

DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 3 October 2023

Roberton Hall

With

Zoom Input

MINUTES

1 Present

1.1 Malcolm Muir, Gordon Wilson, Alison Mitchell, Liz Steele, Clare Symonds, Irene Riddell, (Zoom)

1.2 Councillors

Cllr McAllan

1.3 Apologies

Anne Jefferies, Nicci Hill, Cllr Allison, Cllr Barker

1.4 Guest

Janet Moxley

2 Minute of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

2.1 GW advised that he had received a couple of points of clarification from AJ regarding the financial report. He had no issue with these and, if approved, he would reissue the minute to the Council and DCC. With these amendments accepted the minute was approved – proposed by AM, seconded by MM.

3 Treasurer's Report






3.1 MM read through the report in AJ's absence;

Balances

SLC Admin account balance: £205.31, pending 1 cheque being cashed

	Date ↓	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
▼	28 Sep 2023	🔗	14SEP GRS 00121712	+£1.30		£225.31
▼	25 Sep 2023	📄	000126		-£62.00	£224.01
▼	25 Sep 2023	📄	000124		-£73.16	£286.01
▼	15 Sep 2023	📄	000123		-£52.00	£359.17

DCC General account balance: £37,031.44, pending 1 cheque being cashed. £122 interest earned.

	Date ↓	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
▼	29 Sep 2023		000379		-£490.00	£37,181.44
▼	29 Sep 2023		FOUNDATION SCOTLAN	+£2,000.00		£37,671.44
▼	29 Sep 2023		GARRITY ALISON	+£117.12		£35,671.44
▼	28 Sep 2023		14SEP GRS 00113132	+£122.00		£35,554.32
▼	19 Sep 2023		000380		-£500.00	£35,432.32

Activity since September meeting

- Closed out 3 grants after receipts received, overpayment refund of £117.12 to the Clyde Extension pot
- Issued 7 cheques minuted in July, including £62 for the hall hire for a second Abington meeting re Abington Hall future payable to Liz Steele
- Completed Glenkerie end of year accounts to release 2023-4 grant, £2000 paid 29-Sep-23
- Malcolm successfully applied to the CWFF for a £2960 grant for gel bags to minimise the impact of flooding at Coulter and Lamington

Actions

- Identify initiatives for Priestgill wind farm community monies
- Malcolm purchasing gel bags then DCC will issue a cheque for the same once SLC release the CWFF grant monies
- Issue cheque for:
 - Liz Steele £390 repayment for Q4 2023 Community Cafes
 - Rural Development Trust £7668.64 for Q3 CDW costs
- Microgrant applications:
 - Abington Kids' Christmas £500 (Clyde)
 - Coulter/Lamington Primary Christmas Trip £500 (Clyde)
 - Lamington Community Seeding £500 (Clyde) – Irene Riddell is recused to avoid a conflict of interest
 - Robertson Christmas Party £500 (Clyde)
 - Robertson SWI Cheese Tour £100 (Glenkerie)

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
- SSE confirming if ~£350 of Year 1 Clyde Extension monies can be used for Development Trust initial meetings and publicity printing
- Grant receipts pending from 5 individuals/groups, all chased

Grant Monies Remaining (excludes Actions amounts)

- CWFF: £4677.68 remaining of the 2023-4 grant
- Ventient Energy Glenkerie: £2097.32 remaining of the 2023-4 grant
- Clyde Extension: £982.12 remaining of the 2022-23 grant
- Other grants: £5187.75
- Clyde Extension DCC-directed pot: £30,271.40 remaining of £143,000 allocation

4 Grants

4.1 Five grant applications to consider, 4 from CWFF, one from Glenkerie Fund;

4.2 CWFF-

Abington – application for £500 to set up Santa's Grotto to provide children's gifts for Christmas.

Roberton – application for £500 for Christmas Party (AM recused herself from the vote)

Coulter Primary School – application for £500 for trip to New Lanark.

Lamington – application for Community Seeding of new flood bund (IR recused herself from the vote)

4.3 Glenkerie Fund

Roberton SWI – application for £100 – visit to Errington Cheese Factory

All five grant applications were approved unanimously.

4.4 GW advised that LS had made an application for funding for £300 to cover the cost of the hire of the halls required for the development trust public meetings and any printing required. AJ has directed the request to SSE's CM and awaiting a response.

