

ESKDALEMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
7PM 21ST September 2023 Community Hub

PRESENT: Nick Jennings, John Furlonger, Barry Young, Stuart Green, Liz McQueen (Zoom),
Bernard Provost, Denis Male (D/G), Local Police Representatives.

APOLOGIES: Rachel Knox, Beatrice Furlonger.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: These were read and approved. Stuart Green (prop), Barry Young (sec)

MATTERS ARISING: These will be deal with as Agenda items.

POLICE REPORT: 20/07/23 Domestic Incident.

Report from a member of the public that an ex-partner had refused to return an item of property following the break up of the relationship. Police attended and established that this was a civil dispute in relation to ownership of property. Suitable advice given.

02/08/23 Firearms offences

A firearms warrant was executed at an address in Eskdalemuir and a number of unlicensed air rifles and ammunition recovered. A small amount of cannabis was also recovered. This enquiry had been carried out following an incident where the male occupant of the address had been arrested in Moffat as a result of him presenting an imitation firearm within a shop premises. The male was charged with a number of offences and later released on bail. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

LOCAL PLANNING: There was a brief discussion regarding the way forward for Community planning in the area. Barry Young was working on this in conjunction with the Hub Management in order to put forward specific proposals. Denis Male indicated that this should be in the form of a Local Place Plan in Liaison with Shirley Bell of the D and G Council.

ROAD REPAIRS: Denis Male indicated that repairs would shortly take place on the B709 on the edge of Eskdalemuir. Stuart Green reported a patch of re-surfacing North of Eskdalemuir, which is giving considerable cause for concern owing to the absence of the grit bins essential to keep that stretch passable. He will liaise with Denis Male who will pass this concern on to the Roads Department in Dumfries.

PLANNING NOTICES: The DPEA has approved permission for the 'Wildlife' ponds at Clerkhill (despite some reservations by local residents) and it is to be hoped that that will be used as such and not flight ponds. The Council members expressed surprise that there has been no environmental impact assessment on this issue bearing in mind the amount of local concern. There was a strong local suspicion that the pond would be used for providing a location for large numbers of ducks which would subsequently be shot as an extension of the shooting programme at the Clerkhill range. It had been assumed that there would be full public scrutiny to address the local concerns. Those who made the decision felt that as no such assessment had been required for Over Cassock there should be no need on this occasion.

The Community Council has a right to object to the findings and a letter would be sent to the Planning Committee to this effect.

WIND FARM COMMUNITY BENEFITS: We need to get these benefits out and advertised on the website. £11,660 had been earmarked for resilience. The main expenditure would be for some form of power source that would allow the hub to be used as an emergency Resilience Centre for those who had no other recourse. Estimates had been sought, but it had been difficult to arrive at a conclusion until it was clear what planning requirements would need to be fulfilled.

There is £2000 available for the small grants fund. These would be available for training courses or any other project, which might benefit members of the Community. These funds had normally been distributed between the Hub, the Village Hall and the Arts Group, but individual applications would be considered if they met the criteria

CORRESPONDENCE: The new Resilience Officer at D/G Council will be Sharon Tate.

The decision over the future of Hutton School has almost certainly been resolved and there is little chance that the school will be reprieved. Primary school children from Eskdalemuir will go to Applegarth. Denis Male will pursue the matter for the purpose of clarification.

A.O.B. The website and the new logo will be advertised on the local paper. Photographs will be arranged. Stuart Green will make these arrangements.

Denis Male referred to the new legislation that will enable an increase in the number of wind farms. He pointed out that at present there is a lack of the batteries that will store the electricity already produced thus raising the question of the purpose of further wind farms.

Stuart Green concluded the meeting with a presentation about the Community Council's new email.

The next meeting, incorporating the AGM will be on Thursday November 16th.