

DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 4 May 2021

(Zoom Meeting)

AGENDA

1 Present

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

Public attendees - Glynn Booton; Virginia Bennett;

Representatives - Phil Cave (Shed Group); Wilma Weir (SLC Vocational Development Officer)

1.2 Apologies

Anne Jefferies, Cllr Holford; Cllr McAllan; Katie Stuart-Cox

2 Connect2 Renewables for Employability Fund update

- 2.1 MM introduced WW to talk about the above initiatives for local people. WW advised that the fund had a number of initiatives including wage subsidies for employers and training opportunities which could support people going to college. The covid pandemic has created problems for implementation but the fund provides a postcode bursary for college students and can pay college fees as well. WW is looking for input from local communities to assist in identifying how the funds can best be used to improve employment opportunities for local people. The use of the fund is subject to audit by the Council. The Council itself is the lender of last resort but can help people with some basics like filling in job applications.

- 2.2 The level of funding available to individuals has increased – this can take the form of year it is hoped it will be increased to £500.

- 2.3 LS asked if it was Middle Muir wind farm funding and how does the training fit into the rural environment? WW advised it was and that the training may involve a local company if there was a chance of the individual gaining full time employment. WW stated that the fund has to consider the cost of any equipment required in the training and this is where the employer can assist.

- 2.4 MM asked if there was any needs assessment breakdown for the training in the area. WW advised there is not, but they work with the DWP in Lanark. WW said she needs to get into areas to promote the fund but this has been difficult in the last few months. She had previously visited local halls advertising the fund and could be contacted in Rigside Hall on Monday pms and has contacted Crawfordjohn Hall and contacted KSC in Abington. She sees her role as being a broker between individuals and employers.

MM thanked WW for attending and giving an update on the fund.

3 Previous Minute

- 3.1 MM advised of two actions from the previous minute:

- 1 draft questionnaire for Duneaton area regards Grayside wind farm. Several ideas have been received regarding the draft he issued and it is likely to be issued before the next meeting.

- 2 draft spreadsheet for tracking wind farm timelines. This has been done. GB asked if this would be published on the website. MM advised it would.

4. Treasurer's Statement

- 4.1 AJ had advised MM there was no change to the DCC balances since the last meeting.

5 Grant Applications

- 5.1 MM advised one application had been received from the Men's Shed Group for £200. AM asked what the monies were for. PC advised that the monies were sought to help the group publicise their activities and to encourage more people to join. The group is asking for £200 from a number of Community Councils to enable them to pay for £1,000 of leaflets which will be distributed by the Royal Mail. At this point PC left the meeting. There was general consensus that the organisation was worth supporting and it was agreed to provide the £200 as requested. Proposed by IR and seconded by RC.
- 5.2 IR raised the issue of a grant application lodged by her husband for the Chapel. AJ had advised that although the submission went in on Friday it could not be considered till the next meeting as the agenda had already been finalised. MM agreed to speak to AJ regarding this.

6 Planning Applications

- 6.1 There were no Planning applications to discuss.

7 Wind Farm Update

Greyside

- 7.1 MM advised that the Grayside planning application was going in during the summer and this was a good time for DCC to canvas local opinion.

Bodinglee

- 7.2 MM stated that DCC would need to do another questionnaire for that development which is different in scale and scope.
- 7.3 VB advised she had written to the Banks Group's, Robin Winstanley. At the previous meeting he had attended VB asked him to include the Roberton group in their consultation. She asked him if they had changed the scoping report given the comments already submitted. He had advised they had not. She has also been approached by The Scotsman which is also running an article regarding wind farms.
- 7.4 LS stated that Banks needed to address all the comments raised about its scoping report and amend the report accordingly.
- 7.5 VB also said that the Roberton group has written to all the Councillors and nominees for the elections about the windfarm but had received mixed responses.
- 7.6 MM again reminded the meeting that it was difficult for the DCC to take sides as it has to reflect the views of the whole area. The questionnaire, once drafted, will assist in that process.

- 7.7 GB suggested that the MoD issue (Eskdalemuir decision) applies at Grayside as well. VB agreed, however the level of disturbance caused by the windfarms in the area means that the MoD level has already been exceeded. Grayside is closer to the MoD area than some others. MM advised he would check with the Energy Consent Unit of the Scottish Government. RC stated that there had been objections when the Clyde windfarm was established by that made no difference.
- 7.8 VB also made the point that the National Grid had not been a consultee in Banks report. RC raised the fact that there are two major pipelines in the area as well. GB suggested that when the Clyde windfarm was developed the MoD budget figure may not have been exceeded but has been now.

8 Development Worker's Report

- 8.1 £2,000 for pop-up café not now needed as room not now available.
- 8.2 Alternative spends
- 1 Now working on tea-boxes – made for 2 - 4 people who are over 70 so they can meet up.
 - 2 purchase of gazebos so halls can have outside events during the summer. Suggested that two per hall be purchased. IR advised Lamington has one so only needs one.
- 8.3 LS has received monies from VasLan and SLC and has £1,800 remaining. IR suggested putting flowers in the villages to encourage people to get out and garden
- 8.4 LS advised that the Make Your Way project for a cycleway from Abington to the M74 services has not been progressed as landowner permission was not granted. It has now gone to SLC for an on-road solution.
- 8.5 Phone box in Abington for sale by BT for £1. However only charitable trusts or community groups can purchase it. There is then the maintenance of it going forward. KSC had advised that someone in the village was keen to take it on.
- 8.6 Defibrillator – Lamington group now dropping out. Coulter Community Group to take it on. SLC will sign maintenance agreement. However, Coulter group needs to have a bank account to progress. MM to check.
- 8.7 Crawfordjohn – SLC deciding if it will issue a new agreement for the site.
- 9 AOCB
- 9.1 MM referred to GB comment regarding the need for the A73 to be resurfaced near the bridge at Roberton. RC advised he had reported it via the SLC portal and urged GB and others to do the same. The portal had advised that an engineer would visit in 5 working days.

10 Date of next meeting

- 10.1 Tuesday 2 June 2021, at 7.30pm.

Actions

- 5.1 Provide £200 grant to Shed Group.

- 5.2 Clarification needed regarding the consideration of grant applications when the agenda has been prepared.
- 7.6 Grayside questionnaire to be posted on Facebook page.
- 7.7 MM to check with Energy Consent Unit at Scottish Government regarding MoD disturbance levels.

Upload spreadsheet for tracking key windfarm dates onto website.

Tracking of Banks Group Scoping Report amendments.
- 8.2 Purchase of tea boxes and gazebos to proceed.
- 8.6 Defibrillator to be progressed.
- 9.1 A73 non-slip surface at bridge near Robertson refer to SLC.