

ESKDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7pm 19 May 2022  
COMMUNITY HUB

Those Present: Nick Jennings, John Furlonger, Barry Young, Liz McQueen, Bernard Provost, Beatrice Furlonger, Stuart Green, Dennis Male (D/G Council)

Apologies: Clare Carr Saunders, Archie Dryburgh (D/G Council).

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved; Prop. John Furlonger, Sec. Liz McQueen

Matters Arising: None not already on Agenda.

Website Update: BT have withdrawn website support, but D/G Council have recommended Scottish Tech Army who can provide training and support. They will provide template and it will cost us £100 p.a. inclusive of Technical support. Barry Young will ascertain how flexible the service is and how easy it will be to include appropriate content. It should be very helpful for organising and running the election. It will cost no more than running it ourselves so it would seem sensible to accept the offer. It would be valuable for keeping the community in touch with our activities, so we should express our interest.

Crossdykes Community Benefit Company update: It's now in receipt of benefit, but has not yet started distribution. We shall be notified when this is likely to take place. The Chairman reported that he and Liz McQueen had concluded the purchase of a 5% Community share in the windfarm which would generate additional revenue over and above the fixed rate of Community benefit. However, the windfarm is to be sold and it is likely that we shall sell our share at a considerable profit. The five Communities, of which we are one, will then have to decide how best to invest this money for the benefit of the Communities. However at present this is still speculative.

Correspondence: There has been the usual notification of planning applications; information of road developments, and the previously mentioned advice from Tech Army. Funding for summer play schemes. £135,000 is available to provide schoolchildren with Summer activities. There are few children in Eskdalemuir and Boreland children now go to school in Applegarth. The problem therefore is to organise activities with enough takers. Liz McQueen was asked to liaise with the Hub authorities. to see whether something on a regional level might be organised. Could D/G council assist in bussing children to an appropriate centre? Dennis Male agreed to assist in this.

Planning: The Chairman has been approached regarding the scale and scope of shooting at Clerkhill until settlement is reached. There has still been no consultation with local people. Neither the Gun Club nor Eskdalemuir Forestry reply to letters. Nor, it should be noted, have the Council ever been invited to see the range at Over Cassock. The Shooters'lawyers are

challenging the existing enforcement notice on the grounds that they only shoot two days a week between the hours 9.30am - 5.30pm. Yet their procedural notices refer to shooting from Monday to Sunday, and also make reference to night firing. Their clear aim is to shoot without planning process. Bernard Provost said that the Community Council should insist on involvement in their discussions, as they clearly still want to treat their activities as a local development. The Judicial review is on July 24<sup>th</sup>. The Chairman will refer these details to the D.P.E.A. The feeling of the meeting is that no more is being asked of the Gun Club and Eskdalemuir Forestry than that we should be fully informed of the purposes of the project, and that local residents should be fully informed of the shooting programme.

**Wind Farm Community Benefits:** £2000 has been distributed as recommended at the last meeting. A further £4000 approximately will be coming from Minska and ANCBC and will be distributed when forthcoming. The website should be of great assistance in this process.

**Election:** There will be a six week lead in period. Those who have already been co-opted are asked to put their names forward in order to become full members. Other members of the community will be encouraged to put their names forward as we are entitled to a total of Eleven.

**A.O.C.B:** The desirability of re-opening Hutton school was raised by Liz McQueen. Adverts have been put in for a Headteacher and an assistant teacher, but there is still a question as to whether the re-opening will take place. Do parents prefer Hutton or Applegarth? Hutton would be a smaller group but a shorter commute - Applegarth is a larger more sociable group. Liz asked that the Council would put its backing behind the Hutton option as being more suited to Eskdalemuir residents. The motion was put to a vote with the Chairman proposing and Liz McQueen seconding. The motion was carried unanimously.

Dennis Male was asked to explain why the roads in the area were in such an unsatisfactory state. Dennis had discussed this with council personnel. To cope with a dire situation, it might require substantial capital borrowing. Moreover there is a shortage of suitable staff to cope with the technical problems of repair. Denis indicated that there is the real possibility of some roads having to be closed if there is further deterioration.

How should the Council celebrate the Jubilee? There was to be a party and a ceilidh in the village hall. Stuart suggested the planting of a tree with an attached plaque. The Hub was suggested as a suitable site. Stuart Green was asked to speak to Lara Porter and May Reid on the matter. The Chairman suggested that £40 should be donated by the Council towards the costs. This was agreed by the meeting.

As there was no other business the meeting closed. The date of the next meeting will be decided later.