

# DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

**TUESDAY 4 July 2023**

**Roberton Hall**

with

**Zoom Input**

## **AGENDA**

### **1 Present**

1.1 Malcolm Muir, Liz Steele, Irene Riddell, Gordon Wilson, Clare Symonds. Anne Jefferies (Zoom), Clare Symonds, Cllr Allison, Cllr Barker.

### **1.2 Apologies**

Alison Mitchell, Nicci Hill

### **1.3 Public**

Chris Birchall

### **2 Minute of Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

2.1 Minute approved – Proposed by AJ, seconded by CS.

### **3 Treasurer's Report**

3.1 AJ spoke to her report.

#### Balances

SLC Admin account balance: £266.47, bridging loan can be repaid once SLC 2023-4 payment arrives

Transaction date ▼	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
29 June 2023	INT	▼ 15JUN GRS 00121712	£0.55	-	£266.47

DCC General account balance: £36619.52, pending cheques being cashed

Transaction date ▼	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
29 June 2023	INT	▼ 15JUN GRS 00113132	£70.64	-	£37,144.57
26 June 2023	CHQ	▼ 000371	-	£240.00	£37,073.93
13 June 2023	CHQ	▼ 000373	-	£2,500.00	£37,313.93
6 June 2023	CHQ	▼ 000370	-	£50.00	£39,813.93
2 June 2023	BAC	▼ WARD WK	£113.60	-	£39,863.93
1 June 2023	CHQ	▼ 000368	-	£2,700.00	£39,750.33

#### Activity since May meeting

Closed out 4 grants after receipts received, £113.60 underspend refund for the CWFF micro grant pot

2023-24 £23,005.96 CDW Year 4 funding released by SSE on 9-May-23

£3K of funding for the various Coronation projects released by SSE on 15-May-23

Issued 7 cheques that were minuted in May

Mary Clapperton payment increased to £50 due to individual turbine mapping, agreed via email during May, updated cheque issued

Glenkerie micro grant application for Coulter Ringcrafts Mats £250 was approved via email after the June meeting was cancelled

#### Actions

Identify initiatives for Priestgill wind farm community monies

Minuting cheques for:

- Anne Jefferies to refund the bridging loan of £300 for the SLC Admin account
- CMHWF2 Community Cafes Q2 2023 expenses of £462.25, refunding Liz Steele
- Liz Steele for around £80 for the newsletter printing, will be issued once newsletter content finalised and order can be sent to the printers
- 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
- Hire of Old School House for £52, 21<sup>st</sup> August for the Abington Hall potential asset transfer public meeting

#### With Others

SLC confirmed 2022-23 audit successfully passed, admin grant of £444.70 pending bank payment

#### Grant Monies Remaining (excludes Actions amounts)

- CWFF: £5667.68 remaining of the 2023-4 grant
- Ventient Energy Glenkerie: £347.32 remaining of the 2022-23 grant
- Clyde Extension: £1265 remaining of the 2022-23 grant
- Other grants: £5650
- Clyde Extension DCC-directed pot: £30,271.40 remaining of £143,000 allocation

## 4 Grants

### 4.1 Two grant applications to consider

- 4.2 Crawford John Joggers - Equipment - Reflective bibs/head torches etc to assist night event £250 (Clyde Extension)

Roberton Gardening Club - Dumfries House & Gardens visit – following talk by Dumfries House head gardener - £250 (Glenkerie). AM had already excused herself from this vote.

Both grant applications were approved unanimously.

5 Muirhall Energy – Update on Priestgill Wind Farm.

- 5.1 Jack Henry (Project Manager), Steven Crawshaw (Assist P.M.), Andrew Jackson (Assist. P.M.) & Lesley McNeil (Head of Communication and Communities) from Muirhall spoke to the project.

JH advised that 7 turbines had been consented – 5 at 200m, 2 at 180m high. The target is to start work on the Wandel road in August this year, with foundations etc next year. Deliveries through to 2025 and connection in December 2025. To use the same access road as Clyde W/F and creating one new access off that road. The grid route for the power connection is 12 km, mainly overground. There is a new S37 application in for some pylons. To connect to SPEN network at Elvanfoot, using 110 poles that are 12m tall.

- 5.2 CS asked who was responsible for the site during construction. JH advised that Muirhall will retain overall responsibility for the site but will appoint a lead designer and contractor. Currently tendering for a principal designer. They use a small number of trusted contractors. Muirhall looks to involve local trades if possible. Ground works and deliveries could be examples. CS requested a list of works that locals could get involved in – Muirhall to provide.