5 Janet Moxley – Biggar Environment and Climate Change Initiative

5.1 JM joined the meeting to give an overview of this initiative. Founded in 2022 the group approached local shops in Biggar to support climate action. Based on the successful model set up in Strathaven which began in 2020. It started with a few awareness stalls. Initiative has set up ;

Biggar Bike Shed – bike repair workshops. Noticeably less demand in winter. The group has extended the facility to Broughton. This brought in people, fueled their interest and raised the initiative's profile. Approached the SLC Community Led Fund to undertake a survey looking to develop ECars/EBikes, a Refill Hub and a Retrofit House Insulation project. Ran an on-line survey – Retrofit taken on by local business.

Refill hub already established in Crawford. ECars/EBikes initiated at time when bus route 101/102 was high profile, so they may reintroduce that next spring. Also spoken to Saleable West Linton where a subsidised bus service runs. Houston's may be able to link into its Lockerbie service at Christmas.

Retrofit has £65,000 of funding over three years from SSE Sustainable Fund. Engaged John Gilbert Associates to carry out a 2.5hr survey of 22 volunteer houses to determine what could and can be done to improve their insulation etc. Initiative will not impose works on households but work with them to carry out works they want, based on the survey findings. Crawford, Abington and Lamington properties have come forward. Looking to assess the survey findings. Also looking for volunteers to use a thermal imaging camera to provide more information. In the second year they hope to do more of the same. Ideally looking to cover a range of different house types. Also hoping to bulk buy materials and establish a contractor list.

MM advised that DCC hopes to do something similar in conjunction with Banks once wind farm monies come through.

JM said that the SSE is quite keen to fund these works. Looking to cover the ML12 area and Dolphinton.

Also looking to establish 6 repair cafes where people can get items repaired without sending to landfill. Looking for volunteers who could carry out repairs. Minor electrical works will need to be done by a qualified electrician but many repairs may not need a qualified person e.g. sewing etc. Looking to set these up in Crawford, Biggar(25 Nov) and Broughton. Group has liability insurance-s but jobs will need to be risk assessed.

LS advised that Happy Valley are bringing Ebikes to Crawfordjohn on 14 Oct as a tester for local residents. Thinks the rental per bike is £70 a month. However, they want local volunteers to check the bikes when each rental ends. JM thinks they are looking to establish a hub for Ebikes at Lanark Loch.

- 5.2 CS asked JM regarding the Local Planning process, which has started. It would be good if we could get CC's together and get the Planners to come to a joint CC meeting. CS currently preparing a response for DCC to pre-consultation. JM advised that the Civic Society would be interested in taking part in such a meeting. CS speaking to the Head of Planning in Scottish Govt.

MM thanked JM for her attendance at the meeting.

6. Planning Issues

- 6.1 IR advised that the bund in Lamington has been built

- 6.2 LS raised the tree planting issue at Gilkerscleuch which will impact the local residents. Currently at pre-consultation stage. She met with the agent and local households looking to object to the proposals. Meeting was held in Crawfordjohn Hall.

MM advised the DCC would be pleased to raise an objection once information available from Environmental Impact Assessment was available.

- 6.3 MM advised that the objection lodged regarding the 30m high Vodafone mast in Culter Glen had been upheld. Application was submitted without land owner consent being sought! There were a number of better sites for the mast other than the one on the original application.

- 6.4 AM asked MM if he had a view about the Dungavel planting near Wiston. He thought the proposal in forestry terms was good enough, but it depends what the residents of Wiston think.

7 Development Trusts

- 7.1 GW spoke to the paper 'The Next Steps' he had prepared following the most recent meeting LS and he had with John Mair DTAS regarding development trusts.
- 7.2 GW outlined some of the advice received from DTAS and how with DCC's approval public meetings would be set up to see if we can get support from the community for a trust. He referred to the possible links between the DCC and trust once established.
- 7.3 GW asked for approval from the meeting to take this forward on the basis that once we have a script for the meeting's we get approval from MM. This was agreed unanimously.

8. Wind Farm Updates

- 8.1 **Grayside** – local rumours that it has got permission to go ahead but MM has not seen any confirmation on the Govt Energy Consent website to say whether it or part of it has approval.

