

DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 5 October 2021

(Zoom Meeting)

AGENDA

1 Present

- 1.1 Malcolm Muir, Gordon Wilson, Cllr E Holford, Alison Mitchell, Robin Craig, Irene Riddell, Liz Steele, Robin Craig,
Public Attendees - Kasy and Glyn Booton

1.2 Apologies

Anne Jefferies, Cllr McAllan.

2 Previous Minute

- 2.1 GW advised he had received comments from AJ regarding the Grant applications which he was happy to accept and text relating to AM being adopted as a full member of the DCC. He asked MM if he had heard anything from the Council regarding the status of John McLatchie's membership of the DCC. MM had not and GW advised he would contact SLC about that.

3 Actions from Last Meeting

3.1 Clarification of deadline for grant applications on agenda.

MM to speak to AJ about this when she has recovered from long Covid.

3.2 Grayside wind farm questionnaire to be posted on Facebook page.

MM agreed to summarise the results of the Grayside survey and post them on the Facebook page.

3.3 MM to check with Energy Consent Unit at Scottish Government regarding MoD disturbance levels.

MM has not seen anything further on the SG ECU website but will keep looking

3.4 Defibrillator in Coulter

MM advised not progressed in Coulter.

3.5 Wind Farm spreadsheet

MM advised this has been updated but it is difficult to keep up with all the developments.

3.6 Tracking Banks Scoping Report amendments

No change. Awaiting Banks updates to report which should appear on the ECU website.

3.7 Andershaw West wind farm

GW advised Statkraft had postponed his meeting with them due to illness. Meeting has been re-arranged for the end of this month.

3.9 Cllr Allan - issues being taken forward- Crawfordjohn picnic area; garden waste uplifts; non-slip area on A73;

MM suggested these could be removed but AM stated the garden waste issue is still live. EH advised he contacts the senior official responsible on at least a weekly basis and is still being told Covid is an issue. There is resistance from the Unions to put staff in their vehicles and this allied to staff absences means garden waste is not being collected. Kerbside waste collections remain the priority. IR asked that the skips at the recycling centres should be cleared on a regular basis so people can dispose of their garden waste. Her husband has been unable to dispose of waste on three separate occasions. AM stated that taking garden waste to these centres is not a solution for everyone, particularly the elderly. MM advised that Coulter had never had a garden uplift but AM confirmed that such uplifts were pre-booked. There was concern expressed that the Council was dragging its heels in not getting services back to normal sooner.

3.10 Windfarm Spreadsheet on website.

MM confirmed this has been done, with it sitting at the top of the Facebook page.

4 Treasurer's Report

4.1 MM stated he would circulate the Treasurer's statement and read out key financial information.

Balances

SLC Admin account balance: £1066.94, pending Secretary honorarium being cashed.

Transaction date ▼	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
29 September 2021	INT	▼ 15SEP GRS 00121712	£0.10	-	£1,067.04

DCC General account

Transaction date ▼	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
29 September 2021	INT	▼ 15SEP GRS 00113132	£3.60	-	£41,013.71

Transaction date ▼	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
24 August 2021	BAC	▼ CLYDE WF	£18,453.20	-	£41,010.11
10 August 2021	CHQ	▼ 000287	-	£1.90	£22,556.91
10 August 2021	CHQ	▼ 000285	-	£112.00	£22,558.81
10 August 2021	CHQ	▼ 000281	-	£279.99	£22,670.81
10 August 2021	CHQ	▼ 000280	-	£279.99	£22,950.80
6 August 2021	CHQ	▼ 000283	-	£500.00	£23,230.79

Activity since September meeting

- Prepped paperwork for 4 grants, associated cheques are pending countersignature

- Coulter SWI Christmas lunch (£250 Glenkerie Covid) and partial £211 Crawfordjohn sewing group CWFF application approved via email, formally minuted here.
- Processed receipts and issued refund for Lamington Covid gazebo
- Closed out 2 grants after receipts received, no overpayment refunds required

Actions

- Grant applications:
 - Coulter Ringcraft Dog Training Group £245.04 (Glenkerie)
 - Robertson Santa Stones £320 (CWFF)
 - Coulter WRI Pantomime Tickets £500 (CWFF)
 - Lamington and Coulter Primaries Christmas Party £178.30 (Glenkerie)
- Issuing cheque of £8074.11 for last Year 2 CDW payment to RDT, closing out that grant
- Send in forms to change RBS signatories and add Alison as a member once Sept minutes are updated and approved
- Chair to countersign SSE grant form for CDW Year 3 grant

