

DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 1 February 2022

(Zoom Meeting)

AGENDA

1 Present

1.1 Malcolm Muir, Gordon Wilson, Robin Craig, Alison Mitchell, Irene Riddell, Clare Symonds, Liz Steele.

Public Attendees – Mark Sykes, Nicci Hill, Virginia Bennett, Anne Shearer.

Bank Group Attendees – Robin Winstanley, Michael Newton, Grant Mollison.

1.2 Apologies

Anne Jefferies, Cllr McAllan, Cllr E Holford.

2 Banks Group – Bodinglee Update.

MM welcomed the Banks Group to the meeting and invited RW to give the update. RW advised there were four areas that he wanted to cover in his presentation, namely;

Bodinglee Update

consultation events

life extension - Middle Muir

Community panel

BODINGLEE UPDATE

Currently at design stage. Design finalised in 2022. Planning application October 2023 to 2025. Construction period 2026 to 2028. Design held up by covid but delay will now allow for face-to-face consultation. Public events will be held April to May 2022. The design process will continue through to July - August 2022 when there will be further public consultation. The Banks Group will also hold surgeries and host an online exhibition. Newspaper articles and social media will further advise the community of progress.

The Banks Group has already learnt the impact that Bodinglee South has on Roberton. Finances will be available to the Community but big ideas are needed for outcomes to benefit the local community. We need to explore different ways of doing things e.g. job creation. Nature will be at the centre of the Banks Group approach. Energy transition needs to work for the community and it is recognised that the local community has a strong sense of identity.

The Banks Group is paring back the size of the project from 60 turbines to 40. This will generate 180-240 kw providing a community fund of £48M. To help people understand the development a 3D model will be made available as part of the consultation process. GM confirmed that the model would be a tool for residents. GW asked if the reduction in turbine numbers will impact on the size and type of turbines to be used. GM advised that this would not be the case and the Scoping Report reduces the flexibility on the size of the turbines.

Design Principles

Environment	Community/People	Economic
Climate Action	Community Ownership	Jobs
Legacy	Sense of place	Impact
Biodiversity	Region to live in/visit	Nature based
Local environs	Importance of the area	Options for community benefit
Integrated energy	Energy transition	Key partnerships
Landowner collaboration		
Locally sourced materials		
Rural decarbonisation		

Themes for explore

Loss of nature/regenerating our communities

Local environment and access to it

Tackle climate action locally

Prevent extinction of wild life

Jobs – rural focus

Developing skills

The Banks Group is looking for assistance from the DCC and the local community so that it can ask the right questions about what the community wants and is looking to formulate survey to get feedback from local community.

LIFE EXTENSION – MIDDLE MUIR

It is proposed that the Banks Group will extend the lifespan of the turbines on this site by 5-15 years. They will keep the technology in place rather than remove and replace the existing turbines.

COMMUNITY PANEL FOR BODINGLEE

The Banks Group wants to establish a community panel for the Bodinglee site which will be made up of representatives from the local community councils affected by the site. It is proposed that there will be 2 people from each community council. They will hopefully inform the design process and discuss issues relating to the community benefit the site generates. RW asked if DCC wanted to take part.

