

DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 7 February 2023

Zoom Input

AGENDA

1 Present

1.1 Malcolm Muir, Anne Jefferies, Gordon Wilson, Liz Steele, Clare Symonds, Alison Mitchell, Nichola Hill, Irene Riddell, Cllr MacAllan, Cllr Allison, Cllr Barker

1.2 Apologies

None

2 Treasurer's Report

2.1 AJ spoke to her report as below:

SLC Admin account balance: £94.76

Transaction date ▼	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
31 January 2023	CHQ	▼ 000118	-	£250.00	£94.76
30 January 2023	BAC	▼ SOUTH LANARKSHIRE	£247.22	-	£344.76

DCC General account balance: £8166.74, pending 1 grant cheque being cashed

Transaction date ▼	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
24 January 2023	CHQ	▼ 000344	-	£327.60	£8,393.74
17 January 2023	CHQ	▼ 000353	-	£250.00	£8,721.34
11 January 2023	CHQ	▼ 000351	-	£200.00	£8,971.34
9 January 2023	CHQ	▼ 000338	-	£250.00	£9,171.34
9 January 2023	DPC	▼ JOHNSTONE S & W	£250.00	-	£9,421.34
6 January 2023	CHQ	▼ 000350	-	£100.00	£9,171.34

Activity since December meeting

- Completed paperwork for 5 grants
- Closed out 5 grants after receipts received
- Hogmanay Hoolie Clyde Extension transport grant of £250 repaid in full
- Received 2022-23 SLC admin grant of £247.22, repaid Treasurer bridging loan

With Others

- N/A

Actions

- Grant applications:
 1. Crawfordjohn Heritage Quiz Night £200 (Clyde Extension)
- Pay Liz Steele £369.96 to refund the materials bought for the Q4 2022 Community Cafes (CCCG fund)
- Complete CWFF microgrant EOY report by 31-Mar-23, new funding will only be released by SLC in the new financial year
- Community Development Worker role extension for 2023-4

Grant Monies Remaining (excludes Actions amounts)

- CWFF: £4.22 remaining of the 2022-23 grant
- Ventient Energy Glenkerie: £942.55 remaining of the 2022-23 grant
- Clyde Extension: £2310 remaining of the 2022-23 grant
- Covid grants: £1436.47
- Clyde Extension DCC-directed pot: £53,277.36 remaining of £143,000 allocation

3 Grants

- 3.1 AJ advised there was one grant application to consider:

Clyde Extension Community Fund

Crawfordjohn Heritage Centre Quiz Night - £200 requested for food.

Quiz raises money for Museum activities across the year. Unanimously approved.

4 Community Development Worker – Future Priorities.

- 4.1 AJ advised that we can afford another 2 years of CDW funding, then after that there would be approx. £5K left in the SSE DCC allocation pot. AJ to get 2023-4 and 2024-5 costings from RDT and then formally request the funding from SSE.
- 4.2 MM suggested there could be bigger projects for the CDW to get involved in. Local Development Trust(s) might be a way forward – CDW could assist locals with paperwork/completing forms. IR asked that we be given time to think through the issues. AM asked that we consider it over the next 4 weeks. AJ advised our point of reference could be the Community Plan which she had reviewed and was of the opinion that we have either done things or in the process of doing them – there being nothing major outstanding. We need to consider uses for the wind farm monies and access to that. MM suggested that individual village trusts may not be the best way forward for Duneaton as a whole and it might be better to have a larger Trust that could support village groups.

5 Planning Issues

- 5.1 No issues, although GW did refer to wind farm activities on the Duneaton boundary area.

6 Windfarm Developments

- 6.1 Grayside,
No update.

Bodinglee,

Email today from Banks Group referring to a consultation meeting. CS % figure referred to in the Banks email was not a high enough figure as Fintry CC had negotiated 20% figure. MM advised that the 1% was a direct donation, over and above the community funds, along with the option to purchase a further 9%. Having a 10% stake in Bodinglee is equivalent to owning a 26mw windfarm! CS suggested that members of Duneaton CC meet with Fintry to discuss their experience. MM stated he was aware of the Fintry situation. The proposed Clydesdale Energy Transition Co. aims to benefit the area and individuals through energy savings and local employment. AJ suggested we do a publicity event. There is a planned series of meetings later in February. AM suggested using Facebook and GW a newsletter. MM advised he would draft something for Facebook, CS LS and GW to meet up with Fintry CC.

Andershaw West, Kennoxhead, and Little Gala – no updates.

7 Flooding Coulter and Lamington

- 7.1 IR advised she had attended a meeting with the local MSP, SEPA, Scottish Water, SLC Flood Team and the local Councillors last week. The idea was to get collaboration round the table to agree a strategy going forward. It was a good meeting with several action points to progress. The MSP is doing a note of the meeting. Coulter's issues are more complex than Lamington's. IR had a copy of the Flood Plan sent to her. Consultants have been appointed to take land levels and develop ideas. In addition gravel is being taken out of the water at the bridge in Lamington, but there was concern that ground extraction may not be a lasting solution. IR has prepared a note of the actions she has taken and has circulated that round the village. There is growing frustration that 3 months has passed since the flooding and nothing much has been done as yet.

