

DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 5 December 2023 - MINUTES

Held at Robertson Hall

With Zoom Input

1 Present

1.1 Malcolm Muir, Gordon Wilson, Alison Mitchell, Anne Jefferies (via Zoom)

1.2 Councillors

Cllr Barker

1.3 Apologies

Clare Symonds(resigned) Cllr Allison, Cllr McAllan, Irene Riddell.

1.4 Public

Alison Gibson, Danny Shearer.

2 Minute of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

2.1 GW referred to the fact the two amendments AJ had suggested, both of which he was happy to accept. The first relates to the relationship between the DCC and RES and the second to a typo in the Grants section.

3 Treasurer's Report










3.1 AJ presented her report:

Balances

- SLC Admin account balance: £205.31, no change

Date ↓	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
11 Oct 2023		000127		-£20.00	£205.31

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- DCC General account balance: £25635.22, pending 1 cheque being cashed

	Date ↓	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
▼	28 Nov 2023		000390		-£301.58	£26,135.22
▼	22 Nov 2023		000393		-£336.00	£26,436.80
▼	22 Nov 2023		000392		-£200.00	£26,772.80
▼	20 Nov 2023		000394		-£500.00	£26,972.80
▼	17 Nov 2023		000391		-£500.00	£27,472.80
▼	13 Nov 2023		SOUTH LANARKSHIRE	+£2,960.88		£27,972.80
▼	07 Nov 2023		000384		-£500.00	£25,011.92
▼	06 Nov 2023		000389		-£2,960.88	£25,511.92
▼	06 Nov 2023		000387		-£7,668.64	£28,472.80

Activity since November meeting

- Issued 3 grant cheques
- SLC issued £2960.88 payment 13-Nov-23 for the CWFF Coulter/Lamington flood prevention grant

Actions

- Identify initiatives for Priestgill wind farm community monies
- Issue £12 cheque to Anne Jefferies from the SLC pot reimbursing 16 second class stamps
- Issue cheque to Gordon Wilson from SSE Year 1 pot reimbursing hall hire for the Development Trust meetings – approx. £200. GW to confirm through receipts.

With Others

- Abington coronation bench of max £500 from the SSE coronation grant funding, will be issued once SLC confirm bench placement and the order can be placed

Grant Monies Remaining (excludes Actions amounts)

- CWFF: £1841.68 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: £4797.75
- Clyde Extension DCC-directed pot: £29925.40 remaining of £143,000 allocation

4 Grants

4.1 One grant application to consider,

Rigside Community Nursery Rainwear £500 (Clyde). AJ advised a number of children from Duneaton attend this nursery. Grant approved unanimously.

5. Planning Issues

5.1 GW advised that there were no Planning applications to discuss.

5.2 Cllr B advised that the planning application for the Abington Hotel was coming to Committee this week. Apparently, the frontage is to be retained with the rear to be converted to flats/houses. Although there have been a number of objections none of them have any Planning merit.

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. He advised that we are likely to lose a number of people who have signed up but he proposed holding at least two meetings in January to give as many of those who want to the opportunity to attend a meeting about the next phase. After these meetings, a further meeting of the remaining core of people could be held in late January /early February to try to establish the development trust/company.

7. Wind Farm Updates

- 7.1 **Grayside** – MM advised that the proposal has been resubmitted to the energy Consents Unit. 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. MM suggested that in light of these changes, DCC should not object to the new plan. This was agreed.
- 7.2 **Bodinglee** – No further update.
- 7.3 **Andershaw West** – GW stated he had written to Statkraft and that their timeline had slipped. They hope to submit in the summer of 2024.
- 7.4 **Priestgill** – AJ understood that construction would start in February 2024. There was then discussion about community benefit monies. Cllr B asked if consideration could be given to some works required to the unadopted road at Merchiston Avenue, Abington, given that the disruption Abington may have to put up with. MM advised the development trust may be able to progress this.
- 7.5 **Kennoxhead** – Nothing to report.
- 7.6 **Little Gala** – Nothing to report.

8. Development Workers Report - November 2023

8.1 Community Cafes:

The last of the cafes at Abington was very well attended with many thanking my volunteers for all their hard work. I'll contact VASLan to ask about transferring remaining funds to pay for more shopping trips.

8.2 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've contacted SLC for approval/installation of the bench. As no one wants to take responsibility I've been advised to proceed with the project. Next step is to find a contractor to install it with payment from microgrant. The bench is still to be ordered.

Appreciate I need to move forward with this project. Now the cafes have finished I will have more time to do so.

8.3 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.

