DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES 6TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Members Present

John McLatchie, Chairman. Anne Jefferies – Treasurer. Heather Watt and Robin Craig.

Apologies – Jo Talbot (Secretary), Katie Stuart-Cox, Ryan Cox and Malcolm Muir.

Associate Members Present: Karin Norman-Lawson, Alison Mitchell.

Councillors Hamish Stewart and Ralph Barker.

Also present were Bob Norman, Stuart Baillie, Andy and Debbie McLarty and Julie Scott.

JM welcomed new member Robin Craig, new Associate Members Alison and Karin, and all visitors to the meeting. Andy McLarty took a form to send into the SLC Community Council liaison to become a full member.

## Adoption of Minutes

## Proposed Anne Jefferies and seconded John McLatchie.

## LEADER Conference Update

Anne Jefferies report on the LEADER programme. LEADER is a European funding programme which supports rural community and business projects. In Scotland it is delivered as part of the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) in partnership with Local Action Groups (LAGs). The sum involved is £4million to be used during the period 2014 – 2020. Some match funding is preferred and payment is only made after the work has been completed and paid for, which would involve groups looking at loans. There are 4 main categories – Developing Communities, Growing Business and Heritage, Culture and the Environment. Hamish Stewart advised that some of this money is being ring fenced for farms to develop projects such as holiday homes. AJ advised that they are in discussion with them regarding the Broadband issue.

**ACTION: Anne** to put a web link onto the DCC so that people can access the funding information readily. Ditto Lottery, Tesco and Asda options.

## Treasurer’s Update

# Balances

SLC Admin account balance: £308.18.

Activity since August meeting: SLC transferred in £128 admin grant for 2016-17, paid out £100 cheque for GANDL newsletter.

DCC General account balance: £3217.82. +£30 Abington WRI micro grant overpayment refund.

Activity since August meeting: Paid out £370 to DCC-CWF-007 Crawfordjohn Heritage Venture Trust (publicity materials).

# Activity

2015-16 accounts previously approved by SLC auditors, the new admin grant has now been released.

CWFF micro grant receipts received from Abington Flowers team, pending £14.97 refund. The conditional £250 offer made to Crawfordjohn Hall (guitar masterclass, £500) was refused by the applicant, they’re cancelling the masterclass and will reapply with different plan over the next few months.

Meeting pending with John Archibald of SLC to share receipts/micro grant details to date once he returns from holiday 8-Aug-16. Chased in person at 1-Sep-16 LEADER conference. New 2016-17 £5K funds due to be released in Sept anyway.

Added Andershaw Wind Farm fund information to the funding section of the website.

Robin Craig completed the Infinis Glenkerie paperwork for the £250 Roberton Flowers grant.

No new CWFF or Glenkerie grant applications.

# Grant Monies Remaining

CWFF: £134.97 remaining of the £3000 initial grant (includes Abington flowers refund).

Glenkerie: £750 remaining of the £1000 initial grant

**ACTION:** **Anne** to clarify Glenkerie Infinis’ financial year – this grants covers the area around Coulter, Lamington, Roberton and Wiston.

## Any Other Business

Good Citizens Award. AJ advised we have received nominations from Abington and Crawfordjohn. Agreed to hold an event on 6th December (as part of the DCC meeting) and JM volunteered to take photos for the paper and general publicity.

**ACTION: All** to help spread the word and encourage applications.

Roberton Village Hall. JM advised that at the previous meeting Charles Mullaney expressed an interest into looking at the possibility of purchasing the village hall from the Council. We have been advised that LEADER would not help in the purchasing of the hall, but that groups exist that specialise in assisting communities with buyouts. HW suggested this should be left until the council approach the DCC about this as the cost of upkeep is substantial and Robin Craig gave examples of the work involved at Crawfordjohn. Hamish Stewart advised that SLC’s current repair budget was minimal.

Abington Hall. It was noted that Abington Village Hall will NOT be knocked down to build flats.

**ACTION: Anne** to confirm this on the Facebook page (which feeds into the website) to calm any local concerns.

Road Surface next to Roberton Bend. 3 houses is a state of disrepair in Howgate Road, and Re-tarring of Howgate Road. No further information available.

Welcome Break. JT contacted them and they have advised that as the rubbish is on the farmers land and they cannot pick up the litter. Bob Norman suggested a letter be sent to Welcome Break asking them to put up plastic litter proof fencing.