Pending With Others

- SLC approval of EOY accounts then 2021-22 SLC admin grant will be issued
- Abington School House group feedback on the draft agreement and, once that's signed off by DCC Chair/Treasurer, sending the first invoice to the DCC
- Liz has found further Covid funding, pending grant paperwork

Grant Monies Remaining

- CWFF: £2822.65 remaining of the £5000 2020-21 grant
 - Ventient Energy Glenkerie: £131.31 remaining of the £1000 2020-21 grant (need to use unspent Covid Glenkerie money to top up this pot when required per Fund instructions)
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 - VASLAN Covid #2 £1000 2021 grant has all been spent
 - SLC Covid: £650 remaining of the £900 2021 grant
 - Ventient Energy Glenkerie Covid: £835 remaining of the £2000 2020 grant
 - REF Covid: £148.13 remaining of the £1000 2021 grant
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- £1633.13 total Covid funding available

5 Grant Applications

MM advised he was aware of 5 grant applications to discuss.

- 5.1 Lamington Primary Parent Council grant request for £178.30 - funding presents
and refreshments for Christmas parties.

Robertson Social Group Clyde Community micro grant - Santa Stones painting £320

Dog training Coulter £245.04 - training for local dog owners

All of the above were approved unanimously.

- 5.2 Coulter RWI Clyde Community micro grant £250 Coulter WRI Panto trip £500 - to assist members integrate after Covid restrictions. It was recognised that the DCC would normally only contribute to transport costs, however due to covid it would approve grant which may include a contribution to part of the ticket costs. LS was asked to liaise with the group to ensure future applications include a breakdown of costs.

6 Planning Applications

- 6.1 GW advised that there was one application for the Wiston area and that DCC should note the further proposed extension of the wind farm towards Glespin.

7 Consultations – Felling application: Kingsbeck Estates

- 7.1 MM had drafted a reply which was agreed by the members at the meeting. MM to forward.

8 Wind Farm Updates

8.1 Grayside

If it is the case that the Developers have agreed the use of the SSE access road to their site. MM felt that this would make the development less of an issue than it may have been. This agreement is still to be confirmed.

KB advised that on the Grayside website there was information relating to a proposed public exhibition planned for the end of October. Concern that the DCC has not been advised of this. MM agreed to write to the developer expressing the DCC's concern that it had not been notified of this.

GB asked when the questionnaire responses will be posted on the website. People had completed the questionnaire but have had no information since. MM stated that he did not want to give away all the information gathered in the questionnaire at this time but agreed to put some general comments on the website. AM commented that developers seem to think posting information on their website absolves them of any further responsibility. KB confirmed that the exhibitions were to be held in Coulter and Abington on 27/28 October respectively.

MM to write to the developer as soon as he can.

8.2 Bodinglee

Banks working on responses to Scoping Report. No update - AM agreed to contact developer.

8.3 Andershaw West

GW advised that Statkraft had postponed the site meeting due to illness amongst their staff. A new date of 27 October has been arranged.

8.4 Kennoxhead

This is the amalgamation with another wind farm over the hill from Crawfordjohn.

8.5 Little Gala

No update.

9 Letter from Dumfries & Galloway Community Councils to First Minister regarding wind farms.

- 9.1 KB stated that the D&G Community Councils co-signed the letter to the First

Minister expressing concern about the number of new windfarm developments. MM agreed to get a copy of the letter. GW/AM agreed to get a list of the SLC Community Council contacts. It was agreed that the DCC could take a view on such developments and that DCC could perhaps liaise with other Clydesdale on a similar exercise to that undertaken by the Dumfries and Galloway Community Council.

10 Community Development Worker Report

10.1 Liz will be on annual leave from 11-15 October but will periodically check emails to see if there's anything outstanding to deal with.

10.2 Funding Update:

Covid Response Funding:

Glenkerie Covid fund = £1,333 (Accessed through micro grant applications, including applications from DCC) I don't have an update for any recent applications.

REF Covid support £1,000. Full amount has been paid to DCC. **Current balance £150.03**, after spend on 3 gazebos.

