

Glencairn Community Council

Minutes re Monday 3rd February 2020

1. Sederunt and Apologies

Present: Jimmy Mensdorf (Chair), Marcus Hogan (Secretary), Adrian Doyle (Treasurer), Scott McMillan, Robin Edgar.

Members of the Public: Hugh Chamberlain, Jude Knowles, Lindsay Dunse, Fiona McMillan and 2 others.

Apologies: Police Scotland, Councillor Andrew Wood, Moira McCrossan (Vice Chair), Stephen Sparrow, and Karen Donald.

2. Minutes

2.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Monday 9th December 2019

Adrian proposed the approval of the minutes and Jimmy seconded.

2.2 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Monday 6th January 2020

Adrian proposed and Robin seconded the approval of the minutes.

3. Reports

3.1 Police

The Secretary read out the police report. There had been one theft of a gas canister but no other incidents in this area. There had also been a theft from a shed and from a house in Thornhill. The police encourage members of the public to report suspicious vehicles. PC Lee Smith is now trained to give out security advice. The police will be carrying out a speed check with the speed gun in Dunreggan soon as there had been concerns about speed from vehicles travelling out of the village. PC Smith will also be holding a surgery in the Hive this month. On the 5th of February there will be a Police community surgery in Thornhill.

3.2 Secretary

There have been several issues to deal with since the last meeting.

The discretionary grant has been delayed because of missing accounts and minutes from 2018.

The defibrillator in Moniaive has been incorrectly registered previously and more information regarding its access and use is required.

The flood warning system is also not working correctly and needs a site visit with updates and the moving of some of the units.

D&GC (Dumfries and Galloway Council) failed to notify the Community Council about the recent road closures in the village within an acceptable time frame.

The Wallaceton defibrillator and training is imminent!

There have been complaints from members of the community regarding the minutes and various other subjects with accusations of lying and misleading. The Secretary declared that unless a formal complaint was received, he would ignore any future emails or letters of a bullying or threatening nature!

3.3 Treasurer

Accounts

Transfer still underway. Still Waiting on Bank of Scotland. Windfarm account has been transferred. Main account has not. On 29 January 2020, I raised formal complaint with BoS. I am planning to escalate the complaint to senior management in BoS this week.

Discretionary grant–

There were delays due to lack of audited accounts for 2018/19 but D&GC have just confirmed that GCC will be awarded the grant as soon as possible.

ANCBC (Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company) accounting.

Have discussed situation with ANCBC and they have agreed to waive collection of receipts prior to October 2019. This means we can draw a line under the past.

As and when I have made payments for recent grants, I have made recipients aware of responsibilities to provide receipts.

SPR (Scottish Power Renewables) Reporting –

After a long discussion with SPR, they have agreed to write off feedback forms prior to 2019. This means we can move forward. I am happy to report I have received feedback forms for all of March 2019 grants and two of September 2019 grants. The process is now working smoothly.

Scottish Power confirmed that GCC can ringfence funds for community projects managed by GCC. Adrian proposed that GCC take advantage of this and ringfence funds as appropriate. The money would be retained and only spent upon receipt of receipts/quotations and agreement by GCC. Scott seconded this and it was agreed unanimously.

One grant recipient was proving difficult in not providing receipts to GCC. Marcus proposed that the recipient be written to, Jimmy seconded, and it was agreed unanimously. Adrian proposed that the £18,000 from Blackcraig be split: £2,000 into the GCC account for grants less than £500, and £16,000 into the windfarm account. Scott seconded this and it was agreed unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Item 12 from AGM Agenda – Assets and Liabilities Handover

No progress on this. A letter of complaint to Bank of Scotland is in hand.

4.2 Handyman Update

GCC received two quotes for the cleaning of the cherry tree area. Jimmy proposed that the lower quote for £60 received from Simon be accepted, Marcus seconded, and it was agreed.

A new noticeboard is required as the current one is causing damage to the interior wall of the B&B to which it is affixed. Marcus proposed that £2,500 be ringfenced for the noticeboard, Adrian seconded, and it was agreed. Marcus also proposed that £2,500 be ringfenced for handyman projects, Jimmy seconded, and it was agreed.

Scott objected to the ringfencing of such amounts as it wasn't a specific item on the agenda.

4.3 GCC Community Development Plan

No progress. The next CDP meeting date was agreed for Monday 17th February at 1930 in the institute provided the room can be booked. Adrian agreed to complete a report he

was writing based on meetings with Foundation Scotland and Glenkens District & Trust and circulate it prior to the meeting.

4.4 Snow Plough/Snow Blower

Dunscore CC are aware the plough is for sale. It was agreed that GCC should email other local community councils to see if there is any interest.