**ACTION: Jo** to continue working with Welcome Break to improve the situation.

Biggar Bus Shelter. Stuart Baillie advised that the removal of the bus shelter in Biggar was a hazard. Due to a disability assessment SPT were advised that it did not meet standards and had to be removed. Much concern was expressed at the safety of this. Julie Scott stressed the importance of submitting to SPT and SLC any near misses so they can be documented.

Roberton Street Lights. HW advised that some of the street lights in Roberton are now running but that she would chase SLC to ensure that the lights near the road end are also working.

**ACTION: Heather** to follow up with SLC.

Community Council conference. JM advised that the local Community Council event will be held on 29th September and AJ said she would try to attend.

Patterson’s Proposed Quarry at Lamington. Hamish Stewart advised that there had been 3 applications and 2 appeals and that he is worried that this time they may be successful as the last refusal was based on only 1 criteria. Local action group CRAG continue to oppose the plan, as does the DCC (representing residents’ views).

CLYDE Windfarm Grants. Concern that when a grant is refused no explanation is given to the applicant. It was agreed to request that if an application is likely to be refused John Archibald should contact the group so that they can re-evaluate their application.

**Action: John** will contact Eric Carlisle, Chairman to request that feedback be available to groups.

Micro-grants – AJ has asked for more as Duneaton should have £18K/year (not £3K) if we got the same per head as Leadhills CC, for example. Our villages are also those hardest hit by the wind farms. Turned down by SLC and SSE, Community Councils get the same regardless of the number of villages within each group, as mandated by SSE. Will keep pushing for additional funding.

Any residue of unspent money at the end of each financial year goes back to SSE but Hamish Stewart advised that this, to date, had not happened and that the money remained in the pot for the following year

Grant applications under £5000 – it appears that although SLC has no say in the distribution of money when the applications are sent out SLC can infer whether the grant is acceptable and prevent grants being sent to the community council panel. This should not be the case.

Hamish Stewart advised that SSE are revising the CWFF fund administration arrangements since due to the significant underspend they are clearly not working as they should be. AJ had input to Chris Thompson’s review on behalf of the DCC (and GANDL). Community/support workers are needed since there’s insufficient local capacity to take on huge complex projects involving multiple funding applications to multiple bodies.

Ralph Barker expressed concern that Windfarm money was being applied for by the Rural Development Trust to run a feasibility study on getting additional minibuses. Hamish Stewart advised that £5000 was being applied to from Clyde, Hagshaw and one other to fund this study. Although the RDT is a charity it runs a commercial operation and questions whether they should be eligible for this grant were raised.

Alison Mitchell advised she is looking to organise a public meeting with SSE to discuss future grant application, how they are processed and the criteria.

Other Wind Farms.

1. AJ advised about North Lowther Energy Initiative which will be in the Leadhills/Wanlockhead area but that the turbines will be sited in Dumfries & Galloway.

**ACTION: Anne** to respond to the NLEI consultation on behalf of the DCC and act as point person if required.

1. The Harryburn project is being pushed forwarded mainly by the big landowners. This would be in the Crawford/Elvanfoot area. Open day information will be shared online as soon as it’s received.
2. Priestgill. There was much discussion and concern over the number of turbines being sited in the area. Julie Scott expressed strong concerns about the proposed increased height of the turbines, the distraction it causes drivers, condition of the road etc. JM proposed that they form an action group to prepare a detailed objection and the DCC would then take this up with SLC. A702 – concern was expressed over the safety of this road and to find out the number of accidents on this road it was suggested that Scott Jones the Community Liaison Inspector be contacted by the action group.
3. Hamish Stewart advised that SLC has carried out surveys and we come under the broad area of where it is acceptable for wind turbines to be sited as it appears there is no significant historic/scientific/natural beauty in this area.

Resignation

John McLatchie announced that Heather Watt has resigned from the committee from 1st October. He thanked her very much for all the support she has given members of the committee and for her long term in office and to the value she contributed to the community. Heather received a card and small gift from the Council in recognition of her contribution.

## Open Actions Review

DONE Heather Watt advised Wiston surgery of the micro grant.

DONE Anne Jefferies has fixed the google search site for DCC.

**ACTION: Anne** to chase Crawordjohn surgery regarding cars being unsightly and causing potential hazards.

**ACTION: Jo** Openreach response as to what is happening for Duneaton CC area in terms of Broadband

**ACTION: Jo** Biggar High School, would any S%/6 pupils within DCC area like to participate as Junior Associate Members of the DCC – this has been chased.

**ACTION: Malcolm** Speak to SLC regarding the Orange Fence which has been left next to Roberton Burn play area.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 4th October 2016.

END