

ESKDALEMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

7pm 20th July 2023 - Community Hub

Present: Nick Jennings (Chairman), John Furlonger (Secretary), Barry Young, (Treasurer), Stuart Green, Rachel Knox, and Archie Dryburgh/Dennis Male (D/G).

Apologies: Bernard Provost, Beatrice Furlonger (Long Covid), and Liz McQueen.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: These were read and approved (proposed Barry Young, and seconded Stuart Green).

There were no matters arising

Resilience planning: A water shortage had been reported in a number of households, largely on account of there having been a long period without rain. In an area where many are not on the mains. At Garwald there was a risk of fire due to barbecues. In the past the Forestry Commission had provided fire-fighting equipment at several points, but these seem to have fallen into abeyance. Rachel agreed to write to the Forestry Commission about this. Regarding the water shortage Stuart Green suggested making available IBCs (1000 gallon plastic containers) or possibly a towable water bowser. Dennis Male pointed out that there was a rural Community Fund (circa £600,000), which might be applied to for such contingencies. Rachel will liaise.

There is locally a lack of knowledge about the water supply (Location of pipes, hydrants etc.) and newcomers in particular need to have sources of information.

The emergency numbers in the Telephone Directory usually provoke a very rapid response.

Local Resilience Representatives will meet before the clocks change in order to discuss some of these issues further.

Locality Planning: In several local communities with a developed infrastructure it is possible to have specific detail in the local plan. Eskdalemuir has no such infra structure (shops, offices, extensive businesses etc.) so ours is much more a Vision Plan, an idea of what the people of the community would like to see in the future. This plan has to originate from the expressed wishes of the people through feedback, drop in sessions and other forms of consultation. We are at the very start of this process and must now decide on the form that these consultations are to take.

Planning Notices: The wild life pond at Clerkhill has been referred to the DPEA and public comments will be taken into account up to August 3rd. There appears to be some confusion over the validation of its planning application by the D/G Council as it is claimed to be a wild life pond but seems in fact to be a gathering point for ducks to be collected in order that they can then be sent aloft and shot. It is in effect an additional shooting facility not an environmental enhancement. The ECC was disappointed that the D/G Council with very little concern should accept a project, which provides such an adverse reaction from those who live alongside it.

Correspondence: The Police report is very brief. There has been damage to a window in the Old School (Hub). It appears to be a bullet hole or some other projectile

There has also been damage to a residential property in the village caused by a young male with a variety of problems who has been charged with vandalism. He has now left the area.

The Russian lady, also with mental health issues, who was camping in the woods, though receiving help and sympathy from local people, has left the district.

Road Repairs: The council thanked its D/G councillors for their representations to the Roads Department, which has led to the great majority of the many potholes in the B723 being attended to. One section of the B 729 Langholm road in Eskdalemuir is however in a very poor state of repair.

Logo Competition: There were very few entries, but the entry provided by a local graphic designer would be well suited to our website. An entry submitted by the children of Stuart Green, one of our Councillors was highly commended. A vote concluded that we should adopt the first of these as our official logo though it was felt that the other entry could be made use of on the website or on any local advertising. We hope that the results can be mentioned in one of the local newspapers in conjunction with the opening of the website.

Community Benefits Directorship: A new Director is needed from Eskdalemuir for the Crossdykes Community Benefit Fund. Barry Young stated that he would be prepared to take on the responsibility. The Secretary suggested that it was important that we should try to get the new residents of the village interested in participating in local affairs. The website could be helpful in this but an even more energetic push may be needed to extend the range of those who will take on some responsibility. We need to organise some form of meeting directed towards stressing this necessity if the Local vision is to have any meaning.

Community Benefits: Details of these will be advertised on the website. The £1000 'Education' awards may be of particular interest as they can enable the holders to undertake any form of training that advances their chances of progress in any area.

The next tranche of Crossdykes funding will be available at the end of October.

Email addresses: Info@Eskdalemuircc.com
Chair@Eskdalemuircc.com

Website Launch: A link will be sent and then advertised on Facebook

Date of Next Meeting: 7pm at the Hub on Thursday 21st September