

CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of meeting held at 7.00pm on 30th October 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	Clare Duggleby

In Attendance:

Mary Saunders	David Bell
David McMillan	Councillor Dougie Campbell

1. Welcome and Apologies.

LH welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Simon Holmes, Ruth Williams and Christine Whipp

2. Declarations of Interest.

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

3. Approval of Minutes of meeting 25th September 2023.

It was noted that item 6b should have been Benbrack and not South Kyle windfarm and that David Bell had not been in attendance at the meeting. Following these amendments the minute was approved.

Proposed LH.

Seconded DC.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Attached.

5. Police Report.

No police in attendance, no police report received.

6. D&G Councillor's Report.

Councillor Campbell explained that there had not been any recent committee meetings due to the school holidays. The budget process restarts tomorrow. There is a £60 million deficit over the next 4 years. The multi-party agreement was to increase council tax by 6% but following the First Minister's announcement of a council tax freeze this money will have to be found by cuts in services. There have been cuts in services every year since 2017. The councillor promised to do whatever he can to protect services in this ward. The priorities are increased investment in roads and continued support during the cost of living crisis. The meeting drew the councillor's attention to the condition of roads locally. ACK mentioned that the patching on the B729 was deteriorating and questioned if funding may be available from the Timber Transport Forum. He replied that DGC has to compete with other councils to access this funding. He has previously checked to ensure we are getting our fair share. He offered to report excessive timber transport journeys to the liaison officer if members of the community can supply details and evidence. He advised that the drainage required near Smittons will be dealt with following ongoing works and that the gravel building up on the C35 will be swept and repairs carried out. There is also a meeting planned with Drax regarding the hydroscheme and the causes of the flooding in 2015. **ACTION** - councillor Campbell to report back on this meeting and the ongoing road repairs.

7. Matters Arising from Meeting 25th September 2023.

a/ Tourism Signs. – **ACTION** - BA to email an image of the signs involved to Cllr Campbell so he can investigate. Stephen Jack is finding out what funding may be available for Gaelic signage.

b/ Village Speeding and Traffic Signs. – **ACTION** – AM will circulate the email from the council.

c/ Community Garden Fencing and Gates. – It was agreed to leave the fencing as it is. We await an invoice for the costs so far.

d/ War Memorial. – The wreath has arrived for the centenary Remembrance Sunday Service. **ACTION** AM will spread sand on the path on the morning of the service, ACK will email the community to make them aware of the centenary.

e/ Hybrid meetings with regard to Cllr John Denerley's attendance. Cllr Denerley will be attending the next CC meeting. **ACTION** ACK will attempt to facilitate a hybrid meeting.

f/ Community Market Funds. This is dealt with in the Treasurer's Report.

g/ Bairn Banter - Replacement Rylock Fence by the Hall. The materials have arrived. BA will deal with the fencing and planters.

h/ Development Officer. Vattenfall have offered funding for a Development Officer. LH has emailed for more detail but not had a reply yet.

i/ Laydown area. There has not yet been a visit from the developer. It was agreed to make a CCES to the Council Enforcement Team to see if anything can be done. **ACTION** – ACK to make CCES.

j/ Blackcraig community benefit / Seniors' dinner. The money has been received from the Blackcraig windfarm. The seniors' dinner will be held in the hall on Monday 11th December. MS mentioned that she had been supplying prizes for the raffle and asked if an email could be distributed asking for others to contribute also. Prizes can be dropped off at the Schoolhouse in the village. **ACTION** ACK to distribute email.

k/ Broadband connectivity. Currently there seems little chance of getting connections made up the C35. CW continues to investigate. The R100 Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme (SBVS) ensures that every home and business in Scotland can access superfast broadband. A subsidy of up to £5,000 is available to all eligible premises and covers all direct installation costs, which is carried out by a registered supplier. Direct link to the scheme re vouchers for broadband:

<https://www.scotlandsuperfast.com/vouchers/about-sbvs/#:~:text=The%20R100%20Scottish%20Broadband%20Voucher,out%20by%20a%20registered%20supplier>

l/ Local Place Plans. It was agreed to invite Nicola Hill, the Economic Development Officer at DGC, to discuss this at the November meeting. **ACTION** – ACK to issue invitation.

m/ CCC use of Facebook. LH now has access to the community page.

8. Windfarms.

a/ Quantans Hill. – **ACTION** – LH to distribute the results of the community survey to the public ASAP.

b/ Benbrack Obstructions to School Bus. – The developer has asked the contractor to make room for the bus by repositioning the bollards.

c/ Other windfarm business. - Nothing of relevance.

9. CCT Report.

DM informed the meeting that the new times for the Monday Social will be 11am to 2pm. The calendars have been printed and are awaiting distribution. The Christmas Fayre will be held on Sunday 10th December. CCT and CCW have made an application to CREFL for funding for a development officer. DM is advised that there is no more funding coming from Foundation Scotland and that all monies are now held by CREFL. There was a discussion as to whether it was appropriate for individual groups to employ separate development officers or if it would be preferable for the roles to be combined. ACK expressed concerns that CCT can refuse applications for membership from members of the community. DM replied that the purpose is to ensure genuine applications and avoid conflicts of interest.

10. Planning Applications. None of relevance.

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

12. AORB.

Following discussion it was agreed to offer Melissa Ade a mileage allowance of £0.45/mile to support her excellent work with Bairn Banter. It is hoped Melissa will build this into the CREFL application for next time. Proposed – ACK, Second – AM.

The Resilience Group needs someone in the village to keep an eye on any issues and to alert us and the Council if any action is required. **ACTION** LH to email the public to set up a meeting.

An email has been received for Helen Keron advising that the funding application for developing the local place plans has been unsuccessful. **ACTION** DC to investigate council funding availability. It was agreed we will go ahead with Helen's proposal if the funding is available. Proposed – LH, Second AM

The meeting closed at 8.34 pm

Date of next meeting – 27th November 2023 at 7.00 pm.