

## Eskdalemuir Community Council - Minutes of Meeting on May 23 2019

-Those present were Nick Jennings (Chairman), John Furlonger (vice Chairman), Bernard Provost (Treasurer), May Reid, Jenny Mills, Beatrice Furlonger, and Archie Dryburgh (D/G Council).

- There were no apologies for absence.

Before the Agenda business there was a presentation by Fire Service representatives who had volunteered to update the provision of defibrillators in the region. The work they had put in both in improving the provision and in obtaining the necessary funding to maintain the devices over a period of four years was remarkable. The Community Defibrillator is being replaced with the latest model.

– The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Prop; Jenny Mills  
Sec: May Reid

- Matters arising: The absence of any DIG representation at several of our meetings was raised. The Vice Chairman stated that this was an issue he intended to raise under A.O.B.

Wind Farms Update; The Crossdykes project seemed to be progressing satisfactorily And seemed likely to be of benefit to our Community. However there was some concern about two other projects that had been discussed with the Chairman. These would involve two huge wind farms, both being planned by the same Company; the Farside Community Wind Farm and the Scoop Hill Wind Farm. Despite the 'Community' in the title, it was not intended that Communities would benefit financially. Because of this, and because of the scale, there needed to be a great deal of public consultation. The Chairman would be looking further into the matter.\*

-The Chairman detailed the Correspondence he had received. It included application for grants from the Wind Farm Fund; a request from Annan Community Transport for a contribution to their deficit and details relating to Little Hart Fell Wind Farm.

– The Minute Secretary's post had not been filled, though reference was made to two people who it was felt might be prepared to consider undertaking the task. However, in the interim the Chairman was prepared to continue with the responsibility of the Correspondence, and the Vice- Chairman was willing to take the minutes.

- There was concern expressed over the need for additional Councillors on the E.C.C. An election was due in October and more involvement from the local community was desirable. The vice-chairman indicated that this too was an issue that he wished to raise under A.O.B

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- The Treasurer reported that the Community funds stood at £5289; £4220 of this sum being Wind Farm funds that needed to be disbursed in the near future. - The only planning proposals in the Community related to developments in the Twiglees area, where Three Forestry Commission plots were on the market, with the likelihood of development in the near future.

- There had been three applications for awards from the Wind Farm Community Benefits Fund. The Hall Committee had asked for £500 for new tables, the Hub had asked for £3640 for Marketing support and a joint bid for £350 from Hub and Hall for a Village Ceilidh. There were reservations expressed on the first two of these applications. Would the quality of the Marketing for the sum requested be sufficient to justify the request? Wasn't there already expertise in the D&G Council that could enable the task to be carried out in a more professional manner? It was felt that discussion was needed involving Hub, Hall and C.C. to ensure that the Marketing Project should cover the whole Community and the Chair should write to the committees. May Reid agreed that she would forgo the Grant for tables if it meant that the Marketing project was of greater overall benefit. The following awards were agreed £350 for joint Ceilidh and £3875 for marketing project to involve the whole valley

- A.O.B: May Reid was no longer on the Eskdale Foundation as it brought no real benefit to our Community. She was thanked for her services.

- The Vice-Chairman said that we needed to consider more closely the role of the Community Council and steps that were needed to fulfil its function. We stood between the Community and the D/G Council, and we needed to ensure that links in both directions were strong. The Community needs to convey its needs and concerns to the E.C.C. who in turn need to ensure that the D/G Council are fully cognisant of these issues. This would require that members of the Community should be more active in involving themselves with E.C.C business and that some D/G representation should, where possible and where there is relevant business, be present at our meetings. (At this point the need for some members of the Council to vote in the Election required the suspension of the meeting).

- The date for the next meeting was fixed for ??????

\*There has subsequently been a public meeting with representatives of these projects where they explained details of the projects and answered concerns from local residents. As the projects are still a long way from implementation and a great deal more public consultation and discussions with Local Authorities will have to take place it is not possible to talk yet of likely outcomes.