Q&A

- MM asked if a copy of RW's presentation could be passed to him to be put on the DCC website. RW confirmed that he would do this.
- LS asked if RW could give examples of any transitional benefits from the Middle Muir development that could indicate what benefits the community could get from the Bodinglee site. RW was unable to comment directly as the Middle Muir site went through a different planning process.
- LS asked how will community benefit happen – will the Banks Group establish a working group to assist the local community? RW advised he did not have all the answers but can influence some of the decisions made. It's important for the community to determine what it wants. LS asked if Banks will monitor community benefit over the lifetime of the project. RW advised Banks would develop proposals with the community and work with consultants as part of the group. GM advised that the Banks Group wants to steer to help generate what the community wants, not give the community what it doesn't want. MM stated that there is a need for environmental regeneration but this would need the approval of Douglas and Angus Estates. RW advised that the estate is, in principle, on board.
- GW asked what commitment the Banks Group thought would be necessary for the community panel. RW suggested quarterly meetings but perhaps more initially to get the process started.
- CS echoed LS's scepticism regarding the onus on the community to participate in the process and the monitoring of any diversity games. RW advised that nothing was off the table – it could front-load the fund to develop proposals.
- MM advised that any grant monies for tree planting go direct to D&A estates who already benefit from turbine funding.
- GW asked if the provision of alternative non fossil fuel heating systems could be considered as part of a large-scale investment in the area. RW advised this could be programmed. MM commented that this would need to coincide with insulation works to a number of properties but that this could be an important project. LS asked if Banks would lead on such a project. She commented that the grant allocation process needs overhauled and as DCC already has access to significant windfarm funds, the Bodinglee funding is not required. VB supported LS's comment regarding the grant process overhaul stating that it was impossible for individuals to apply and it needed to be a constituted group. RW stated that Banks would not be giving money direct to the council and that community benefit would come to the community direct.

- MM identified the problem of projects having access to revenue funding to sustain the lifespan of the project. RW accepted this point and advised that Banks intended to work with the community to benefit it.

MM asked for any further questions and with none coming forward thanked the Bank staff for their presentation and time. At this point, the Bank staff left the meeting.

MM asked if GW wished to join the community panel. GW agreed and LS advised she would be prepared to join the group as well. There was general discussion about the difficulty of accessing funding and the need for support and guidance to the various community councils affected. MM stated that there is a need to work with the Banks Group as we are getting an opportunity that did not present itself with the Clyde Wind Farm. VB advised that bottom line was that the residents in Robertson don't want the project. She had RW to her house to see the impact of the scheme as hers is nearest to the proposed boundary. CS advised that by the time the project comes to planning, the new national planning guidance will be in place and will be hard to stop the project.

3. Previous Minute - 2 November 2021

- 3.1 GW advised that he had not received any amendments to the December minute. It was proposed by RC and seconded by AM.

4 Treasurer's Report

- 4.1 MM read through Treasurer's report in the absence of AJ including the grant application.

- 4.2 Balances -

SLC Admin account balance: £362.19.

Transaction date ▼	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
30 December 2021	INT	▼ 16DEC GRS 00121712	£0.07	-	£362.19

DCC General account balance: £57,075.55, pending multiple grant cheques being cashed.

Transaction date ▼	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
18 January 2022	BAC	▼ INSPIRING SCOTLAND	£3,000.00	-	£57,775.15
17 January 2022	CHQ	▼ 000302	-	£250.00	£54,775.15
11 January 2022	BAC	▼ FOUNDATION SCOTLAN	£1,370.00	-	£55,025.15
30 December 2021	INT	▼ 16DEC GRS 00113132	£5.16	-	£53,655.15

Activity since December meeting

- Prepped paperwork for 3 grants (Coulter Improvement Group later cancelled request for £366.60)
- Closed out 5 grants after receipts received, one overpayment refund required of £15.31
- Received £1370 2021-22 Glenkerie micro grant funding Jan-22
- Received £3K Inspiring Scotland (aka Rural Communities into Action) funding Jan-22

Actions

- Grant applications:
 - Upper Clyde Guild Covid Restart £200 (Glenkerie)
- Pay RDT invoice of £2000 out of the Healthy Valleys grant for Community Development Worker activity up to 31-Mar-22
- Pay Liz Steele 2 combined claims per the below breakdowns. 1 cheque for Healthy Valleys £1074. 1 cheque for Inspiring Scotland £846.80. More to come next month.