SLC £900. Full amount paid to DCC. **Current balance £400.** £500 allocated to Abington Store voucher scheme. £250 has been paid with the remainder to pay once all the vouchers have been spent. There is only 1 recipient remaining still to cash the vouchers in. The deadline for spend is today, 30th September.

10.3 New Funding

Accepted an invitation from Healthy Valleys to submit a proposal through them for Covid recovery funding and applied for £5k to support £500 for each village to spend before March 2022 and £2k to support my hours. Malcolm and Anne have agreed to reduce my DCC hours to 10 and to work the remaining 6hrs for Healthy Valleys for the duration of the £2k spend. The unworked DCC hours will add to the extension of my original DCC contract. It will be into October until I know if the bid has been successful.

With approval from Anne I've also submitted an application to 'Inspiring Scotland - Rural Communities Ideas into Action Fund' for a small grant of £3,000 to mimic the Healthy Valleys idea, £500 for all 6 villages. The idea to offer funding by application to each village for community events and activities to help promote post-Covid recovery. I will be notified in November.

10.4 Covid Recovery Support

I had a zoom meeting with 2 individuals from Healthy Valley's Resilient people team to discuss how to support people within our community who are having trouble re-integrating with society following 18 months of restrictions brought on by the pandemic. The outcome of the meeting is an idea to have an 'events' morning at Abington Hall with 'stalls' giving out information on a variety of health related issues and free refreshments. This idea is still in the development stage. If successful, from my knowledge this will be the 1st such event offered in our community.

Asked if HV would support the idea of a weekly morning of games/speaker/chat plus a soup lunch at Abington Hall, as being offered by them at the St Bride's Centre in Douglas. This would be open to anyone. Using a portion of the remaining £550 of Covid recovery funding, we could offer funding to support at least a number of trial sessions. There is a meeting on Wednesday to discuss the idea further.

Met with Lynn Shaw from the SLC Community Empowerment Team. It was helpful to talk through current community response to Covid recovery and ways we can work together in the future.

10.5 Connect2 Renewables - Middlemuir funded.

Created and reposted a Facebook page to encourage students from Abington, Crawfordjohn and Robertson who are attending college or university for the 1st time to apply for a £500 grant. So far there are 7 applicants. The opportunity is ongoing with no deadlines.

10.6 Promotion of microgrants and funding opportunities:

Promoted the reopening of Wiston, Crawfordjohn, Coulter and Abington village halls with information for microgrants to support new initiatives. Agree with Alison to push SLLC for the reopening of Robertson Hall, but it appears linked to recruitment, it may need to be a concentrated effort.

Liz has responses for grant assistance from Crawfordjohn for the sewing group and Coulter for new dog training classes. She has also been working with Ann Dobson on behalf of Coulter WRI.

I've also advertised other grant possibilities as a separate advertisement.

10.7 SLC winter pavement clearing initiative.

The deadline has now closed for application to SLC for additional winter grit. As noted last month Liz has worked with all villages to determine the need. Robertson expressed interest and have information on the application process. Irene presented a comprehensive chart of existing bins in Lamington and has suggested additional options for more bins. I presented her findings to Roads Department and am waiting on a response.

10.8 Clyde Funded Stained Glass schools project - community based projects

Fiona Foley from Leadhills has managed a number of school stained glass projects, working with pupils for up to 6 months on designing and making large stunning stained glass pieces for display at the schools. In principle Kenny Lean advised the Clyde Community grant would fund the projects for each of the primary schools in Duneaton. Yet to offer the project to the schools but hope there will be good interest. Aware permission needs to be sought from SLC Education to install the pieces and/or permission for them to be free standing within the building.

10.9 CDW Village Project Updates:

Abington - Nothing new to report, except the possibility of working with the Resilient People team from Healthy Valleys related to creating community events

in Abington Hall.

Coulter - Working with a couple from Coulter on a microgrant application for dog ringcraft classes in Coulter Hall. Apparently very sociable for dog and owner, as well as learning what's required for showing dogs at competitions. Also with applications from Coulter WRI.

Katie McInnes from SLC properties has been in touch asking if we still want the defibrillators at the schools. She's happy to put the project on hold until if and when things get back on track.

It would be good to get the Coulter Development Group back on track to start meeting again.

Crawfordjohn - 14 people attended the microgrant funded Crawfordjohn Qijong 2nd taster session on the 18th September. Terrific as attendance for the group which was previously down to 4 members before lock down. The ladies involved are hoping to offer another free session in October.