There will be approximately £2k remaining from the CMHWF café fund. Once the café costs are finalised I'm going to ask VASLan if the remainder of the fund can be transferred to use for bus shopping trips next year.

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. The next is 8 Sept to Glasgow Fort. The 4th date to be confirmed in November to Livingston. Happily it's been a highly successful project.

8.4 **Meetings/Initiatives:**

Abington Masonic Hall refurbishment

I had a site meeting with Ian Brown, one of the members, to talk through their wish list to upgrade the property to make it more appealing for community use. I'd previously messaged both Kenny and Colin to see what funding might be available. SLC is happy to fund a community benefit project but SSE is not. I then organised a zoom with Kenny, for Ian and I to present the idea. Kenny says he's previously funded Masonic Halls and so is happy to support an application from the Abington group. Ian is waiting for an idea of costs which we'll run past Kenny before making an application.

Development Trust

I've been working with Gordon Wilson to gather information for setting up a Development Trust. Gordon has been fantastic with his time and skills to move the project forward. We've now completed meetings in all 6 villages, with 28 people leaving their emails to be contacted for the 1st follow up meeting in January. I've requested John Main from DTAS meets with us in December to help create the agenda for the meeting.

Networking meeting

Lynn Shaw from SLC's Community Empowerment Team organised a meeting for myself, Lyndsey the CDW from C&E CC, Nicci and Holly the manager of St Bride's in Douglas. We were asked in turn to talk of current projects and what we could work on together. It was really interesting to hear in person what the others are doing. I've suggested we meet bi-monthly but still to be decided.

Asset Management Mapping Outcomes Event

Having been asked to organise representatives from our rural areas to attend a community asset mapping project event earlier in the year I was interested to hear the outcome. The mapping was part of 6 areas of community research undertaken by Caledonian Uni in Glasgow. It was interesting to hear about the projects but disappointing there are no current follow up plans. Funded research without progression.

Healthy Valleys AGM

I attended the AGM as a representative of our area and to thank them for including Duneaton in some of their projects

Healthy Valleys/CCI quarterly networking event Fri 1st Dec

I missed the last event and so am looking forward to learning about new projects and opportunities in Sth Lanarkshire and to meet new and existing contacts.

Monthly meeting with Colin McMillon, SSE Clyde extension fund manager

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

Colin is particularly interested in the idea of a new Development Trust for our area. Although not a lawyer, his previous job was advising 3rd sector organisations on the legal structure of initiatives such as DTs. He's also interested related to potential DT funding applications. Gordon and I were pleased with the information shared during our meeting with Colin.

8.5 **CDW Village Project Updates: my actions and outcomes**
Abington

Masonic Hall Ian Brown a member of the Masons has been in touch again to ask for guidance for possible funding to help refurbish the building to make it more fit for purpose for community use.

Coulter

Nothing personally to report.

Malcolm is working hard to try to get Culter library back up and running plus other local projects.

Crawfordjohn

Crawfordjohn Hall

The REF application to purchase a new defibrillator through the Community Heartbeat Trust (same set up as in Roberton) has been approved. Anne Williams from the village is now moving forward to spend the money.

Lamington

The footpath and road improvements implemented by BEAR related to flood prevention is now complete.

Roberton

Nothing to report

Wiston

I'm told the project to rebuild/refurbish Wiston Hall at a high level is in progress. Very well done to those involved from the Hall committee.

9. Matters Arising

9.1 MM referred to the fact that SLC has been awarded levelling up monies for the Clydesdale Way - £14.5M over 3 – 4 years. MM hoped that there would be better communication with landowners going forward. He advocated the need for a Cycle route between Abington to Biggar to provide cyclists/walkers a safe route. There was some discussion about the routes but the focus should be on the main route as there are hill paths that could link to that. Cllr B stated he hoped that the project undertaken in Carstairs by Sustrans, which has caused a lot of adverse local feedback. It was agreed that local input was needed in the planning stages.

9.2 Cllr B referred to the public consultation on Council cuts. Community Halls are in the 'firing line' Garden waste scheme is under consideration but its removal has given rise to concerns about more fly-tipping. A pilot project for garden waste bins is due to take place in Clydesdale East. Cllr asked people to refer to the public consultation.

10. Local News

Cllr B referred to Hodge's quarry timescale extension. MM advised we had considered at the last meeting without any issues being raised.

Other Business

AJ asked if we wanted to send flowers to LS, expressing our sympathy and support for her at this time.

11 Date of Next Meeting - AGM

- 11.1 Given the Festive Period the next meeting will be at Roberton Hall on Tuesday 6 February 2024 at 7.30pm.
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