- 5.3 JH explained that ground route likely to be split from the wind farm construction. Discussion focused on routes for deliveries etc. Turbines to come via M74. Cllr B stated that Abington village requires consideration. Muirhall advised that there will be several weeks of disruption. The route for the power cable will go under M74 with 7 or 8 transition points from below ground to above ground. Transport Management Plan required for road works but there will be one lane open at all times on Abington road.

- 5.4 LS asked about community benefit. Under Planning requirements Muirhall is committed to providing £5k per MW produced. As site generates 43.6MW there will be £218,000 community benefit per annum, currently for 25 years but there is a Planning application in to extend the lifespan to 40 years. Community benefit to be split between Duneaton and Crawford CC's. Concern was expressed about the greater visual impact in Duneaton. DCC currently looking at whether it can set up a limited company, or development trust. LN advised Muirhall could transfer the money rather than pass it to SLC. MM advised that there are significant discussions to take place around this and any adjudication panel and representation on this body. LN advised of a scheme Muirhall is involved with which has 5 CC's represented on a board with Muirhall operating in an advisory capacity. MM outlined how the Clyde W/F Extension panel operated with SSE providing admin support. MM asked that the Priestgill monies should include access to revenue funding. CS asked that we consider environmental benefits as well as community benefits. AJ suggested that the Priestgill monies

could be used through an RES type scheme to make payments to the local community. LN advised that Muirhall is open to discuss all options.

- 5.5 CB asked if there was any provision for landscaping of any of the works. Muirhall advised that there is none other than for the substation.

At this point, there being no more questions the Muirhall staff left the meeting with the Chair's thanks.

## **6 Planning**

- 6.1 SPEN Redshaw Substation proposal – LS and GW advised they had attended the public consultation in Crawfordjohn and there were some issues. As SPEN has a statutory obligation to provide electricity DCC cannot object to the development of the substation itself, but can to its positioning and landscaping. There will be no community benefit as a result. LS advised her husband has work as an expert witness regarding substations in Aberdeenshire, and is willing to look through the proposal for DCC. LS asked the project manager where the power to the substation was coming from and how. Was advised that may come via pylon but as Middle Muir power was sent underground this should be used as a precedent for the substation. LS suggested that as the application goes to SLC it would be useful if a Councillor could talk about it at Committee.

Cllr A advised that the substation is required locally as businesses are not able to draw on enough power for their needs.

- 6.2 Banks Group – Extended Lifespan for Middle Muir – GW advised he and LS spoke to Banks Group to see if extension could lead to community benefit locally. Potential to look at a Development Trust. The meeting agreed to investigate this option further.
- 6.3 MM asked CS to update DCC on the new Local Development Plan. CS advised that the new Planning system allows for Local Settlement Plans which local bodies can submit to the Council. CS advised that she is uncertain about how this will work out as Councils do not generally have the resources to deal with these. Cllr A advised that some settlements locally do not have a classification e.g. as a village. GW stated that Tony Finn from the Council's Planning Department attended the last meeting of the Community Planning Partnership and echoed CS's comments. MM stated that Community Council's working together in a strategic sense could close the disengagement between the unempowered lower tier of government and its upper tier.
- 6.4 CS asked if LS or others could provide a list of local groups so they could be encouraged to join the Planning process. The Council may set up community workshops to 'spread the word'. Cllr A stated that there are areas in the current Local Plan that building developers do not want to develop – there are anomalies in the Planning process.

## **7 Damage to riverbank/gravel extraction at Overburns Farm**

- 7.1 Property has changed hands recently. MM advised there has been damage to the riverbank but cannot say who has done it. There has been two episodes of bank destruction and gravel extraction. Apparently SEPA is involved and investigating.

## **8 Wind Farm Updates**

### **8.1 Grayside – no update.**

**Bodinglee** – GW/LS advised that at their recent meeting with the Banks Group they were told Banks had made their formal planning submission to ECU. Cllr A stated the Council is a statutory consultee and will not support the proposal. RB asked whether the Council had considered charging business rates on the wind farm? Cllr Barker advised this was not an option. CS asked whether the DCC should issue a questionnaire as we did for the Grayside development. MM agreed stating that he would need to amend the questionnaire and revisit the survey website. It was agreed that once this was done DCC would write to the Douglas and Rigside CC's offering them the chance to use the questionnaire in their areas. MM confirmed that use of postcodes will enable responses to be analysed by settlement. RB asked if copies should be put in the Tinto coffee shop as many people do not appreciate the impact Bodinglee will have.

