

DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2022

Roberton Hall + Zoom Input

AGENDA

1 Present

- 1.1 Malcolm Muir, Alison Mitchell, Liz Steele, Clare Symonds, Irene Riddell, Cllr R Barker, Cllr A Allison

Zoom Attendees

- 1.2 Anne Jefferies, Gordon Wilson, Cllr McAllan

Apologies

- 1.3 Robin Craig, Mark Sykes.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 7 June 2022

- 2.1 No amendments for the minutes were suggested. The minutes was proposed by IR and seconded by AJ.

3 Treasurer's Report

- 3.1 AJ went through the Treasurer's report as detailed below.

Balances

SLC Admin account balance: £191.99

Transaction date ▼	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
29 June 2022	INT	▼ 15JUN GRS 00121712	£0.06	-	£191.99

DCC General account balance: £42,059.37, pending cheque being cashed.

Transaction date ▼	Type	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
10 August 2022	BAC	▼ JEFFERIES A	£0.57	-	£42,372.67
3 August 2022	CHQ	▼ 000330	-	£500.00	£42,372.10
28 July 2022	BAC	▼ JEFFERIES A	£40.00	-	£42,872.10
25 July 2022	BAC	▼ SOUTH LANARKSHIRE	£4,488.30	-	£42,832.10
18 July 2022	CHQ	▼ 000326	-	£139.60	£38,343.80
18 July 2022	CHQ	▼ 000325	-	£500.00	£38,483.40
13 July 2022	BAC	▼ JEFFERIES A	£6.56	-	£38,983.40
6 July 2022	CHQ	▼ 000323	-	£250.00	£38,976.84
29 June 2022	INT	▼ 15JUN GRS 00113132	£10.40	-	£39,226.84
27 June 2022	CHQ	▼ 000329	-	£6,750.00	£39,216.44
27 June 2022	CHQ	▼ 000328	-	£477.00	£45,966.44
27 June 2022	BAC	▼ CLYDE WF	£3,000.00	-	£46,443.44

Activity since June meeting

- Completed paperwork for 2 grants
- Closed out 8 grants, £47.13 overpayments returned between 3 grants
- Received £3K from SSE for the new Clyde Extension micro grants, now live on the DCC website and publicised by Liz on FB. Will reach non-online people via the Newsletter and Liz's village hall workshops
- Completed EOY accounts in July, pending SLC response and 2022-23 admin grant
- Completed CWFF 2021-22 micro grant EOY paperwork, 2022-23 grant of £4488.30 received

Actions

- Discussion on potentially limiting grants based on applicant reserve funds
- Minuted DCC approval for upcoming invoices:
 - o Robertson Hall annual AV usage fee - £20 from SLC admin fund
 - o Q3 2022 Newsletter – approx £80 from SLC admin fund
 - o Final payment for Abington School House manager - £13500 from DCC Clyde Extension pot
- Grant applications:
 - o Wiston Lodge Strike Cover Day – Clyde £500 (approved via email due to short timelines)
 - o Coulter SWI 2022-23 Syllabus – Glenkerie £250
 - o Abington Loose Women Christmas Coach Trip – Clyde £500
 - o Wiston Defib Pad Replacements – Glenkerie £242.40
 - o Abington Halloween Party – Clyde £500

Grant Monies Remaining

- CWFF: £3530.82 remaining of the 2022-23 grant
- Ventient Energy Glenkerie: £581.05 remaining of the 2021-22 grant
- Covid grants: £2637.09
- Clyde Extension DCC-directed pot: £53,277.36 remaining of £143,000 allocation

4. Grants

- 4.1 AJ thanked those who replied to her request to authorise a grant during the DCC summer recess for the Wiston Lodge micro grant which was to provide places for 12 children with support needs whose parents had difficulty arranging childcare during the proposed teacher strikes. The application was approved. However, AJ explained that the monies would not be needed as the teachers' strike was called off. Rather than putting the money back in the fund AJ proposed two options -1) use it for further programmed strikes or 2) allow the money to be used for after school activities. DCC agreed that option 1 was preferred as that was what the money had been approved for initially.

- 4.2 There were four further grant applications to consider at the meeting:

Coulter SWI - £250 for speaker expenses and the Christmas lunch.

Micro-grant application to Glenkerie fund. Approved

Wiston Defibrillator – monies sought to replace pads on defibrillator – no other funding available - £242.40.

Micro-grant application to Glenkirie Fund. Approved

Abington Halloween Party - £500 grant application to Clyde Community Fund – Micro-grant application - £500. Some members had difficulty reading form. AJ outlined basis for the application. Approved

Abington Loose Women – application from local group for transport and entertainment at Christmas lunch. Meals/drinks to be paid for by individuals attending. Application to Clyde Community Fund micro-grant for £500.

Again AJ clarified points on application. Approved.

- 4.3 AM asked whether when considering grant applications DCC should give consideration to whether the groups applying had cash reserves or not, and if DCC should ask for contributions towards the project they are making the applications for when they apply. Points made in the discussion included the risk of DCC getting into financial assessments, the fact that the majority of the grants awarded were not large sums of money, that people might be reluctant to apply if we imposed financial requirements and that the way the grants are currently administered makes a big difference in the local community.
- After discussion it was agreed that DCC would not impose financial assessments on applications, considering each application on its own merits albeit that it may suggest that a financial contribution to the project would be welcome if possible.

