

APPROVED

Eskdalemuir Community Council (ECC) Meeting
Thursday 20th November – 6.30pm, Eskdalemuir Hub
AGM & Ordinary Meeting

Elected members present: Barry Young, Liz McQueen, Ian Warden, Al Green, Julie McLeod, Bernard Provost,

Guest: Stuart Hamilton (Ward Officer)

Apologies: Denis R Male (Councillor), Lara Porter (Hub Operational Manager)

Resignation of member: Pat Wiles (email received between meetings) *Many thanks to Pat for her service.*

The Secretary confirmed the meeting was quorate with 6 elected members present.

AGM: (Chaired by Stuart Hamilton, Ward Officer for Annandale East & Eskdale)

- Welcome from Stuart Hamilton
- Annual report from the Chair – Prepared by Stu Green and read out by Liz McQueen
- Annual report from the Treasurer – Prepared and read out by Barry Young
- Statement of Accounts – independently ratified and certified by Di Hay, Finance Manager for OutPost Arts, Langholm
- Appointment of Office Bearers
- Treasurer – Ian Warden proposed Barry Young, seconded by {. } **APPROVED**
- Chair – Barry Young proposed Al Green, seconded by Liz McQueen, **APPROVED**
- Secretary – Al Green proposed Liz McQueen and seconded by Ian Warden, **APPROVED**
- AOB - Stuart Hamilton advised that the CC can co-opt up to 3 members at any time. Co-opted members have full voting rights until the next election. A casual vacancy election could then be held to convert co-opted positions to elected positions. Names of proposed co-opted members must be published on the agenda.

Ordinary Meeting:

Minutes of last meeting (18th September) supplied by Liz McQueen - approved by Al Green, seconded by Julie McLeod

Matters Arising:

Correspondance

- Update from Forest Manager for Tilhil, Elizabeth Dunatt - she has got back to Julie (as resident) – company who own forest at Moodlaw have said they

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don't want to cut the forest near her property for the next few years – potentially due to lack of roads. Access problematic due to wildlife, resident's water & electricity supply & archaeology

- Confusion about who stakeholders are, as additional email from Nicola Gardner received in CC mail box from Scottish Forestry relating to 'Raeburn Forest Complex'
- Recognition that Community (via LPP) should be involved in Forestry planning decisions regarding planting and extraction. CC to ensure there is a paragraph within LPP to that effect. **Action:** Draft paragraph relating to the Community's interest in forestry matters
- **Action:** follow up to increase our knowledge base and develop working relationship with forestry in general to understand future business plans. Approach Forestry and Land Scotland and Scottish Forestry for guidance

Road safety

- Ongoing discussion about footpath to connect church bus stop to village. Look in to replicating multi user trail approach. **Action:** members to approach Timber Transport Officer James England, Former Chair Nick Jennings and David Mundell MP for advice and guidance
- Stuart Hamilton has checked D&G council to see who is responsible for roads (to come out to visit) – no one in post at the moment
- At a previous meeting; resident Heather White raised issue about potential hazard due to damaged wall near Windryridge **Action:** Bernard has an email address for the owner of the property and will contact them on our behalf.

Police Report

- No new notable incidents of criminality since last meeting
- Police Scotland Community Team hosted a pop up in Hub car park on 13th November

Multiuser Trail

- Dumfries & Galloway council responsible for hard finishes e.g gates/bridging
- Countryside Access Team have made all repairs to Multi User trail - including bridges and signage. Photos of work received from Countryside Access Officer Robbie Cowan **Action:** Upload photos on to website.

Resilience Planning

- Lara has been researching Starlink (+battery system) as necessary for winter weather resilience for Hub
- £1200 to buy kit and £99 per month– business package for size of building.
- 15 – 16K in resilience MINSICA reserve available. Can CC buy the kit as capital expenditure for the Hub? **Action:** Barry to speak to James Parker to check whether it meets criteria.
- Barry proposes CC subgroup with UEDG for resilience plan– to update and to discuss what CC can fund and what we can't. Becky from D&G council can advise and offer training. **Action:** Stuart H can liaise with Becky to set up meeting

LPP

- Draft is behind schedule
 - Barry had hoped to have received draft from AJS by 1st November, for minimum of 28 days public consultation to end November, to review and make necessary amendments and be ready for 30th Jan submission date
 - Last catch up with AJS – draft not far off – just needs a 'couple more days'
 - Barry spoke to Shona McCoy at D&G Council – even if we didn't get draft in for 30th Jan – it would still be a recognised LPP
- Stuart updated there are 80 plans in development at different stages of development. Ones that don't meet the deadline, D&G Council will take cognisance of them– it will inform the LDP. Stuart takes them to committee end of March and recommends finishing off properly rather than rushing to meet deadline.
- **Action:** Barry and Lara to follow up with AJS, give her a revised deadline and ask for copy of draft.

Planning Notices

- No new notices

Website Update

- Some teething problems since the switch over – so AI has had to go back over it and double check information.
- Has added a Notice Board function for Agendas and news stories – need to add fault reporting and gritter routes, bins
- Print out simple poster with contact details/website to put up in the Hub
- **Action:** Bernard to send a bio!

Crossdykes Community Benefit Company Update

- No CCBC recent meetings – next one due in December
- Top up of funds received from ANCB= £4000 and Crossdykes=£5000
- UEDG looking for 'Cooking up the Community Lunch' - £2k or £1k min requirement for community lunches winter warm hub

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- UEDG looking for assistance with running cost over winter, esp electricity. If it was to come out of Minsca fund – electricity generally considered a revenue cost – unclear whether funder would fund it – but if it's to provide a warm space – then it's a project cost to facilitate **Action:** Barry to request Lara to re- draft as Warm Hub project covering 6 months of winter

Funding Decisions Approved:

- ESMP Hall £2000 for door replacement from small grant fund
- Additional £900 from ANCBC for ESMP Hall
- UEDG Community Lunch £2000 for Community Lunch project from Crossdykes
- Defibrillator reserve: £1000 to be retained from Minsca fund for ongoing maintenance and consumables costs
- purchase of sleeveless Hi Viz vests with logo on front and back with outstanding £147 to leave in the bus shelters for school children & adults to use in winter **Action:** Al to check prices and go ahead with order – 10 day lead time
- **Action:** CC to create promotional pack with logos and wording "Supported by Eskdalemuir Community Council" for UEDG to use on website and social media for community lunches (Al/Liz)
CC to publicise Education and Training bursary awards via news stories and photos on website and social media (Al/Liz)

AOCB:

- Stuart can speak to Denis to chase up about 2 x waste bins for dog waste from Community Assets Team, who manage maintenance of Cemetery and could add emptying of bins to their schedule

Date of next meeting :

15th January 2026 – 7pm

Attachments:

- Chair's report
- Treasurer's report
- Statement of Accounts