4.5 Surgeries

There were concerns raised about the flood risk. A complaint was made by a member of the art club about the condition of the Masonic Hall. Scott proposed writing to the complainant that, as it is a private building owned by a private club, the GCC can't do anything. and Adrian seconded. Jimmy said that he had informed the organisers of the Masonic Hall about the complaint.

Marcus proposed that £2,500 be ringfenced for the noticeboard and Adrian seconded and it was agreed.

4.6 Windfarm Fund Allocation

Adrian and Moira went to a meeting about Windy Rig. Construction will start shortly, and the target is for it to be operational by next May. The first allocation is expected October 2021.

4.7 Resilience

Following a meeting of the resilience team, all members confirmed they were happy to remain on the team. There are equipment shortages. Marcus proposed Jimmy as the chair of the resilience team, Robin seconded, and it was agreed unanimously. Marcus proposed that £5,000 be ringfenced for resilience for equipment and emergency and this is to be topped up after use if funds are available. Robin seconded this and it was agreed unanimously. Jimmy proposed that Tim should be reimbursed 50% of the cost of the fire extinguishers. Adrian proposed that Tim be fully reimbursed for his fire extinguishers used in the fire. Jimmy withdrew his proposal. Scott seconded Adrian's proposal and it was agreed unanimously. Marcus to source and price the required equipment.

5. Business

5.1 Moniaive Initiative AGM

This was a hugely successful meeting. The Financial Governance Review stated that GCC and the Moniaive Initiative were to work more closely to ensure no duplication of projects and use more community consultation. Marcus proposed that a member of the GCC attend the next initiative meeting and Jimmy seconded.

5.2 Post Office

The community are to be asked, via community consultation, their opinion on the need for a Post Office in the village. The average yearly cost was estimated to be around £5,000 to £7,000. Marcus proposed that the GCC publicly state their support for local businesses, Adrian seconded, and it was agreed unanimously.

5.3 GCC Document Storage/Google Group

Adrian proposed he investigate storing electronic documents securely and Scott seconded. This is because currently there is no simple access to historical documents. This was agreed.

6. CCES (Community Council enquiry Service)

Resurfacing and pothole patching has taken place. The Craigdarroch salt bin has been replaced – however it has been put in the wrong location.

The house on the High Street affected by fire had fencing up which has now been moved up onto the pavement – may not be a safe perimeter. Dumfries and Galloway Council say they have no further responsibility for the safety of the property.

There have been complaints regarding potholes, flooding and debris on the roads. There is a large pothole at Crawfordton and at Newhouse Farm. At Kirkland the patching of the potholes has lifted and requires urgent attention. Marcus to report all issues to D&GC.

7. Planning

Plans for 'Wallace Hall' at Wallaceton to be converted to a residential home. At Holmhead there are plans for timber lodge cabin, commercial storage and kennels.

Boundary regarding Beech Drive is to be investigated.

7.1 Windfarms

No response from CleanEnergy (Knockaughlie Hall) or Infinergy (Shepherd's Rig). It was agreed to give them another month and further action to be decided at next meeting.

Letter of objection to Lorg has been copied to D&G.

Letters of objection concerning Troston Loch sent to D&G and ECU (Energy Consent Unit).

Sanquhar II – D&G deadline has been extended to 4th May 2020, otherwise no news.

Nothing new on Knockaughlie Hill (no new documents on D&G web site).

Following on from GCC meeting with Energiekontor (for which Adrian provided meeting notes), Energiekontor are to be invited to next meeting to discuss Fell Windfarm and Cornharrow.

There are public information days regarding Eucharhead in Tynron Village Hall on 17/02/2020 3pm-7pm, and at Sanquhar Town Hall on the 18th February from 2:30pm to 6:45pm.

8. Correspondence

Letter from Peter Charlesworth regarding electric charging bays in the car park.

Scott proposed that GCC support Peter with this, Marcus seconded, and it was agreed unanimously.

Emails regarding Holmhead Project, the proposed Loch at Holmhead, is outwith the GCC area and it is in the terms and conditions of Scottish Power that windfarm money cannot be used for projects outside the area.

An email from the GMI (Glencairn Memorial Institute) was referred to regarding their application to the Princes Trust and will be discussed at any future meetings with both the MI and GMI.

The Earth Lodges project have said nothing further has been explored about the Moniaive site.

The Art association have put in a windfarm application as they have had to relocate.

Email from D &GC from the 6th to the 19th of February minor traffic delays are expected at Wallaceton.

Meeting closed at 9:45 pm - Next meeting Monday 2nd March 2020

Signed.....

Signed.....