MM advised that the flooding in Coulter was the worst in memory and is one of the effects of climate change. Melting snow frozen ground across the whole catchment and this was then compounded by heavy rain. A system of protective stone dykes is central to managing flood water in Coulter but keeping these maintained is a challenge for the Estate. There is a limit to what can be achieved in the village in the short term. Looking to build permanent storage for sand bags. A debris dam has built up in the river close to the village and this needs to be cleared before it causes problems in the future.

IR stated that we need to mitigate the short-term effects. MM said we need to get professional guidance as to what might be possible in the long term in Coulter. IR of the view that things need done in an organised way. MM agreed advising that some in Coulter can no longer get flood insurance cover. IR advised that the bridge is the key to the Lamington problem and we need a strategy to be able to approach the Scottish Government for funding. Cllr MacAllan thought it was a good meeting and is waiting for the MSP's note. It will be important to keep the pressure up on the agencies involved and this needs coordinated. IR said that an SLC survey will be circulated in the village and she hopes all reply. She herself had received a number of emails.

Cllr Allison asked if there were any outcomes from the original meeting? Was SEPA asked to undertake any work, e.g. checking local drain capacity? Where does SLC's responsibility lie?

Cllr Allison suggested a letter should be sent to the SLC Chief Executive. MM suggested that we need a statement of what is required. Cllr Ralph thought the meeting was well organised but some important items were passed over quickly at the end. He argued that given SEPA's priorities at Perth and Stonehaven it will be difficult for it to do much locally.

Cllr MacAllan advised that tomorrow is the last day for comments from the public to be made about the SLC 23/24 budget.

AJ left the meeting at this point.

8 Community Development Worker Report

- 8.1 Following 2 weeks of annual leave at the start of January, the following 3 weeks have been very busy with funding enquiries and meetings.

Funding Updates:

Scottish Gov Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund round 1: Community cafés

£2,500 salary and £2,225 project funding. To use up remaining funding I've timetabled 6 more cafes, 2 each at Crawfordjohn, Abington and Robertson during February and March. This should see the final spend of the CMHWF in line with the deadline of 31st March.

I'm very grateful to my amazing volunteers without whom I couldn't deliver the café sessions.

CMHWF stage 2:

VASLan is managing stage 2 of the CMHWF. I've submitted 3 applications and to date have had 2 approved to spend over the next 18 months: £2k for mini bus hire for shopping trips, mainly for the over 60s. Pearl Jones from Abington is managing the trips and the funding; £7k for Crawfordjohn Hall to get events and classes started up again. (This is not a DCC related fund and will not come out of my CDW hours). I originally applied for £2k and was told I should ask for £7k; £5,850 for revenue and capital to support the continuation of the café. The latter will be decided at a meeting on the 16th Feb. The application rules say you can't apply for further funding to continue a project from stage 1, but I've spoken to admin and am hopeful for a positive response.

Meetings:

Gail McAra: Healthy Valleys: Meeting to discuss how HV can be involved with future cafes. Gail has agreed to a return of the craft and materials swap and buy session and a spring flower arrangement workshop, both to be delivered by HV at Robertson in Feb and March. I'm really pleased to have connected with Gail through the cafes and craft/soup lunches hosted in 2021. I think this has activated HV to include Duneaton in the design of their e-bike project, still at planning stage.

Colin McMillan: SSE Clyde Extension Fund: Colin is keen to learn about our communities and for me to give a wider picture on local projects looking for funding. On behalf of our community it feels very valuable to have a positive network with him.

Lynn Shaw: Abington Hall. Met for a catch up, for Lynn to give me an outline of the skills of 4 new SLC empowerment team staff members. Also for a link to discuss the future of Abington Hall. Iain Mulholland, a member of the empowerment team has responsibility to lead discussions related to Community Asset Transfers.

Pearl Jones: Funding enquiry for Coronation celebrations in Abington to include a community lunch and purchase of an engraved bench, with permission being sought to position it outside the shop. Suggested SSE Clyde Extension for the £1k funding required for the project. We also talked about the logistics for the CMHWF mini bus shopping project.

Iain Mulholland and Lynn Shaw- Discussion on the future of Abington Hall:

SLC have no funds to repair the hall. Overall they have a deficit of £70 million.

Probability for the immediate future at least Abington Hall will remain closed. Long term it may be left as is, or sold off similar to Lamington Hall, or as a community asset.

As an SLC owned property, the windfarm will not fund current repairs such as the fallen ceiling, but through a refurbishment project may repair the heating if it is changed to renewables, and fund an upgrade of the interior. Historically the hall is underused and unless a strong hall committee is formed to take responsibility for delivering a good number of ongoing events, it is unlikely windfarm funding will be secured.

Anyway the ceiling would need to be repaired by SLC and in the current financial situation it is probable this will never happen.

