

DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 7 JANUARY 2020
ROBERTON VILLAGE HALL

Present

Malcolm Muir, Anne Jefferies, Irene Riddell, Cllr Eric Holford, Gordon Wilson, Liz Steele,

Apologies

Cllr Ian McAllan, John McLatchie Alison Mitchell, Robin Craig.

1 Adoption of previous meeting minutes

Proposed – AJ

Seconded – AGW

2 Treasurers Statement

Balances

SLC Admin account balance: £295.87 (5p interest).

Date ▼	Description	Amount	Balance
Pending current account transactions			View ➤
30 Dec	16DEC GRS 00121712 Interest	£0.05	£295.87
03 Dec	000091 Cheque	-£59.99	£295.82
26 Nov	000093 Cheque	-£21.00	£355.81
19 Nov	000094 Cheque	-£30.00	£376.81

DCC General account balance: £10,382.50 (£1.98 interest, pending cheques 233 & 250 being cashed).

Date ▼	Description	Amount	Balance
Pending current account transactions			View ➤
30 Dec	16DEC GRS 00113132 Interest	£1.98	£10,627.50
23 Dec	000247 Cheque	-£50.00	£10,625.52
16 Dec	000245 Cheque	-£4,567.27	£10,675.52
11 Dec	000249 Cheque	-£500.00	£15,242.79
11 Dec	000248 Cheque	-£185.00	£15,742.79
04 Dec	000234 Cheque	-£80.00	£15,927.79
03 Dec	000236 Cheque	-£220.00	£16,007.79

Activity

- 3 grant cheque handovers completed
- Paid CDW invoice #2 for £4,567.27, pending formal receipt

Grant Monies Remaining

- CWFF: £1817.43 remaining of the £5000 2019-20 grant
- Ventient Energy Glenkerie: £1.40 remaining of the £1000 2019-20 grant, new monies expected early Feb 2020

3 Planning – Priestgill Wind Farm

3.1 AJ/MM suggested DCC should take a neutral position given application previously approved despite the fact that the turbines will be taller than originally proposed. MM advised that he would like to see a habitat management plan to determine what the scheme will do to minimise its impact. A concern was raised that the rigorous landscape assessments included in planning for the original Clyde Wind Farm appeared to have been ignored by the Scottish Government appeal process.

3.2 There was general discussion about how the financial benefits could be distributed locally. IR asked about reducing local peoples' energy bills but AJ advised that the administration of the grant could be an issue. EH supported energy efficiency measures as he wanted to preserve fossil fuels rather than reduce bills for using coal and oil as most rural communities do. He advised that this constituency has more wind farms than any other and we should support a meaningful outcome from the funding. EH advised that there was the potential for a framework of companies to operate a programme of energy efficiency installations as the Council has done. GW advised of the Council's experience using Scottish Govt HEEPS funding.

4 Community Worker's Report

LS advised she had enjoyed her two week break.

Her 7 January report advised of the micro-grants progress in the villages. AJ confirmed that every village has received such funding. LS advised that she has been

getting involved in meeting more senior staff within the Council e.g. Joanne Forbes which she hoped will bring additional benefits in terms of understanding and assist the villages in meeting their needs.

4.2 LS posed 2 questions of the DCC.

- 1 Projects in Coulter and Lamington involve the siting of defibrillators. The issue is where should these be located.
- 2 Villages in Bloom competition. LS asked the DCC members what their thoughts were on how this should progress. MM was concerned that to hold this soon would be too early for many of the villages. He is chairing a meeting next Tuesday to discuss the flower show.

There then followed a general discussion about grant applications and the fact that the DCC wanted to see these come from the 'bottom up' rather than being imposed 'top down'.

5 Local News

5.1 Lamington - IR advised that the consultants working with the Council on the path/cycling initiative, Ice Cream Architecture, had asked for a meeting to be arranged in Lamington then cancelled it at the 11th hour. This had done nothing to help their cause. IR stated that her experience has shown that large numbers of people have come into the village but not been respectful of locals or the walks themselves. MM agreed that the increasing use of local village paths by commercial dog walkers could become an issue. LS advised that Ice Cream have other meetings set up and she hopes to attend these.

5.2 Coulter – Broadband. A figure of £470,000 for putting fibre into Coulter had been received from BT but there was some concern how BT had arrived at that figure. It was suggested it was a fixed fee x the number of properties without considering some of the distances involved e.g. for local farms.

6 Good Citizen Awards

6.1 Nominations for the Good Citizen Awards have been awarded but decision taken not to announce these on the DCC website.

7 Tourist Initiative Funding

7.1 Reference was made to the email circulated by AJ regarding this initiative. MM advised that the Council has to submit expressions of interest by 20 January and that the schemes have to be delivered over the next 12 months. It has been an annual award for the past few years. Schemes suggested were electric charging points, Tinto rural car park (however it appears that the Symington/Thankerton CC does not think this is a priority for their funds). LS suggested the Crawfordjohn Museum but GW advised he had emailed Janet Drife who advised they would not qualify as they charge an entrance fee.

8 AOCB

8.1 Transport Scotland reply - IR advised she had received a letter stating that Lamington was under review and any action would depend on the availability of funding. There were no dates/specifics in the letter. There was discussion about the fact that Amey's contract was due up in March 2020. IR advised that the other issues she had highlighted in her letter e.g. drainage had not been referred to.

8.2 There was some discussion about Biggar CC representatives wanting to meet with DCC members to discuss the allocation of micro grants. There was discussion about the process Biggar CC uses when awarding these grants and concern that if they are not awarded then local initiatives will fail.

9 Date/time of next meeting

9.1 The next meeting will take place;
Roberton Village Hall on Tuesday 4th February at 7.30pm.
