

## **ESKDALEMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

7pm 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 COMMUNITY HUB

**Those Present:** Nick Jennings (Chairman); John Furlonger (Vice Chairman); Bernard Provost (Treasurer); Beatrice Furlonger; Barry Young; Stuart Green; Archie Dryburgh (DG Council)

**Apologies:** Liz MacQueen; Claire Carr-Saunders; Ronnie Tait (DG Council)

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** These were read and approved (Prop Barry Young - Sec Beatrice Furlonger).

**Matters Arising:** Mrs Helga Jackson's complaint concerning the inconvenience caused to her property by the erection of a large Agricultural building in close proximity to her house had been investigated by Archie Dryburgh. He had spoken about the matter with the planning manager in Dumfries, but regrettably the issue had already been decided, and it would not be possible to alter the situation.

It was understood that there was to be a revision of Planning Procedures and it was the wish of the Community Council that they could involve themselves in the consultations that were to be a part of future procedures.

**Website Update:** BT were ending the free website. Facebook can be of help but is not universally used so cannot be regarded as a satisfactory alternative. Barry Young stressed the importance of a Website as a means of keeping the Local Community involved and informed. He pointed out that it improves Community engagement while providing such information as the Agenda and Minutes of meetings - details of road closures, potholes, street lighting etc so long as such information is regularly updated. A newsletter could perhaps be incorporated. There was a Wordpress free version, but this would not be adequate for the purpose. The cost of the upgraded version was inconsiderable and should be investigated. It was agreed that Barry should be asked to take the matter further. Stuart Green was happy to be co-opted, and to work with Barry on the project. The Chairman was keen to be involved in the material content. It was agreed that the matter should be taken forward. Prop Chairman Sec Vice Chairman

**Crossdykes Community Benefits Update:** There was the prospect of very considerable sums of money to be derived through investment in the windfarms. The Chairman spoke of the possibility of hundreds of thousands of pounds being generated for the benefit of the Community Councils with which we were associated. This would require our purchase of a share in the ongoing project. We have two directors in the scheme, and the Chairman sought the approval of the Council to invest in the project in order that we could be involved in developments on a far larger scale than those in which we had so far been concerned. The meeting agreed that the matter should be taken forward. Prop John Furlonger Sec Barry Young.

**Correspondence:** Constable Glendinning had sent in a Police report. There were no significant incidents, but concern was expressed about reports of Dog neglect, where animals had been left alone for long periods, with risk of straying. The Police had followed up complaints about game shooting in the vicinity of properties in Eskdalemuir, but had

concluded that there was no criminal activity.T

he Dog Trust informed us of the appointment of a Dog Advisory Officer.

**Planning Notices:** Under the new provisions an invitation to consult will be circulated. We will not be notified about specific planning but will get a general report. The Community Council must request a formal consultation. Such consultation will take place online. A consultation about the Flytipping Bill will be forthcoming.

**Windfarm Community Benefits:** The outstanding benefit money (£2000), must be quickly activated in order that the new entitlement can be forthcoming. As bids can only come from properly constituted bodies in the Community, and in the interest of a speedy settlement, it was proposed that £1000 should be given to the Hub, £500 to the Village Hall and £500 to the Arts Group. This was agreed. Prop Barry Young; Sec Beatrice Furlonger

**Election:** It was proposed that there should be a Casual Election for seven vacancies in the Community Council. The existing cooptees and any other prospective candidates would be eligible to stand. The DG Council will be informed of our intention.

**AOCB:** Concern was expressed about the poor state of the local roads. The Lockerbie road was not as bad as it has been but still requires considerable attention. The Langolm road is very poor as is the road to Ettrick. The Chairman will write to Derek Crichton to see what can be done.

The meeting was closed and the date for the next meeting was fixed for **Thursday May 19<sup>th</sup>**.