

DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 5 January 2021

(Zoom Meeting)

AGENDA

1 Present

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

Public attendees - Kay Booton; Howard Goldstein

1.2 Apologies

Anne Jefferies, John McLatchie.

2 Previous Minute

- 2.1 Approved by RC and seconded by IR.

3 Treasurers Statement

- 3.1 MM read out the Treasurers Statement.

No new grant requests

Various grant receipts chased up and processed, an overpayment will be coming in later this month.

SSE have kindly transferred the CDW Year 2 funding of £18,731.01 ready for the next RDT invoice.

The new CWFF micro grant funding of £5,000 finally got transferred 7-Dec-20

We had interest of £2.45 on the main DCC account.

Current balances excluding cheques that are pending cashing are:

SLC pot £246.42, DCC general pot £26,650.61.

4 Defibrillators - (Lamington and Coulter)

- 4.1 LS to check that if Chair/Secretary and Treasurer of a constituted group need to sign the legal papers to get the defibrillators located. Suggestion is to include Coulter in existing Lamington based group that has a bank account. MM will sign on behalf of Coulter.

5 Planning Requests (if any)

- 5.1 None to discuss.

6 Development Worker's Report

- 6.1 Delivery of Newsletter - LS thanked those who delivered them in the last few weeks.

- 6.2 Abington – pop up café now in situ.

- 6.3 Make Your Way project – general discussion about how Council members are not impressed with the project – no landlord contact; did not take local soundings before the project was set up.

- 6.4 Crawfordjohn – Val McCarron has not managed to make a lot of progress but has circulated a note to the properties in the village advising of proposals and asking for support. LS keeping up with progress.

- 6.5 Lamington – nothing to report
- 6.6 Roberton Hall – Feasibility study done but funding will not be available until November due to timing of funding meetings.
- 6.7 Wiston – nothing to report.
- 6.8 LS advised that AJ had asked her to do the SSE Clyde Windfarm update which LS circulated to the Council.
- 6.9 Given the new lockdown arrangements LS stated she could be furloughed which would be helpful while things do not progress. She will take flexible furlough doing 4 hours work with 12 hours furlough. This has been agreed with MM and AJ.
- 6.10 Abington Store – LS advised regarding deliveries from the store. David will text LS when deliveries required and she can arrange volunteers. If necessary, she can do the deliveries. She will use unspent VasLan monies to cover any mileage costs.

7 Planning – NP4

- 7.1 CS advised the Council of NP4, the most recent Planning Strategy document which will have an impact on Local Development Plans and she thought DCC would benefit from knowing its role. As a document it will incorporate all Planning policies within it. In January there was a request for comments on the document which expires on 19 February. An initial Position Statement was issued stating four priorities:
- 7.2 Net zero/Rural community regeneration/Well-being /Better green spaces.
 - Focus will be to empower and expand wind farms.
 - Positive note – stopping any further peat extraction.
 - Proposals for dealing with nature will be prominent in the document.
 - Considering aggregate extractions
 - Rebuild rural communities

MM thought the document was a move to further centralise the planning process, weakening local input. He sees a risk of giving Government lobbyists a stronger role.

- 7.3 CS – large developers are winning cases despite the need to sustain local communities. MM stated that Britain's departure from EU means SEPA weaker and no longer working to EU legislation. AM asked if DCC should be doing something. GW suggested a joint community council response and that should highlight a concern about the SEPA situation.

8 Wind Farm Applications

- 8.1 Two current proposals at Grayside and Bodinglee which affect Coulter/Lamington and Crawfordjohn/Wiston/Roberton respectively. KB advised she was concerned about the cumulative effect of all the wind farms locally. We are small communities without the necessary skill base to challenge the applications. The applicants both have large funds to use and the Community Fund could be seen as a way to encourage the local communities to accept the proposals. MM identified the fact that we already have problems spending the existing funds. The Council was the first line of defence but these large applications bypass the Council going direct to the Scottish Government.
- 8.2 KB advised that the Bodinglee scheme has applied for permission to site a wind monitoring mast near Roberton Law. RC believed that the Bodinglee site was

considering three locations – Robertson being one - on both sides of the M74. Maps are available on the Banks Website.

- 8.3 MM agreed that these applications are very sensitive but the CC cannot be a lobbying group: it can reflect the view of the community but we need to undertake a questionnaire to gauge local views. It was agreed that the applications will need to go to public consultation but the DCC needs to act ahead of that. KB stated that the Banks project scoping report had a number of viewpoint photos which did not reflect the potential impact of the wind turbines. She believes the DCC should write to Banks to discuss the viewpoint photos.
- 8.4 MM advised that access to the sites would be key and if the Grayside project is not able to use the SSE access, the road in has the potential to be a very big intervention. RC stated that he had seen a great amount of SSE activity on an access road near Lamington. AM questioned the view of the Scottish Government, given the NP4 proposals. MM suggested that SLC could object to the proposals if it is against the Local Development Plan but this may not enough to stop the projects.
- 8.5 The question was asked whether the DCC could use grant funding to work full time on assessing local views and generating a response for DCC to the wind farms. MM stated again that it was important that the DCC reflected the views of the local community. This was agreed. CS raised the issue of a community buy-out but it was suggested that we do not have the infrastructure to maintain it.
- 8.6 KB advised that Banks had put in for Planning for Bodinglee and suggested that it was further advanced through planning than Grayside. DCC to investigate possibility of hiring a consultant but they would need to have an understanding of the issues given our rural context.

MM thanked KB for attending and her input to the meeting.

9 AOCB

- 9.1 AM advised of an issue in Robertson. The Care Home septic tank is leaking into the burn and SEPA cannot action at present. IR suggested contacting the Council's Environmental Health service.
- 9.2 LS advised that the Crawfordjohn picnic area group was in need of a bank a/c for grant applications. GW advised the Crawfordjohn Development Grp still has no bank account as difficult for people to take time off to go to Barclays to set up an account.
- 9.3 GW reminded members of the emails circulated around Xmas –
Chris Grant – Ability Net
Alan Bannister – SL Open Access Forum
Barry Knock – Inter CC meeting
Council Budget setting

These already covered and AJ had shown interest in attending budget setting meeting.
