

DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 6 February 2024 - MINUTES

Held at Roberton Hall

With Zoom Input

1 Present

1.1 Malcolm Muir, Gordon Wilson, Danny Shearer Anne Jefferies (via Zoom), Liz Steele

1.2 Councillors

Cllrs Barker and Allison

1.3 Apologies

Cllr McAllan, Irene Riddell.

1.4 Public

Jonathan McCosh.



2 Minute of Last Meeting and Matters Arising







2.1 GW referred to the fact that AJ identified three amendments, which he was happy to accept. These were minor typos and he has corrected the draft note of the meeting and will recirculate.

3 Treasurer's Report

3.1 AJ presented her report:

Balances

Date ↓	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
28 Dec 2023		14DEC GRS 00121712	+£0.82		£194.13
14 Dec 2023		000128		-£12.00	£193.31

Date ↓	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
25 Jan 2024		000395		-£500.00	£25,033.79
16 Jan 2024		JEFFERIES A	+£0.32		£25,533.79
08 Jan 2024		CRAIG IRENE	+£7.22		£25,533.47
28 Dec 2023		14DEC GRS 00113132	+£116.03		£25,526.25
27 Dec 2023		000396		-£225.00	£25,410.22
04 Dec 2023		000385		-£500.00	£25,635.22

DCC General account balance: £25033.79

Activity since December meeting

- Issued 2 grant cheques, including one for Wiston Kids' Christmas (£225 Clyde) received after the Dec meeting and approved via email
- Closed out 5 grants after receipts received, overpayments of £7.54 recovered

Actions

- Identify initiatives for Priestgill wind farm community monies
- Issue £242.30 cheque to Gordon Wilson from SSE Year 1 pot reimbursing hall hires for the Q4 2023 Development Trust meetings. Another three meetings will add another £35.60 to this but invoices not yet received.
- Microgrant applications:
 - Abington Community Choir £500 (Clyde)
 - Roberton Vintage Evening £200 (Glenkerie)

With Others

- Abington coronation bench of max £500 from the SSE coronation grant fund. LS to progress.

Grant Monies Remaining (excludes Actions amounts)

- CWFF: £1116.68 remaining of the 2023-4 grant
- Ventient Energy Glenkerie: £1797.32 remaining of the 2023-4 grant
- Clyde Extension: £732.12 remaining of the 2022-23 grant
- Other grants: £4496.17
- Clyde Extension DCC-directed pot: £29925.40 remaining of £143,000 allocation

AJ advised that we need to be sure we make use of the £1116.68 remaining from the CWFF grant by the end of March or we will lose it.

4 **Grants**

- 4.1 Two grant application to consider;
- Abington Community Choir £500 (Clyde) – hall hire, new projector, teas/coffees - £500
 - Roberton Vintage Evening £200 (Glenkerie) – dance lesson/finger buffet - £200

Both these applications were approved unanimously.

5. **Planning Issues**

- 5.1 GW advised that there was one Planning applications to discuss – the Renewco energy hub which is planned for the M74 /B7078 and Abington area. This will have a major impact on the amenity of the area near the B7078. MM stated that this is the last part of that area to be utilized for turbines etc. GW has written to Renewco's consultants regarding a consultation in Crawfordjohn but he is awaiting an answer. LS and GW hope to attend the public consultation in Abington on Thursday 8th February.

- 5.2 LS referred to the two public consultation bookings made at Crawfordjohn Hall by Copper Consultancy and Green Switch Capital, which was related to battery storage at the SPEN substation. GW advised he had checked these out on the websites and Copper Consultancy was a logistics company that works alongside wind farm operators amongst others.
- 5.3 GW advised he had contacted SPEN about the proposed substation at Redshaw. He has been advised that SPEN has not yet finalized its design for the site.

