

DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 7 November 2023

Roberton Hall

With

Zoom Input

MINUTES

1 Present

1.1 Malcolm Muir, Gordon Wilson, Alison Mitchell, Liz Steele, Anne Jefferies (via Zoom)

1.2 **Councillors**

Cllr McAllan

1.3 **Apologies**

Nicci Hill (resigned), Cllr Allison, Cllr Barker, Irene Riddell.

1.4 **Public**

Douglas Hume, Jonathan McCosh.

At the commencement of the meeting Cllr McAllan advised he had brought wreaths to be circulated to the villages. These will be distributed at the end of the meeting.

2 Minute of Last Meeting and Matters Arising







2.1 GW apologised for the fact that he had only circulated the minute from the October meeting earlier in the day. AM advised she had checked the minute and thought they were fine. GW asked for any changes in the next few days after which he will issue to the Council.

3 Treasurer's Report

3.1 AJ presented her report as follows;

Balances

SLC Admin account balance: £205.31

	Date ↓	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
▼	11 Oct 2023		000127		-£20.00	£205.31
▼	02 Nov 2023		000386	-£390.00	£36,141.44	
▼	30 Oct 2023		000381	-£100.00	£36,531.44	
▼	30 Oct 2023		CLYDE WF	+£350.00	£36,631.44	
▼	27 Oct 2023		000388	-£250.00	£36,281.44	
▼	27 Oct 2023		000383	-£500.00	£36,531.44	
▼	09 Oct 2023		000378	-£150.00	£37,031.44	

DCC General account balance: £16553.28, pending multiple cheques being cashed

Activity since October meeting

- Closed out 5 grants after receipts received
- Received £350 of Year 1 Clyde Extension monies from SSE on 30-Oct-23 to cover the Development Trust initial meetings and publicity printing costs
- Issued cheque for £2960.88 refunding Malcolm Muir for the CWFF Coulter/Lamington flood prevention grant

Actions

- Identify initiatives for Priestgill wind farm community monies
- Minuting the purchase of 16 second class stamps by the Treasurer using the SLC grant money, expected to be £12
- Issue cheque to Liz Steele for £301.58 reimbursing CWMHF2 cafe materials and hall hire
- Microgrant applications:
 - Crawfordjohn Kids' Christmas £500 (Clyde)
 - Upper Clyde Guild Afternoon Teas £200 (Glenkerie)
 - Wiston Defib Battery £336 (Clyde)

With Others

- 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
- SLC issuing £2960.88 payment for the CWFF Coulter/Lamington flood prevention grant

Grant Monies Remaining (excludes Actions amounts)

- CWFF: £2677.68 remaining of the 2023-4 grant
- Ventient Energy Glenkerie: £1997.32 remaining of the 2023-4 grant
- Clyde Extension: £732.12 remaining of the 2022-23 grant
- Other grants: £4797.75
- Clyde Extension DCC-directed pot: £29925.40 remaining of £143,000 allocation

4 **Grants**

4.1 Three grant applications to consider,

SSE Clyde Community Fund;

Crawfordjohn - £500 towards childrens' Christmas party

Wiston - £336 for battery for village defibrillator

Glenkerie Fund;

Upper Clyde Guild, Robertson – 3200 towards afternoon teas for older residents.

All three grant applications were approved unanimously.

5. **Planning Issues**

- 5.1 GW advised of the recent application by Hodge to extend the lifespan of the Duneaton Quarry from 2029 to 2036. LS advised that this may be a good thing otherwise the site may become a landfill site.
- 5.2 LS updated about the Gilkerscleugh planting application. She thanked the DCC for the email sent to the Forestry Commission which supported the local residents' objections to the forestry proposal. It appears that the application failed the due diligence test and was refused. MM stated that the planting of Sitka spruce along the valley floor and the mix of planting were both inappropriate for the area. In addition, there was a threat to wading birds in the area.

6. AGM Business

- 6.1** MM advised that he had hoped to stand down as Chair at the December AGM. However, given the fact that NH has resigned and AM is leaving he feels he may have to stay on in the short term. He stated that we need to have a blitz on membership. GW reminded the meeting that we have included a message about the membership on the recent flyers about the Development Trust public meetings. LS/GW agreed they would highlight this at these meetings.
- 6.2** AM advised she had a replacement for her in line and she would email the details to GW.
- 6.3** LS thought one of the representatives on the Glenkirie Board may be a possible member. LS to email CM regarding this.