- 4.4 AJ advised that given the grant approvals above, DCC would need to apply for additional funding for the Glenkerie fund as what was in the bank has now been used up. There is still £2,000 in the Clyde Fund.

5 Planning Issues

- 5.1 GW advised there were no major planning issues for discussion – one domestic application recently in Abington.

6 Wind Farm Update

.

6.1 Grayside

MM had been informed by SLC that the planning application was to be discussed at the August SLC Planning meeting (it is a Section 36 application with Scottish Government). It did not, however, appear on the agenda and we await developments.

6.2 Bodinglee

MM advised that the Banks Group was hosting a 'Community Benefit' workshop on 20th September, in Douglas, which he hoped to attend. LS advised that she had been contacted by a Banks employee who referred to the Community Benefit which may not go to SLC. MM reiterated that DCC should maintain a neutral position regarding wind farm developments unless it has sound, Planning based evidence to act otherwise. Working with developers on community benefits, etc. should not, however, preclude DCC from objecting, where there are clear grounds to do so.

6.3 Andershaw West

GW advised of the recent paperwork received from Statkraft via email. No other comment other than the fact they are holding public meetings in Crawfordjohn and Douglas on 28/29 September respectively.

6.4 Kennoxhead

No update.

6.5 Little Gala

CS advised that she understood that there were issues with the application that may lead to a recommendation of refusal by SLC. One of the main issues is the impact on local views e.g. around Tinto. There are a number of other objections including NAT. She understands that at least one local resident has objected and AM/CS intend to meet with her. There is strong feeling in the Wiston Community against this development. CS also

highlighted the fact that illegal burial of livestock carcasses had taken place at the site of one of the turbines and SEPA has been involved.

AM asked if we were going to do questionnaires for other sites as we did for Grayside. Should we not also take an overview of the wind farm issue – liaise with the Council, the Scottish Government and make them more aware of the local impact the wind farms are having. People she speaks to are fed up with the numbers of turbines locally. CS advised that there was an argument that there is such capacity in the off-shore wind farms that more on shore farms are not required. She advocated a wider discussion about the current balance between them. MM stated that DCC should not look like a “nimby” organisation and that we need to acknowledge that there is a Planning process in place. There then followed a general discussion about the issue.

7 Community Development Worker DCC monthly report August 2022

- 7.1 August has been quite hectic. Numerous funding enquiries and requests for me to link up with useful network organisations.

Funding Update:

Covid Recovery Funding:

SLC £900. Full amount paid to DCC. **£450 remains** and will be used for print of the next newsletter and venue bookings for drop-in sessions in Oct for all 6 villages.

Scottish Government ‘Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund’: £4,725.

£2,500 salary and £2,225 project funding. The fund has been paid into the DCC account to be used to fund the community café project and volunteer mileage for the CCI ‘Handy Folk’ project.

Community café

Thanks to Alison for suggesting I spread the weekly café throughout the villages rather than just in Abington. I’m working on the project with Gail from Healthy Valleys and due to her own commitments, the only day she’s free is Thursdays. Coulter, Crawfordjohn and Wiston Halls and The Old School House will host the cafes during Oct, Nov and Dec. Unfortunately, Robertson Hall has a booking on Thursdays so can’t be included.

Funded by Healthy Valleys, myself and a volunteer for our new community café attended a REHIS Food Hygiene level one course last Monday.

CCI ‘Handy Folk’ initiative

This initiative has started with CCI and Healthy Valleys providing suitable volunteers who on request will visit homes to undertake simple tasks. The Duneaton area is now

included, with the additional funding being used to pay volunteer mileage for any visits within Duneaton.

Funding Meetings:

I'm currently voluntarily running a £166,000 solar project at Crawfordjohn hall and am often frustrated by the complex application/claim system linked to SLC windfarm funds and the long timescales for release of funds. This also relates to my application on behalf of Coulter for their defib and from reports from others. I've requested a meeting with Kenny, Colin and Yvonne to discuss possible ways the system can be improved. SSE Clyde Extension is quick and uncomplicated, so a good format for SLC to perhaps mirror. Prior to meeting with Kenny I'm also meeting Gareth from SSE Clyde to make sure I have current fact.

CDW Village Project Updates: my actions and outcomes

Abington

Abington Hall

Meetings with Ralph Barker and David Mundell to ask them if they can influence SLC to keep the hall open. Next week I'm meeting with Simon Liddel from Abington as he is keen to try to get community support and funding to have the hall re-opened. I have already spoken with Kenny Lean to ask about funding. Some grey areas related to SLC responsibility, but at least Simon is interested to commit time to the project.

The Old School House

An application has been made to the SSE Clyde Extension to fund fixtures and fittings for the Centre as currently it has very little. Nicci has secured donations of a few tables and chairs so meetings can take place. I've booked the venue for the community cafes starting in October for which Nicci will borrow more furniture.