Bodinglee – MM received a message today from the Banks Group to say that the company has been sold to Brookfield's, one of the world's largest renewables companies. This makes no difference to DCC as the Banks staff will remain in Hamilton under another company name. CS asked about the survey DCC carried out on Bodinglee. MM advised that we received a small number of responses (50 out of 500 households) While the majority objected there was not a strong enough representation for DCC to do other than note the views expressed. On that basis DCC would not raise a formal objection.

Cllr McA asked if Mr Burchell had been in contact with the DCC regarding the wind farms. GW advised he had attended a previous meeting. MM stated that he appeared to understand the DCC stance in that there are too many wind farms locally but we need to work with the developers to make the most of the situation for local residents.

CS asked if we had received any information from Banks regarding the number of local jobs that would be provided by the Bodinglee development. She had asked for this when Banks had made its presentation to DCC but she has heard nothing. MM and GW confirmed they had heard nothing, and MM agreed to write to Banks for the information.

Andershaw West – No new progress at this stage

Kennoxhead – Nothing to report.

Little Gala – CS advised that the developer is completing documentation at this point.

9 Flooding in Lamington and Coulter

- 9.1 IR advised that she had the results of the SLC flood study. After the previous meeting the quote was updated. In addition, the land owner subcontracted the work for the bund to his roads contractor and the bund has been completed. There was a request for some contribution from the villagers.

Bear is now to start work in a couple of weeks. It will take the drainage away from the village drainage which cannot cope, this work to take two weeks. The bridge at the bottom end of the village is still an issue, as is the camber on the A702. Although works are progressing IR would like to keep the potential of wind farm monies open.

IR advised she had not had a reply from Colin McMillan as yet – LS to resend IR's mail to CM.

- 9.2 Coulter flooding – MM tried to order gel bags on line. MM has been invoiced for £3,000 which he hopes to draw down from REF. He is ordering a palate of gel bags which will be delivered in 2 days. MM will deliver bags to Lamington. MM hoping to purchase a container for flood prevention equipment and suggested Lamington could do the same, if they can find a location. MM confirmed that John McCork had removed trees from the burn. He is also trying to set up a Coulter trust to work alongside the Estate dealing with buidings which are surplus to estate requirements.

10 **Community Development Report**

10.1 **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.

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.

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.

- **Meeting with Anna Greenaway, a Masters Occupational Therapy student currently on placement with the Primary Care Occupational Therapy team in South Lanarkshire in the Clydesdale Locality.** Anna got in touch with me having seen the Soup & Smile café publicity. She has a placement with Douglasdale and Biggar medical practices and was interested to know what services we have related to OT mental and physical health. Gave background of villages being self-sufficient, listed existing groups, the café is the only non-volunteer managed initiative, invitation to feed back for any OT initiatives and for the OT team to book regular drop-in sessions at The Old School House.

- **Meeting with Jennifer Hunter windfarm benefit research**

A link from Clare with Jennifer who is employed to research how windfarm community benefit works. I've had several emails and a online meeting to try to provide an outline of processes in our area.

Abington Hall Public Meeting

A 2nd public meeting took place on Sunday 17th September. Delivered around 150 leaflets throughout Abington, 8 people plus Ralph Barker attended. Despite low numbers a positive outcome of 5 people willing to attend a follow-up meeting. I've emailed all to delay this meeting as it may be more advantageous to encourage those people to instead attend the village DT focus groups. I'll wait until after the DCC meeting which I hope will confirm the focus groups are a good way forward.

Active Travel

I've had a 2nd meeting with Healthy Valleys with the outcome of organising a 'come and try' bike ride session to see if there's enough interest to look at installing solar-powered electric bike lockers in the village.

I'm pleased organisations are increasingly considering Duneaton as an area to deliver their projects.

Brain Whittle MSP

Gordon and I attended Brian's drop-in surgery at The Old School House to highlight some of the issues related to the planned substation at the Red Moss. Gordon is chasing an update.

Meeting with Gordon Wilson

Another productive meeting with Gordon related to gathering information for setting up a Development Trust

DTAS: Meeting with John Main (support officer for our area)

Gordon and I had a 2nd meeting with John to discuss the pathway for setting up a development trust. Gordon has since published notes from the meeting which he has shared with you all. Looking forward to a discussion at the next DCC meeting.