6. Development Trusts

- 6.1 GW spoke to update regarding this initiative. He advised that after the six meetings that LS and he had held, over 30 people had shown interest in attending a further meeting in January. Since then, there had been two meetings of the wider group. At the first meeting a Steering Group (SG) was organised to take forward some key issues; SCIO rather than CLG; objectives etc. The SG reported back to the second full meeting and is now considering the constitution, having had its proposals agreed at the second group meeting. The SG next meets on 13th February.
- 6.2 The DT has the potential to use revenue funding to assist projects. GW advised that Kenny Lean has a paper going to Committee in February which will include a proposal for the REF to fund revenue projects for three years on a trial basis. Cllr A advised the paper had gone to Committee today and was now referred to the Executive Committee for approval. However, there was no reference to a trial period. There was discussion that this funding may support village halls that are being considered for closure or reduced Council input, some of which it was suggested, are not in REF areas.
- 6.3 AJ suggested we need the development trust to push for REF funding. It will need to consider whether the Abington Hall, for instance, is needed – what might it become. It needs to get the view of the public, what does Abington want given the presence of the Old Schoolhouse refurbishment.

7. Wind Farm Updates

- 7.1 **Grayside** – JMcc left the meeting before this matter was discussed. MM advised that the proposal has been resubmitted to the energy Consents Unit with both of the points that the DCC had objected to have been met i.e. the eastern array on Gathersnow hill has been removed and road access is now via the existing Clyde road system. While MM had written to the Energy Consent Unit advising that the DCC was withdrawing its objections, he has subsequently found out that there is no agreement in place regarding the use of the Clyde wind farm road system. It was agreed that MM should write again stating that the DCC still objects to the proposal as the access road, if progressed as proposed will have a major impact on the environment.
- 7.2 **Bodinglee** – No further update. GW asked if there was any update on the proposed Community Company proposal. MM advised there was no progress at this time as the wind farm project has not yet been approved.
- 7.3 **Andershaw West** – No change – proposed submission in summer 2024.

7.4 **Priestgill** – It is believed construction has started. There was discussion about progressing the use of the wind farm community benefit. GW to contact Muirhall and invite them to a future meeting to discuss the potential for a local energy discount scheme.

7.5 **Kennoxhead** – Nothing to report.

7.6 **Little Gala** – Nothing to report.

8. **Development Workers Report – January 2024**

8.1 **Funding Updates:**

£3,000 SSE Clyde Extension Coronation funding:

Of the £3,000 received, to date £2,500 has been spent with £500 ring fenced for a community bench for Abington. I have this on my list to sort in the near future. SLC have verbally said they don't own the land so I need to secure a microgrant to get a contractor to install the bench on behalf of the community.

CMHWF stage 2: spend by end Sept 2024.

Awarded £5,850 to include £2,700 revenue, £1,800 venue hire and £1,350 consumables. The full amount has been paid to DCC. Final spend of this grant this week with a volunteer lunch and vouchers for my 3 main volunteers. Going to request the balance be transferred to use for more shopping bus trips.

2nd application of £2,000 awarded for shopping bus trips. Pearl Jones from Abington has taken ownership of organising the 4 trips. 2 have already been successfully delivered.

8.2 **Meetings/Initiatives:**

VASLan Change Makers Campaign

VASLan has employed Electrify to undertake a study Change Makers Campaign. The idea to talk to community interest groups to see how they manage their community projects. I've been selected to represent our area as one of eight from the original 92 3rd sector groups. My main theme is that our area has no 3rd sector organisations based in our area, only 2 development workers. The idea all the villages south of Lanark and Biggar southward, are primarily volunteer led rather than led by paid workers within an organisation.

Follow up meeting planned for 6 Feb.

8.3 **Development Trust**

Gordon has primarily led the Development Trust initiative and has been hugely successful to move the project forward. From public meetings in all 6 villages to a follow-up meeting for those interested, a steering group has been formed with 8-10 competent individuals working to finalise the governance for the new organisation. I'm sure Gordon will give an update at the DCC meeting.

8.4 **Monthly meeting with Colin McMillon, SSE Clyde extension fund manager**

Am pleased to have this opportunity to discuss topics with Colin.

The main part of the discussion this month was based on the Clyde Development Fund. Where is the 30% of Clyde funds spent? The idea the new DT can apply for revenue for paid workers for projects for the Trust. Need more time to report on this.

8.5 **Funding enquiries during January**

Abington show committee got in touch to ask about funding to replace worn out trophies. I suggested they discuss what else is needed with the prospect of applying to the CW Community Fund. Still waiting for a response.

Roberton hall yoga enquiry for funds to support hall hire

8.6 **CDW Village Project Updates:**

Abington

Masonic Hall ongoing project waiting on quotes to start a funding request.