LS said that the turbines will need aircraft lights. Banks may install infrared lights.

**West Andershaw** – no update

**Kennoxhead** – RES paper circulated by GW prior to meeting already touched on in Muirhall discussion. LS/GW to follow up on Development Trust options for DCC.

**Little Gala** – CS stated that a number of objections have been submitted and await the companies response.

**Glentaggart** – no update after public consultation.

CS asked that more general use be made of community benefit monies – including access for the public in general. MM stated that there are a range of uses monies that can be accessed and a strategic overview is required.

## **9 Flooding at Coulter and Lamington**

- 9.1 MM advised he had made an application to purchase gell bags for flood prevention. He suggested that he and IR assess what is required and that he would check what storage is available for the gell bags.

- 9.2 IR stated that the report by the Council's consultants does not appear to be finalised yet. She had asked the private consultant she had engaged for work costs related to the flood issue. These costs were considerably more than one person could meet. IR also spoke to BEAR who have recently relayed the road surface in Lamington. BEAR considering other options for drainage. IR extremely frustrated with the lack of progress – out of their property over 8 months. She has spoken to Scottish Flood Forum

can enforce works but not huge resources. MM referred to two beach trees that are blocking the river which may be a problem going forward.

- 9.3 Cllrs advised the Council Flood Team is experienced but has a small budget but SLC can enforce. IR to email Cllrs with details of her experience to date.

## **10 Report from Meeting with Renewable Energy Scotland regarding Local Energy Discount Scheme.**

- 10.1 It was agreed that this was already referred to and DCC agreed to progress investigation into setting up a Development Trust or alternative body to progress LEDS assessment.

## **11 Community Development Worker report**

- 11.1 Amazingly I've now worked for 4 years for DCC. I'm pleased DCC created the role as I feel having a development worker is a valuable asset for the community. I really enjoy my job too!

### **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.

#### **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.

No cafes during July and August. I'm meeting my main volunteers on July 12th to clarify dates to take us up to the end of Dec. Continuing the pattern of delivering 5 cafes over an 8-week period. Once decided can publish in the newsletter.

**2<sup>nd</sup> application of £2,000** awarded to Duneaton for shopping bus trips. Pearl Jones from Abington has taken ownership of organising the trips for 4 trips with a 33 seater to Livingston, Gretna, Carlisle and The Fort at an average cost of £500 per bus. I'm waiting on invoices being sent to me from the bus company.

### **Meetings:**

Last month I met with **Heathy Valley's Active Travel** staff related to the possibility of establishing electric bicycle hubs in Crawfordjohn and Wiston. These villages have been selected as the halls are community owned and therefore don't need permission from SLC. Although I support the idea of making electric bikes easily available, they will be rented through an online portal with a volunteer/s responsible for checking bikes before the next rental. I've issues with the logistics of this, including liability of the volunteer. As I was unavailable to attend the meeting at Wiston, I've invited representatives to a zoom to collate our thoughts on the project.

I'm at least pleased Duneaton is now on the radar for organisations considering where to deliver their projects.

## **RES**

Malcolm, Gordon and I had an interesting meeting with RES about the logistics of them being employed to distribute windfarm community benefit funds to affected properties as monthly electricity payments. Hoping there will be further discussion at the July meeting.

## **Banks Middle Muir windfarm**

Related to Banks planning application to extend the life of Middlemuir from 25 years to 40 years. Gordon and I attended an online meeting with Robin and Michael from Banks to discuss the possibility of making changes to the current agreement with SLC for the community benefit. As the extension begins in 2043, working with that timescale it's possible there might anyway be changes made to how the funds are managed. We spent more time discussing the possibility of Banks supporting a new Development Trust through the community benefit from Bodinglee. Hoping for a CC discussion on thoughts of creating a Development Trust for Duneaton plus selected other CCs in the local area.

## **Glenkerie panel member:**

As outlined in an email to all DCC members, due to over commitment with being involved in too many volunteer groups, after 2 years I've handed in my resignation to the Glenkerie fund panel. I continue to represent DCC as a panel member for SSE Clyde Extension. Following an online meeting with Chris Dempster who leads the panel, there will be publicity and possibly an interview to fill the post. Still waiting for updates from Chris.

A meeting with Gordon related to Redshaw substation project, an understanding of windfarm funds and how to present the idea of a Development Trust to DCC, in theory supported by community funds from new windfarms.

