

DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 1 September 2020

(Unofficial Zoom Meeting)

AGENDA

1 Present

Malcolm Muir, Robin Craig, Gordon Wilson, Liz Steele, Alison Mitchell. John McLatchie, Irene Riddell, Cllr Eric Halford, Val McCarren (Item 3)

Apologies

Anne Jefferies

2 Minute

- 2.1 MM advised as last meeting was unofficial the note of the meeting need not be approved.

3 Crawfordjohn Picnic Area

- 3.1 MM welcomed VM to the meeting and asked her to talk about the subject.

VM advised that visitor behaviour at the picnic area had caused a lot of concern amongst villagers and this had been expressed on Facebook. She stated the problem was worse this year but had been a n issue for three years. It was not an occasional tent on the site but several camper vans and tents. She suggested that the parcel of land had been made available to the village but was owned by David Goss associates Forestry (DGA Forestry) with the Council having a lease arrangement providing a weekly rubbish collection.

She had arranged a meeting with six villagers to discuss the issue. They had discussed various options including DGA taking the land back and using it for tree planting. A meeting with the Council, DGA and the group is to be arranged in the coming weeks. VM does not see this issue as the same as other places that have been affected by inappropriate behaviour – cutting fences/trees, damaged ground, using the forest as a toilet – as various websites highlight the site. The group now wants the area used as a picnic site and for the site itself to be improved

- 3.2 There then followed general discussion which highlighted

Problem of social media if the location is identified as a place to visit

Potential to attract wind farm monies to restrict access and improve site.

Recognition that this affects a lot of local areas – people normally going abroad but forgotten how to behave in the countryside. Potential to limit access – timber fence not advised – possibly boulders.

Suggested by MM that group contacts Simon Pilpel – Access Officer at SLC. Also contact Kenny Lean for assistance.

Important group forms a plan/proposal so that they can be successful in getting funds. LS can assist with grant application. Group needs to be formally constituted and have a bank account before can get funds. May be able to negotiate use of Crawfordjohn Development Group bank account.

Possible issues of land ownership for access to wind farm monies – best if group can lease land rather than own.

VM advised that the group is targeting to complete works by next summer. She thanked the Council for its time and input and advised she would keep it updated. She then left the meeting.

4 Treasurers Statement

4.1 No report.

5 Micro Grant Applications

5.1 There were no applications to discuss

5.2 LS advised that at the last meeting a grant application by Morag Black, Crawfordjohn - £500 request for exercise group – was discussed. It was suggested that the group had had a previous grant award and LS wanted to confirm that this was not the case.

6 Planning Requests (if any)

6.1 None in the recent weeks.

6.2 MM referred to Claire Symonds email which had a number of useful points in it.

7 Community Development Worker Report

7.1 LS spoke to her report.

She advised that she is getting back to her original role.

Connecting Scotland – spare kit as one of original people has dropped out. Wide range of illnesses can qualify for assistance but person providing support (digital champion) must be able to give up time for training and support.

MM suggested that the Covid 19 pandemic had enhanced her community role, bringing people into contact with her that she would not otherwise have met. LS agreed.

WH asked about progress with the defibrillators which he understood were affected by legal issues. LS advised w=she had a meeting with the Schools Coordinator at a meeting but had not heard back in a couple of months. MM advised that the defibrillators were to be fitted to the walls of the plant rooms in both schools at Coulter and Lammington. EH suggested she contact Geraldine McKenna.

LS advised the Auchingray and Wiston ones are installed – legal agreement just needs to be amended for new schools..

VASLan very kindly donated £500 for the summer boxes of Kindness, so I cheekily asked if they would like to fund another project. An additional £750 has been ring fenced for use in Duneaton. Due to potential risks, we've now decided 'Winter Boxes of Kindness' for the over 70s might be more beneficial. I will need to source additional funding.

8 Clyde Wind Farm Extension Fund

8.1 MM advised that he and AJ had attended a CWFEF meeting. It was disclosed that for our area including Thankerton, Symington, and Biggar there is a fund of over £1M available. There was discussion about the management of the funds. The lower limit of award would be £501 up to £50,000. MM to send on details. There will be a panel that represents the local Community Councils.

9 Biggar Micro grants

IR had received an email from AJ regarding the fact that BCC was not spending its allocation. MM advised things have moved on since then,. IR to clarify with AJ.

LS advised that the Crawfordjohn Village Hall secretary had told her it was unlikely the hall would open before November.

10 Local News

Lamington/Coulter – similar issues to Crawfordjohn. IR asked EH if the Grounds Maintenance squads are back full time. He advised they are but things are taking longer as they have to travel in their own vehicles and given the time delay there is more for the staff to do. Hope to be back to normal in at end of October. Maintenance budget facing fuel lease and staff costs as agency staff kept on till October.

JM advised he needs to get road drain sorted as choked.

Roberton – AR reported no issues

Crawfordjohn – GW referred to previous discussion with VM.

Coulter – MM – nothing to report

LS – nothing further to report

EH – referred to closure of part of A702.

11 AOCB

11.1 Funding for constitutional groups.

AJ advised of the above funds which are available to cover fuel costs etc. Organisations like Bowling Green could apply.

11.2 Issues from last meeting.

GW read through a list of issues eg. SNH Guidance for public and land managers/Abilitynet. Only outstanding item for reply – SLC memo regarding off street parking charges. Agreed none in Duneaton area. GW to advise Council. Note regarding Abilitynet to be put on Facebook.

11.3 Scam Bulletins

JM warned DCC of the increase in the number of scams currently doing the rounds. It was agreed that a warning regarding these should be put on Facebook .LS to put on Facebook.

It was agreed that the Zoom meeting had been a useful catch-up and could be repeated in future if required.