7 Development Trusts

- 7.1** GW spoke to update regarding this initiative. He advised that MM and LS had met with him to agree a script for the public meetings and that we now have 6 meetings set up in the villages, starting on Monday 13th in Coulter. MM confirmed that the Development Trust would be a better vehicle for dealing with the windfarm and other monies., however it needed to be representative and accountable. He further stated that he thought a link to the DCC would be useful.

8. Wind Farm Updates

Grayside – MM asked JM if he could provide any further information to DCC about Grayside. JMcc said he could make no public comment.

Bodinglee – No further update.

Andershaw West – No further progress at this stage. GW to write to the company concerned about progress as he understood they hoped to submit to Planning in December.

Priestgill – AM understood that construction would start in February 2024. There was then discussion about community benefit monies in relation to a local energy discount scheme. MM agreed to write to Muirhall Energy to progress that proposal.

Kennoxhead – Nothing to report.

Little Gala – Nothing to report.

9. Development Workers Report

9.1 Community Cafes:

With the start of winter cafes 3 times a week at The Old School House, Abington it's a good time for us to stop our free cafes. Over the past 12 months we've delivered nearly 30 cafes to help people gain confidence to socialise post pandemic, to then continue to offer a social community service. The initiative has been a great success. We've served people from all Duneaton villages, Crawford, Leadhills, Lesmahagow and Biggar.

Of course, many of our regular customers who came to most of the cafes, plus those who went to their own village venue are disappointed, but I've encouraged them to join in with Nicci's new initiative. I've also shared that Braw Clan's Soup and a Story at Robertson Hall is returning monthly for 7 months starting in February.

9.2 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. I've contacted SLC for approval/installation of the bench. As no one wants to take responsibility I've been advised to proceed with the project. Next step is to find a contractor to install it with payment from microgrant. The bench is still to be ordered.

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.

Spend from round 1 May-June: £1,206.14. Leaving a balance of £4,643.86 to be spent within the next 12 months.

There will be approximately £2k remaining from the CMHWF café fund. Once the café costs are finalised, I'm going to ask VASLan if the remainder of the fund can be transferred to use for bus shopping trips next year.

2nd application of £2,000 awarded for shopping bus trips. Pearl Jones from Abington has taken ownership of organising the 4 trips. 2 have already been successfully delivered. The next is 8 Sept to Glasgow Fort. The 4th date to be confirmed in November to Livingston. Happily, it's been a highly successful project.

9.3 Meetings/Initiatives:

- **X74 bus**

Sharon Abernethy from Abington emailed to ask if DCC/Councillors can write to Stagecoach to ask if the X74 Glasgow bus can stop in Abington, the same as the bus to Edinburgh does. The obvious issue that if you have no option for someone to drop and collect you at the services, the bus route is not accessible to many.

If this change can be made it would at least tick a box related to transport as listed in DCC's community plan.

Active Travel

Working in partnership with Healthy Valleys, on 14th October we delivered a 'come and try electric bike session' at Crawfordjohn Hall. 8 bikes were available and 6 peoples attended. I think everyone enjoyed the session, with an opportunity to try an electric bike for the 1st time.

The idea stemmed from my initial interest of the potential to engage with Healthy Valley's new initiative, to have solar powered bike lockers housing bikes for community hire at Crawfordjohn Hall. I've had numerous questions on the proposed logistics plus questioning the costs and so am please HV are now reviewing their strategy in the hope of re-launching the project in the Spring.

Development Trust

I've been working with GW related to gathering information for setting up a Development Trust. Gordon has been fantastic with his time and skills to move the project forward. The

outcome of meetings with John Main, DTAS officer for our area, Colin McMillan from SSE Clyde Extension and MM has helped to clarify the positive reasons and practical process for working towards setting up the Trust.

Gordon has booked meeting venues in each of our 6 villages. Together we're working on the script to deliver at the meeting along with a separate flyer to help attendees understand local funding opportunities. You are all invited to attend anyone of the meetings.

Age Scotland

Following on from an initial meeting I'm pleased to have formed a link with Ann Yourston from Age Scotland. Ann attended our last café at Abington to offer support and information to attendees. She says many over 50s are unaware of possible available Government support. I encouraged attendees to talk to her.

Monthly meeting with Colin McMillan, SSE Clyde extension fund manager

Am pleased to have this opportunity to discuss topics with Colin.