Rural Communities into Action: Communities Recovery Fund Phase 2				
Aimed towards tackling isolation, loneliness and mental health. Mainly elderly population and village recovery				
Administered by Healthy Valleys. £5,000 total. £2k revenue & £3k for 6 villages				
Spend deadline/invoice final date 31st March 2022.				
Funds paid to DCC. £2k revenue to forward to RDT				
Village	Contact	Group	Activity	Cost
Abington	Pearl Jones	Abington ladies	2 bus trips	£ 250.00
Coulter				
Crawfordjohn	Amiee Graham	Crawfordjohn Toddlers	6 weeks Hall Hire	£ 84.00
	Liz Steele	HV craft/soup lunch	4 weeks hall hire	£ 240.00
Lamington				
Roberton	Bill & Janice Cross	Roberton village	Village planting day	£ 500.00
Wiston				
				£ 1,074.00

		Inspiring Scotland: Rural Communities into Action Fund			
Aimed towards tackling isolation, loneliness and mental health. Mainly elderly population and village recovery					
£3,000 administered by DCC/Liz Steele. Interim and final reports required					
£3k paid to DCC					
Spend Deadline/Invoice final date: 31st March 2022					
Village	Contact	Group	Activity	Cost	
Abington					
Coulter	Ann Dobinson	Coulter Ladies	lunch	£ 170.80	
Crawfordjohn	Christine Barton	Crawfordjohn Museum	quiz night Hall hire etc	£ 176.00	
Lamington					
Roberton	Bill & Janice Cross	Roberton village	Village planting day	£ 500.00	
Wiston					
				£ 846.80	

- 4.3 Newsletter – LS advised that she needed DCC approval to spend monies on a newsletter. It was agreed that £100 be made available for the newsletter. MM advised that he would prefer to see fuller but fewer newsletters. LS advised AJ had asked for a newsletter to be developed. AM stated that she did not think that DCC was putting across what it does, she advised that in her view, that people had no concept of what we do. She asked if Healthy Valley was fully funding the £5,000 LS had obtained. LS confirmed that this was the case. LS then advised that she had managed to obtain an extra £12,000 of additional funding through the covid period. MM advised that LS had been and would use her contacts to find additional funding.

5 Grants

- 5.1 One microgrant application received from Roberton for £200 to assist a Tea and Music Event for the village. This was proposed by MM, seconded by GW.

6 Planning Issues

- 6.1 No planning issues for discussion.

7 Wind Farm Update

- 7.1 MM advised that he was not aware of any windfarm updates other than the presentation given earlier at the meeting.

8 Community Development Report

- 8.1 LS gave the following summary of the report she had previously circulated.

Abington Hall – SCL has little money to carry out repairs. WRI being offered Crawford Hall as an option. The Abington school hire has cost £45 per hour. MS asked if the hub is to be made available to all as the hall was. It was agreed that LS would draft a letter to SLC raising concerns regarding the future of the hall.

Abington Hub update

The building work on the Hub is now complete, but still a lot to do to fit out the interior. The group have now employed a new Centre Manager, starting in March to work on getting the Centre open.

Abington Ladies

Using part of the additional funding 2 bus trips have been organised and filled, for local ladies to have a day out. We are also in discussion to reinstate the afternoon tea boxes for other isolated people in Abington as well as community benches.

Coulter defibrillator – SLC has given permission for the school wall to be used for it's location.

Roberton – Organised a planting day. A grant application for £250 for 100 fish and chips to be submitted. Approximately 100 villagers taking part who have contributed in part to the cost.

Stained Glass School Project – Council has given approval for this to proceed with the Clyde Windfarm providing funding.

9 Local News

- 9.1 MM asked that before discussing any local news that DCC should welcome MS from Abington as it's newest full member. He also wanted to put on record his thanks to Katie Stuart-Cox who has recently resigned from DCC, thanking her for her efforts in the past and congratulating her on the work she has done with regards to the Abington hub.

- 9.2 **Crawfordjohn** – GW referred to the issue raised on Facebook by LS regarding people using quadbikes in the forest near the picnic area. LS confirmed that the police would take action against anyone but advised that the police needed registration numbers before they could take any action.

- 9.3 **Lamington** – IR advised she had nothing to report other than the fact that the grit bins are fine and the road has been tarred.

10 AOCB

- 10.1 No issues raised.

11 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 1st March 2022

Actions

MM to check with Energy Consent Unit at Scottish Government regarding MoD disturbance levels.

Tracking of Banks Group Scoping Report amendments.

Cllr McA agreed to follow up on issue regarding Crawfordjohn picnic area; garden waste uplifts.