If there is interest for the community to keep the building for community use, the need to purchase or lease from SLC through a Community Asset Transfer, CAT, liaising with Iain for the process. (My suggestion of an idea to turn it into a 'Men's Shed'.)

If the community wish to take on the building as a CAT, the cost to purchase by the community will be an undefined % of the value.

The alternative is a lease agreement, on a 2,5 or 10-year term. Unlikely the council will ask for the hall back after the agreed period of lease.

If a purchase is agreed by the community, there is no lease involved.

Possibility of applying for revenue and purchase capital through The Scottish Land Fund, but would need a strong committee to lead the project.

Brief discussion on Coulter Hall: As Biggar Young Farmers are looking for their own facility, the potential they could take on Coulter hall as a CAT. If successful, as a constituted group they could apply for funding to refurbish the venue and take on community bookings etc as revenue. I will contact them to share the information, including Iain's role to assist. Someone taking on the property is the only way it can be refurbished.

Suggestion of a community consultation before any proposal is made to BYF.

Following our sharing of information, Iain on asset transfers and me on community benefits and deficits, to discuss the pros and cons he is keen to set up a CAT meeting for Clydesdale. I'm keen for him to share as much information as possible with our communities.

Meeting with Rena Plenderleith: Rena has been my valued, main volunteer for last year's cafes. Met to discuss with her how we might deliver the remaining cafes.

Seminars:

Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS): Malcolm and I attended a presentation at the Kirkstyle Café in Biggar. The main discussion focused around the opportunities for setting up Development Trusts with the advantage of

- projects being community owned and led and not by SLC
- regeneration of defined areas
- work in partnership
- enterprising – to generate own community income.

One of the main advantages of a DT is revenue funding can be used to have a team of paid workers to do the 'donkey' work rather than relying on volunteers to lead big projects. The DT must though be led by a team of volunteer trustees.

I will attach the DTAS PowerPoint.

I followed up the presentation with a meeting with Janet Moxley to discuss the pros and cons of an ML12 Development Trust vs the benefits of smaller local trusts. An idea as a starter to have a community worker to lease with ML12 but individual paid workers for individual areas, whatever they may be determined as.

SCOTO Community Led Tourism Roadshow

New organisation with remit to support communities investing in tourism. Neither Visit Scotland or Visit Lanarkshire offers this type of support.

One of their mottos: Stay, Eat, Buy, Do, Enjoy, Find

An interesting seminar and networking but difficult to see how our villages can support a tourism proposal without either strong volunteer commitment to lead a project, or the possibility to move a project forward through a development trust.

More information through the SCOTO website.

CDW Village Project Updates: my actions and outcomes

Abington

Abington Hall

Update as noted above

Coulter

Personally no involvement with projects in Coulter during January. Malcolm may have an update.

Crawfordjohn

The mother and toddlers are very pleased to have been awarded their microgrant and through the addition of other fundraising initiatives, are now sustainable for the foreseeable future.

Enquiry for a microgrant to support chair yoga sessions at Abington and Crawfordjohn. I gave out information but not sure if an application has been made.

Lamington

I am very sorry for Irene and Bob and other members of the Lamington community who have had to move from their properties due to flood damage. As already offered to Irene, I'm very happy to help if Irene thinks I can assist in any way, including liaising with departments responsible for the problems which created the flooding.

Roberton

The short term pop-up café in Roberton led by Alison Mitchell and funded by the microgrant I'm told has been a great success. I was going to attend tomorrow, but Alison has cancelled due to her mixing with someone with Covid.

Wiston

Nothing to report this month but hope to get an update on their hall refurbishment project for next month's report.

9 Minute of Last Meeting/Matters Arising

9.1 GW asked that the meeting consider the minute of the December meeting. AM proposed it; CS seconded it.

9.2 There were no matters arising.

10 Local News

10.1 Roberton

AM advised that she filling out a Scottish Public Service Ombudsman form regarding how SLC dealt with

the Roberton Hall improvements. She will keep the DCC updated on progress

10.2 Crawfordjohn – GW advised work ongoing on install of wiring for broadband.

10.3 Abington – Abington hall issue.

10.4 Lamington – Could we get flood monies through the wind farms. AJ/MM no objections to taking that up.

10.5 Wiston – Giving flooding increased traffic in Wiston has led to more potholes in road. Cllr MacAllan to pursue.

- 10.6 Cllr Ralph referred to previous meeting comments regarding the workmen installing Xmas trees. Question was raised about opening halls for stranded drivers – Abington a problem – question of whether we can access wind farm monies. AM commented that SLC not been good at working with the community. LS advised that SSE has not been happy with the running of the Clyde Wind Farm. MM suggested it would be different if it was owned by the Council and managed by the community.
- 10.7 Coulter - MM advised flooding has been discussed. Had a good Xmas Carol service. Defibrillator installed and working.

11 Date of Next Meeting

- 15.1 Next meeting will be at Abington Business Centre 1 on Wednesday 8 March 2023 at 7.30pm. Zoom will be available for the meeting. GW to cancel Robertson booking.