The 3 Office Spaces are now up and running, I think with currently 1 only being used.

Fitness classes have started and yoga and craft sessions are booked.

As the Centre still has no funding, Nicci asked if I had access to a spare laptop. I was able to give her a laptop that was unused by one of the recipients from the IT project I linked into during lock down. She's very pleased.

Abington Primary School

An initial Clyde funding enquiry has been made for the school stained- glass project.

Loose Women

Gaynor Mitchell is volunteering to 'lead' the group, providing tea and natter sessions and other social activities using the Masonic Hall. I met with her following her request to discuss funding opportunities for outings for the group.

Halloween Party

I met with Nicci Hill to assist with her application for the community event to be held at The Old School House.

Warm space with addition of soup and hot drinks

I met with David and Grace Lyndsey who want to offer a room at the back of their house as a warm space during the winter. Based on a 3-month trial period, the aim is to help those who can't afford to heat their own living spaces. David and Grace will provide soup, hot drinks and wifi. David will submit a microgrant application next month to buy soup kettles and provisions. If the idea fails due to lack of response, I suggested he donate the funded equipment to the School House.

Coulter

Defibrillator

I submitted a Clyde application to fund the defib to be installed at Coulter Primary. I'm quite frustrated at the length of time my application and claim has taken to process. Having submitted the application on the 23rd May, with confirmation after a prompt on the 17th Aug, am told my claim for the money could take until mid-September.

Crawfordjohn

Crawfordjohn Community Group meeting

I was away and so missed the last meeting

Crawfordjohn Picnic area

The Crawfordjohn Development Group have now taken over negotiating the use of the site. I don't have an update.

Crawfordjohn Hall solar/boiler replacement project

The project is well under way with the panels and batteries due to be commissioned mid-September. Phase 2 will be to replace the ground source heat pump boilers.

I'm keen for the initiative linked to the funding process to be replicated throughout our area.

Lamington

Nothing new to report for Lamington

Roberton

Nothing to report for Roberton except the community seems to be making good use of their refurbished hall.

Wiston

Alison Gibson who voluntarily managed a Clyde funded initiative to install a defib at Wiston Hall got in touch to ask about the possibility of funding for replacement pads. Thinking she will have submitted a Glenkerie application

7.2 Discussion/Updates on report

Abington Hall

Cllr Barker advised that costs for the repair works were in the process of being collated. LS to get update from Joanne Forbes or her replacement and advised that wind farm funding is not available to meet the costs. It appeared reasonable that if the Council was to close the hall then there should be some form of compensation made available to the village.

Coulter defibrillator

After 3-months since submission, the Clyde Community Fund for the defibrillator with a 10-year management scheme has been approved. Still to wait up to 28 days for SLC finance to release the funds. Liz will move forward to order the equipment now in the hope the funds are in place by the submission of invoices.

Newsletter

LS to check information regarding Little Gala is up to date.

8 Community Council Elections

- 8.1** AJ advised that the deadline for people submitting their proposal forms has passed and as there are no new people coming forward in the villages there is no need for elections within DCC.

9 SLC Community Plan and Volunteering Strategy.

- 9.1** GW advised that this is being discussed by the Clydesdale Planning Partnership and it is something that the DCC will need to consider in the near future.

10 Banks Renewables – first energy saving workshop – 20 Sept

- 10.1** MM advised he would be attending this event.

11 Bus Strategy

- 11.1** Cllr Barker advised on meeting with other partners regarding the Service 101/102. Higher use now that people are back working after Covid. However, it was recognised that the service affects more than just the passengers who use it regularly. Cllr Allison advised that the operator had some issues under the current contract which was not working out – lack of local drivers and the route was initially a 4 -bus route was not working out – drivers were not getting sufficient time off. A 5-bus route had been trialled but this meant one vehicle sitting idle for some time. There was no feeling at the meeting that the service would be cancelled in March 2023 but that there would need to be some meaningful discussion about what the service should be. A further problem for the operator is that if it gets fined for poor time-keeping on one route it is fined across all its contracts. Cllr Barker said that the idea of a Dumfries to Biggar service was discussed but posed logistical problems.

AM asked how the current service was funded – SPT/South Lanarkshire Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Cllr Barker advised that other options were discussed at the transport meeting e.g. a route via Harthill but there was no enthusiasm for that. Cllr McAllan advised that the main takeaway from the meeting was that SPT wanted to maintain the service and there is a desire on its part to find out what public opinion wanted. He has spoken to several Robertson residents who are unhappy with the service provided. Cllr Barker advised that not all the buses are well used. CS advised that some of the bus stop locations are not clear.

12 AOCB

12.1 Garden Uplift

AM asked about when the service will be reinstated. Cllr Barker advised it was not environmentally efficient to do individual uplifts. AM suggested weekly uplifts from one village each day of the week. This had been considered. No decision made as yet.

12.2 Lamington

Cllr McAllan advised that lights on the school road and the road itself had been fixed. It agreed the work was completed. He advised there were also three dangerous trees to be removed by the Council.

13 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 4th October 2022

Actions

March 2022

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

Tracking of Banks Group Scoping Report amendments.

June 2021

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

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