nothing of relevance.

9. Scottish Forestry Consultation - Lamloch and Drumjohn LTFP. Katch Holmes has replied on our behalf requesting greater diversity of species.

10. Overfull General Rubbish Bins U712. The rubbish has been collected.

11. Blackcraig Community Benefit. It was agreed that we will wait until the money arrives before establishing if it will be adequate to fund the senior's dinner.

12. Broadband Connectivity.

CW reported that fast fibre cable is installed all along the length of the Lorg Road up to the Holm which is connected and working well. Despite many attempts no other property along the road has been able to connect. There is also a fault with the EE mast which is leaving some households with no access to phone or internet. **ACTION** ACK to contact Openreach and see what can be done regarding the fibre connections.

13. Local Place Plans.

We have registered an interest in the production of a Carsphairn specific plan and inclusion in the Glenkens wide one. **ACTION** ACK to invite Nicola Hill from DGC to a future meeting to explain further.

14. Battery Storage Feasibility Study. Representatives from the community council attended a meeting with Scott Bennett of Natural Power. He felt that the figures still did not stack up and it would be preferable to continue to subsidise electricity bills and to increase payments to help with insulation and double glazing.

15. CCC Use of Facebook. There was a discussion regarding the community council's use of the community Facebook page. It was agreed it would be useful for us to have access to it. **ACTION** ACK to contact Amy CK and Lindsay to discuss.

16. CCT Report. The Monday social continues. From 2nd October there will be soup available. The Christmas craft fair will be held on Sunday the 10th of December. Tables cost £10 each. The deadline for the submission of photos for the 2024 calendar is the end of September. The yoga sessions have stopped awaiting a reply from the instructor.

17. Planning Applications. None of relevance.

18. Correspondence. This has been distributed by the secretary.

19. AORB. The Safety Team are visiting various villages in the area but not coming to Carsphairn. **ACTION** ACK to distribute details to the public to establish demand. Members of the public are encouraged to complain to DGC regarding the condition of the roads in the area. Scottish Power are cutting trees on the community garden that have grown too close to the wires.

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm

Date of next meeting – 30th October 2023 at 7.00 pm.