Colin is particularly interested in the idea of a new Development Trust for our area. Although not a lawyer, his previous job was advising 3rd sector organisations on the legal structure of initiatives such as DTs. He's also interested related to potential DT funding applications. Gordon and I were pleased with the information shared during our meeting with Colin.

9.4 CDW Village Project Updates: my actions and outcomes

Abington - Masonic Hall Ian Brown a member of the Masons has been in touch again to ask for guidance for possible funding to help refurbish the building to make it more fit for purpose for community use. I met with Ian today, 2nd Nov to discuss his ideas. I've outlined the funding process and have invited Kenny Lean to meet with Ian and I at the Masonic Hall for Kenny to make comment before Ian progresses any further.

Coulter - Nothing personally to report. Malcolm is working hard to try to get Culter library back up and running plus other local projects.

Crawfordjohn - Crawfordjohn Hall

Application to REF is waiting for approval to purchase a new defibrillator through the Community Heartbeat Trust (same set up as in Roberton). This is still in process.

The electric bike come and try was a success.

With additional funding and as a volunteer, the badminton group is back up and running on a Thursday; free yoga taster sessions have started, with the hope they continue as paid sessions; a fantastic performance by Scottish Opera linked to The Biggar Little Festival publicity.

As secretary of the village group, Gordon has publicised the idea of having allotments in the piece of land between the village hall and the graveyard.

Lamington -Driving through Lamington I see there are roadworks for improvements related to flooding. So pleased for Irene that hours of hard work have paid off.

Roberton - Nothing to report

Wiston - I'm told the project to rebuild/refurbish Wiston Hall at a high level is in progress. Very well done to those involved from the Hall committee.

- 9.5 LS recently advised the defibrillator at Abington has been stolen. A preferable site for a replacement could be the Old Schoolhouse or shop. Coincidentally, she has been contacted by the Biggar First Responders from Biggar Rotary Club. They are prepared to take on the weekly checks of the defibrillators in the various villages. Now LS looking to put a defibrillator at the school in Lamington, where she had difficulty getting someone to do the necessary checks. AM advised that their local committee carries out the weekly checks. LS believes the Community Hub will replace the Abington kit.

10. Matters Arising

- 9.1 MM referred to an email from Cllr Barker regarding concerns about potholes on a road in Abington which is unadopted but frequently used. Cllr McA confirmed this was not a Council matter.
- 9.2 MM referred to an email from IR providing an update on the Lamington flooding. Bund in place. BEAR is putting new gulleys on the A702 which will drain the water to the burn and not to the current but ineffective drainage. Cllr McA advised he had attended a meeting with several organisations and individuals and summarized that progress is being made. MM advised that smaller trees have been removed by the Estate from the burn in Coulter. He has received £3,000 worth of gel bags which he has started distributing. He has given 12 boxes to Lamington. JMcC advised that we need to work with nature in trying to deal with the water issue. If we don't do that it will revert to its original course and remain an issue. He is unsure what more can be done. MM agreed. JMcC added that the water has come down off a frozen hill and it is difficult to change the outcome as a result.
- 9.3 GW reminded the meeting about the email from the Community Council bordering the DCC area which is part of an initiative regarding the Local Planning process. The response date is 17th November. MM agreed to have a look at the information and draft a reply as appropriate.
- 9.4 AM referred to issues in Howgate Road, Robertson and asked the Councillor to relay issues to Roads.
- 9.5 Cllr McA advised that the Council was considering a series of proposals from officers for cuts in services to meet budgetary constraints. He thought it unlikely all these will go through. He also advised he had sent the first of a series of monthly reports to MM regarding the levels of crime in the local villages. He also stated there is an issue regarding the Xmas tree for Abington which normally sits outside the hall. As the building is now not in use there is no access to power for the tree.
- 9.6 MM advised the Councillor of badly choked drains in Coulter and that there is a broken branch of a tree on Birthwood Road that is snagged on cables and is above the roadway.
- 9.7 JMcC asked if the DCC had any leverage with Scottish Water. There is a 4" water pipe that runs along the A702 between Lamington and Biggar which frequently bursts and floods fields. IT requires frequent repairs as it does not appear to cope with the pressure – approx. 2.5 miles of pipe needs attention – a major piece of work. AM provided JMcC with the contact details of an Operations Manager at Scottish water.

13 Date of Next Meeting - AGM

- 13.1 Robertson Hall on Tuesday 5 December 2023 at 7.30pm.
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