

APPROVED

**Eskdalemuir Community Council (ECC) Meeting**  
**Thursday 20th March 2025 – 7pm, Eskdalemuir Hub**

**Present:** Stu Green (Chair), Barry Young (Treasurer), Liz McQueen (Secretary), Ian Warden, Al Green, Bernard Provost, Julie McLeod, Pat Wiles

**Apologies:** John Furlonger, Archie Dryfeburgh, PC Glendinning, Lara Porter Operational Manager (UEDG)

*Resignation received by Stu from John Wharton. John is unable to continue as member of ECC due to family commitments. Stu thanks John for his contribution to organising first aid training.*

*Minutes of last meeting supplied by Liz - approved by Barry, seconded by Al.*

*Stu gathered members mobile numbers to create WhatsApp group to expedite minute approval and decision making on grant applications.*

*2 sets of minutes to be scanned and uploaded to website. **Action:** Liz/Barry*

**Matters Arising:**

**Bus Shelters: repairs**

- Stu has tried to call Tommy Warbeck on a couple of occasions with no answer.
- **Action:** Liz will also try to contact Tommy Warbeck to chase up

**Multi-User trail: strimming**

- Barry suggests Community Payback volunteers most cost effective solution as labour costs met by organisation.
- ECC would cover sundry costs: fuel for strimmers and diesel for minibus.
- This arrangement worked in the past, but lapsed.
- Community Payback currently deliver kindling to the hub, so could add strimming to their activities.
- Stu proposed 2 x cuts of overgrown path, end May and end August
- **Action:** Stu to speak to Lara to provide contact from Community Payback, to enable Barry to set up payment of invoices and arrange schedule

**Police Report**

- Report of van driving dangerously on B709 from Boreland to EDM, causing car driver to take evasive action to avoid accident. 3 tyres damaged.
- Concern for male who attended Samye Ling in distressed & agitated state, causing staff and members of the public concern for his welfare. Police attended and provided appropriate support. Male's partner attended and collected him.
- Report from forestry workers at Tanlawhill forestry who had uncovered unexploded bomb. Police attended with military explosive disposal team and carried out a controlled explosion and made area safe.

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### Community Council Training

- All council members recently undertook online induction training and found it helpful.
- Liz highlighted Community Council Enquiry Service to log queries with reference numbers, which should expedite queries – [CCESmailbox@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:CCESmailbox@dumgal.gov.uk)

### First Aid

- 2 days first aid training organised at the hub, and fully booked.
- ECC is covering cost of room hire for both days, catering and donation to supplier
- Lara to contact ECC to arrange payment
- ECC request promotion of ECC sponsorship using logos on hub social media posts promoting the events
- Look to repeat training in the near future due to obvious benefits to the community – propose future dates to include weekend to accommodate residents who work during the week.

### Timber Route

- Lara sent through complaints made to Forest & Land Scotland
- Concerns raised by village residents at Local Place Plan public consultations
- Perception of more logging lorries coming through the village than using the bypass
- Bypass in poor state after winter with deep rutting. Bypass is being worked on at the moment – but there is a question about maintenance contract.
- Suggestion that there is a need for footpaths along roads into village from bus stops
- Suggestion of temporary road markings or priority signs to slow traffic
- **Action:** Email to representative of Strategic Timber Route – [james.england@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:james.england@dumgal.gov.uk) to establish the status of the bypass
- **Action:** Dennis will raise questions on our behalf to get conversation started.

### Resilience Planning

- Community Council funded generator switch
- During Storm Eowyn Scottish Power trialled resilience hub and provided 20Kva generator to hub café and payments to over staffing. Engineer stated larger 40Kva generator more suitable to avoid risk of tripping when overloaded
- Ian updated: New solar panels & new switch nearly finished. Engineer needs to run checks to sign off

### Planning Notices

- Barry updated: full planning application has been put in for Black Esk Water Treatment & additional planning for thinning the forestry on the site
- Application to add metal railings around Covenanters grave to protect it
- Additional Open Reach telegraph poles

### Website Update

- Al chasing up bios & photos of community council members to add to website

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- **Action:** ECC members to forward bios/photos to AI as soon as able

### **Crossdykes Community Benefit Company Update**

- 2 x grant applications to discuss

ESMP Hall – to promote hall as sport and social venue. ESMP hall want to create monthly games and social evening.

- Applying for grant to purchase of 2 x table tennis tables @ £1800 (full and thorough presentation of options available included in application)
- Unanimously approved with caveat that tables are appropriately protected over winter

### **Stitches**

- Unconstituted group so can only apply for small grant of £500
- 23 weeks of funding covers cost of running group. Room hire 2 hrs per week
- Community group supporting 8-10 people weekly. Unanimously approved
- Settlement of pending payments would allow for top ups from Crossdykes Fund

### **AOCB:**

#### **New Treasurer**

- Barry will be moving away from Eskdalemuir in due course – looking for replacement treasurer to hand over to
- Pat kindly volunteered as interim for as long as she stays in valley but will train Julie up as replacement for the longer term
- **Action:** Barry to make necessary arrangements for training & handover for Pat & Julie

**Date of next meeting: 15th May 2025 - 7pm**