Through the Scottish Government, SP Energy are obligated to supply the means to 'process' energy made through renewables. Therefore there is no opportunity to object to the substation as a development, only to ensure it's in the right location and is properly designed. Gordon and I individually attended SP Energy's public display for the development and both are keen for a discussion at the next meeting.

**Development Trust:** I've done a brief assessment of the basics of the reasoning and process for creating a Development Trust. If any one of the planned windfarms agree for the community benefit to go to the community rather than be administered by SLC, there needs to be some format for the funds to be managed by the community. In my opinion a DT seems the best way forward. WAT IF, Lanark and Carluke already have successful Trusts. I've arranged a meeting with Pat Mayvor who leads WAT IF plus Gordon and Robin and Michael from Banks, for Pat to give an outline of what the process involves.

**Third Sector Networking Event, Biggar municipal.** Delivered quarterly by CCI, Healthy Valleys and VASLan, this event continues to be worthwhile to attend. For me to use the workshops to promote Duneaton and to engage with other 'useful' organisations. The best outcome this time was to learn about a free taxi service for

people with cancer to attend appointments and day care arrangements. The individual needs to register initially and then can book volunteers to take them and their carer if needed. The booking doesn't include others so is direct to and from the location. I published the information on Fb and will continue to promote throughout the year. I'll also include it in the newsletter.

## **CDW Village Project Updates: my actions and outcomes**

### **Abington**

#### **Abington Hall public meeting:**

I've booked the main room at The Old Schoolhouse for a public meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August, 7-9pm. Iain Mulholland responsible for SLC asset transfers will lead the meeting. I'll publicise the information in the newsletter plus print a leaflet to deliver to every household in Abington.

#### **Original email script from Iain outlining the background to the closure/way forward for the community.**

Iain Mullholland from the SLC Community Empowerment Team has a role responsible for Asset Transfer. I met with him on the 13<sup>th</sup> March to discuss Abington Hall.

It is unlikely SLC will re-open the hall.

SLC will consider community asset transfer.

If no community interest in the property then the possibility SLC will demolish the building, but that would be at a cost with funds they don't have.

SLC? Hall regeneration fund for kept halls.

Community Ownership Fund 50%

Purchase of building or land through The Scottish Land Fund

Needs strategic thinking

Abington community has 12 months to consider whether they wish to take ownership or not.

Suggestion for me to lead a public meeting alongside Iain.

### **Coulter**

No updates from Coulter

### **Crawfordjohn**

I've been working with a volunteer on the process plus funding information to purchase a new defibrillator through the Community Heartbeat Trust. An initial enquiry has been passed by the Clyde Community Fund. Just waiting on final costs from CHT before assisting to complete the application.

### **Lamington**

Nothing to report

### **Roberton Hall**

This month's Community café was a great success with around 20 people attending.

In my own time I've been involved with Braw Clan's Soup and a Story project. Funded by SSE Clyde, I provided the lunch for 3 events. Braw Clan invited a local



actor, all having current or past roles in well-known TV series and theatre, to read a 20-30 minute local Scots language story. Fantastic to have 40 plus people at each event, with famous actors and culture in a wee village like Roberton. Amazing to listen to the stories which were brought alive by the skills of the actor. More are planned for the autumn.

Braw Clan are also delivering a 3-person play in July at many village halls in our area.

## **Wiston**

This month's Community café was a great success with around 20 people attending.

Wiston hall volunteers are meeting with Healthy Valleys to discuss the possibility of housing an electric bike hire initiative at the hall. As I've reservations on some of the logistics of the project, I've asked for confirmation with members of the Hall committee for an online meeting to discuss the initiative. This is booked for 9.30 on Monday should anyone like to join?

### **11.2 Three items to report –**

- 1 - RES already dealt with.
- 2- Development Trust - MM advised that Biggar CC would be interested as well should work together.
- 3 - Abington Hall – Public meeting with Council to consider asset transfer of hall on 21st August. Ian Mulholland from SLC to attend.

## **12 Local News/AOCB**

12.1 Garden Waste Collections - Cllr B referred to burgundy bin collections. Council apparently couldn't identify areas where these bins are collected. Cllr A advised there are 5000 properties do not get these collections. Now an issue of requiring more lorries and staff. Likely the Council will not recommence garden waste uplifts.

12.2 Wind Farm Funding Update – GW referred to the note on funding he had circulated prior to the meeting. He would welcome any comments any of DCC members may have.

## **13 Date of Next Meeting**

13.1 The next meeting of DCC is at Roberton Hall on 5 September 2023 at 7.30pm.

There is no August meeting.