Age Scotland

I met with Ann, Age Scotland's Community Worker for our area. The organization supports people aged 50 plus. Ann shared information on a multitude of benefits, with a large % not being claimed by those who fit the criteria. I'm going to share leaflet information at DCC's cafes.

Another project worker delivers bingo and other community-based sessions. As long as the majority attending are over 50, they can be open to all. Pearl Jones thinks people in Abington would welcome the sessions so I will try to set something up. I've encouraged Ann to have a information table at our cafes. The idea people can talk to her if they feel the need.

Continued emails with Jennifer Hunter from the Scottish Community Alliance

On behalf of the Alliance, Jennifer is researching community benefits from energy schemes. As I'm possibly more informed than many people, interesting session which took us beyond her original set of questions. Through several subsequent emails Jennifer has asked me to clarify various aspects.

Meeting with Janet Moxley, Carbon Neutral Biggar

Janet is leading a funded project which will take a energy reading from selected households including Duneaton.

She is also leading a recycling project which I'm keen to link into for our area.

Meeting with Catherine Tweedie from Community Action Lanarkshire

For her to give an update on Make Your Way projects. Have invited her to have a small table at our cafes to advertise leader-led walks in our area.

Monthly meeting with Colin McMillon, 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. Gordon and I are meeting with Colin on the 10th Oct. Our meetings also give the opportunity for Colin to learn more about activity in our area and for me to ask questions.

CDW Village Project Updates: my actions and outcomes

Abington

Abington Hall public meeting:

2nd public meeting was successful as outlined above

Abington nursery has been in touch to see if I can use the vegetables they've grown to make soup for the cafes. As well for some of the children to visit the café. As the next Abington café isn't until Nov, we're hoping to link up next year.

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. Kenny has said Clyde/Ref will consider an application whereas Clyde Extension may not as the property isn't community owned. I'm meeting with Ian next week with the aim to discuss/start an application.

Coulter

Pleased to welcome 12 people to our café at Coulter. The most people to date.

Crawfordjohn

Application to REF has been approved to purchase a new defibrillator through the Community Heartbeat Trust.

Plan for Healthy Valleys to bring 8 electric bikes to the village for people to try on Saturday 14 October. If there is enough interest will then work towards installing hard standing lockers with solar powered electric bikes to hire in the village.

Lamington

Nothing to report.

Roberton

Next community café Wed 11th October

Wiston

Enquiry from Wiston Lodge for possibility of a microgrant to fund free places for children less able for holiday activities

Next community café Wed 18th October

- 10.2 LS advised that she may delay the next Abington Hall meeting to await progress with the development trust.
- 10.3 LS has spoken to Kenny Lynch regarding funding the Masonic Hall works. This is not possible as it is still in ownership of the Masonic Order.

11 Matters Arising/Outstanding

- 11.1 Wiston Hall – CS referred to the £1.5M proposal to refurbish Wiston Hall. Plans are under consideration after a public meeting attended by LS. She advised that after a very professional presentation the three people attending that represented the funders were very impressed and appeared happy to provide the monies required. CS stated that there are concerns about the proposed alterations and about the future use of the hall. The building is a focal point in the village, with a house attached and there is concern that if the changes go ahead as planned the village would lose some of its character. In addition, who would use the hall in future. As regards the plans there is concern about the site and levels for the proposed car parking.

12 AOCB

- 12.1 CS asked Cllr McA if he was aware of the fly tipping on the B7055 road from Wiston to Rigside. She had seen someone fly tipping and been chased by them when she approached. The materials have since been removed.
- 12.2 Cllr McA advised the meeting of the following;
- Proposed budget cuts proposed by officers which are to be discussed in the next few weeks.
 - Lamington – dead tree to be removed
 - Police Reports – has DCC received these. MM advised we have not had one for some time. Cllr McA agreed to send these on to DCC as he believed it would help clarify the difference between the fear of crime and recorded crime.
- 12.3 GW advised that the AGM of the Crawfordjohn Development Group is to be held on Thursday 5 October. In addition, he met with the Douglas and Angus Estates Manager and has approval to proceed with a community garden/allotments proposal to the rear of the village hall.

13 Date of Next Meeting

- 13.1 Roberton Hall on Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 7.30pm.
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