Abington village defibrillator. Simon Liddle from Abington primary school PTA is willing to lead the project. As it will be a repeat of the Coulter and Crawfordjohn defib projects, I can supply contact details and funding application script. Just waiting to confirm agreement to locate the defib on the outer wall of The Old School House.

Coulter

The Defibrillator project has an underspend of £318 from the Clyde Community Fund. The underspend is the outcome of the electrician giving his invoice to SLC rather than to the community group. As this happened over a year ago I haven't made steps to chase up with SLC. Yvonne Howley is saying the Coulter Community Group can keep the money if they provide a detail of spend. I'm making enquiries locally for the village to use the money.

Crawfordjohn

Crawfordjohn Hall

The new defibrillator funded by Clyde is soon to be installed followed by a full day and shorter 1st aid sessions on Saturday 2nd March. Well done to Anne Williams for leading the project.

Lamington

As Biggar 1st responders have said they will undertake weekly readings of a defibrillator if one was installed in Lamington, I'll look to liaise with SLC education to have the unit installed on the school and to work with Irene to ask if the funding can go through the Lamington community group account.

Roberton

Nothing to report

Wiston

I'm told there is good progress with the project to redevelop Wiston Hall. The idea funding will be available as Kenny is keen to use it as the annual big funded project.

8.7 LS updated about the following:

Defibrillator – Abington has no defibrillator as its been vandalized. Simon Liddle has offered to lead on getting a replacement. There has been discussion whether it is to be fitted at the Old Schoolhouse or shop. Old Schoolhouse preferred. LS to follow up LS advised Biggar First Responders prepared to check the defibrillator on a monthly basis once fitted.

VasLan – has employed Electrify to carry out a survey of local services under the Change Makes Campaign. – [See LS's/ SLC emails](#). It has contacted 92 organisations but the rural Duneaton experience is very different from the rest of SLC area. LS said she has been asked by the VasLan CEO to be one of 12 organisations to take part in more detailed discussions. The rural experience has little infrastructure.

LS has assisted with two funding applications. – Abington Show looking to renew some of its cups. LS advised the group to go for a larger funding application. Robertson Yoga group has contacted her as well.

9. Development Workers Role

9.1 AJ advised DCC has funding for a further two years. She suggested the Development Trust (DT) could access funds to extend that to 5 years. MM and AJ suggested that LS's time could be shared with the DT and would have no issue with her working with the DT. GW advised that while he had no issue with the proposal, during the DT process we have been careful to take people with us on the journey and it would be for the DT Board of Trustees to determine what it wanted going forward. AJ proposed and MM seconded the principle of LS focusing time on the DT going forward.

10 Matters Arising and Outstanding Issues

10.1 SCOTO Conference - LS advised that SCOTO has a tourist based conference in Dumfries, February 29th and March 1st. Conference to focus on Community Tourism. The cost is £52.50, £42 for the conference, £10 for a meal on Saturday night. It was agreed that this would be beneficial for the DCC and DT. The meeting agreed to meet the costs.

10.2 Newsletter – AJ put some suggestions in email to LS. Need to make a play for new members. Can refer to DCC and DT and their respective roles.

10.3 Glenkirie Fund – GW asked if he could act as DCC representative on the Fund. LS to contact Fund worker and GW to progress.

10.4 Clyde WFF – DS was asked if he would like to accompany AJ to CWFF meeting. DS agreed.

10.5 Community Planning Partnership – Cllr B advised he had asked to be involved in the PP meetings but was advised it was not for Cllrs. GW outlined his understanding of the CPP role. H advised last meeting had focused on community transport and that Stuart Laird had made a presentation along with others regarding transport strategy.

10.6 MM advised the Council was acquiring a 10" container to house the flood prevention equipment. Likely location could be the Coulter Hall car park.

10.7 SLLC budget cuts – DS asked what reduced input to village halls e.g. Roberton would mean in reality. Cllrs B and A advised that no specific details have been circulated. DS made the point that the Roberton Hall is the only meeting facility in the village. Reducing the service would have a disproportionate effect given the number of households in the village.

11 Date of Next Meeting

11.1 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 March at 7.30pm in Roberton Hall.