No news from the Crawfordjohn Development Group about restarting their group meetings.

Crawfordjohn Picnic area - Progress report from Val McCarren - The Council has recently agreed to renew the management arrangements for the site. The matter is now with DGA Forestry and their client to decide whether they are happy to renew at their end. They have also been asked to give a view on whether they would welcome our plan to apply for wind farm funding improve the site. Their response is awaited.

Val has also put out an invitation for the community to help clear up the adjacent woodland which is in a shocking state with rubbish and human waste. She has also contacted the Forestry and SLC to advise there are long term campers in caravans on the site.

Crawfordjohn Hall upgrade project - The feasibility study to consider the viability of solar for Crawfordjohn Hall is well underway. I attended a meeting with the feasibility contractor who is looking in depth at all actions for potential solar power for the hall and upgrade to the ground Source Heat Pump. The study should be completed by the end of October.

Lamington - No new initiatives in Lamington ,except for Irene's work related to the grit bins.

Roberton - Nothing new to report for Roberton, except on the re-opening of the hall.

Wiston - Nothing new to report from Wiston.

11 Loca News

11.1 Crawfordjohn

GW advised that on Saturday he would be taking up the invitation sent to AJ regarding the book launch in the Crawfordjohn Hall.

12 AOCB

12.1 Village Hall Opening

There was lengthy discussion about what the future of the local halls may be. It was suggested that the Council may look to local groups to take on the running of the halls with wind farm funding. However it was recognised this needed a significant investment on the part of the local community. KB outlined the Robertson group recent experience. The group met in the hall with SLLC staff, During the two hour meeting a member of staff who opened the hall remained on site and locked up at the end of the meeting. This seemed a poor use of resources. Their experience is that they cannot book events in the hall as there is no-one to open/close the hall. AM stated that the group had been asked to book the hall back in July but no-one has been back to them since. They had been told it may not be possible to open Robertson but somewhere else could be available but no one has advised which is not acceptable.

EH advised recruitment was ongoing but was dragging on. GB stated that the Robertson group had made its position clear to the Council - it did not want to take ownership of the building; it would go through the refurbishment. SLC has done the feasibility survey and the group will make grant applications for windfarm funds to complete the work. LS advised that Thankerton was looking to take on the management of its hall using Clyde Wind Farm funding.

EH referred to Abington where the new hub is adjacent to a hall facility. The Council may not support both. MM said that, while empowering communities was welcome, it cannot involve just passing on assets that have a history of inadequate maintenance, etc. Management support will be required from the Council along with solutions for insurance, etc.. GB advised that Robertson had held a very good session for defibrillator training in the hall and had 10 responders. It had tried to arrange a second session but the Council is refusing to open the hall.

12.2 Community Planning Partnership Email

GW referred to the above email received from SLC that was inviting people to sessions in the next couple of weeks. After brief discussion it was agreed that no one would be in a position to attend on behalf of DCC.

Actions

Clarification needed regarding the consideration of grant applications when the agenda has been finalised.

Grayside questionnaire results to be posted in summary

MM to check with Energy Consent Unit at Scottish Government regarding MoD disturbance levels.

Defibrillator to be progressed.

Upload spreadsheet for tracking key windfarm dates onto website.

Tracking of Banks Group Scoping Report amendments.

June meeting

Promote consultation for second phase of Grayside wind farm.

Monitor access issue for Grayside wind farm

DCC to consider review of website. MM to speak to AJ

Monitor Bodinglee progress

Report back on West Andershaw and Kennoxhead sites

Cllr McA agreed to follow up on issue regarding Crawfordjohn picnic area; garden waste uplifts; non-slip area on A73;

September meeting

Wind farm spreadsheet to be circulated so DCC members can determine which ones they will take responsibility for monitoring.

GW to meet Statkraft regarding Andershaw West extension.

MM to check regarding Little Gala proposal.

MM agreed to draft response to Kingsbeck Estates.

MM to circulate D&G CC letter

EH to check regarding road repairs near B7055.

October meeting

GW to contact SLC regarding John McLatchie's membership

MM to forward Kinsbeck letter.

MM to write to Grayside developer regarding lack of consultation.

AM to contact Banks re Bodinglee status.

MM to access D&G letter to First Minister and circulate. GW/AM to get list of Community Council contact addresses.
