

ESKDALEMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL AND AGM
7PM 23RD NOVEMBER 2023 COMMUNITY HUB

THOSE PRESENT: Nick Jennings, John Furlonger, Barry Young, Liz McQueen, Bernard Provost,
Denis Male (D/G), Lara Porter, Lisa and Ian Warden (All UEDG)

APOLOGIES: Beatrice Furlonger (Long Covid), Stuart Green, Archie Dryburgh (D/G)

AGM: Appointment of Officers: The Chairman stated that both he and the Vice-Chairman/Secretary were anxious to relinquish the roles that they had held for many years. However they were prepared to continue if required for the present. Barry Young was confirmed as Treasurer.

It was intended that a meeting of the whole Community could be arranged in the new year to encourage new residents to participate in local affairs. Both Denis Male and the Secretary emphasised the importance of maintaining the existence of the Community Council. This is a very large parish with unusual characteristics which benefits from its direct links with the D/G Council and its MP and MSP. This issue will be referred to further under 'Correspondence' in these minutes.

Report of Accounts: Total receipts for the year ending 31st March 2023 were £7069.

Total payments were £147.

Bank and cash at start of period were £1707.

Thus total at end of period was £8630.

Liabilities: Room rental £60.

Statements inspected by Mr Phil Johnson.

Grants and donations received from wind farms. £7069.13.

Grant due from Minsca £9659.22

£16.99 paid to CC Secretary for purchase of Poppy Wreath

Grant awarded and not paid out in the period. In Sept 202 the Community Council committed The total amount of Wind Farm Community benefits for the year (£11659) to fund an electrical generation unit to ensure that the Hub could provide a warm space in an emergency. Various options have been investigated but were not completed in the year.

We hold the balance of the Eskdale Valley Defibrillator fund (£575).

Appointment of Inspector: Phil Johnson is happy to continue as Inspector of Accounts

POLICE REPORT: The Police were unable to attend this meeting. The only incident that they could report in the area was vandalism involving a tarpaulin and roofing materials.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: These were read and approved. Barry proposing; Liz seconding.

MATTERS ARISING: Denis Male has resolved the issue raised by Stuart regarding the state of a stretch of road at the North end of the parish.

A letter had been sent to the Planning Department regarding the Screening Opinion for the Target Shooting Range at Clerkhill requesting that local concerns should be considered. So far, no reply has been received.

Denis Male has followed up the issue regarding the local primary schools, but as yet the matter has not been resolved. A further meeting is scheduled.

CORRESPONDENCE: Regarding the Government sponsored Supporting Communities programme, A meeting has been arranged in Langholm in December to which we will be sending two representatives. The meeting will be clarifying the Local Planning Framework, with a view to co-ordinating the different schemes in what is a very diverse region with differing needs. This has considerable relevance to a point already made in these minutes to the need to increase involvement in Community affairs, and to emphasise the importance of supporting the activities of the Community Council.

A grant of £300 has been made available which will be used to arrange a meeting of the Community towards the end of January to publicise this issue and encourage in particular new residents to take advantage of the opportunities available for development. The Community Council is the statutory consultative body in the parish, and the UEDG is the body Primarily responsible for Community Development. Liaison is vital. A Locality Planning group of Lara, Barry and Stuart was suggested as enabling this liaison and heading the proposed consultation.

A proposal was put forward by the D/G Council to merge the Bentpath and Eskdalemuir polling stations, with Bentpath being the chosen site. We have strongly opposed this suggestion as we are the larger community and have greater transport problems.

We have traditionally arranged a Christmas dinner for the Community. How best to arrange this. After discussion it was agreed that it should be open to all with the cost shared between the Council, the Hub and Voluntary contributions (which had always been generous in the past). The Council would provide £250 (with the option for more). The Hub could use money from the small grants fund.

Any surplus could be ring fenced for future Christmas meals.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT COMPANY UPDATE: 3 applications for funding for training were submitted. After discussion and consideration all were approved. They were as follows:

- Hanna Casement;
1. Training in trauma sensitive Heart Math Certification. 12 hour online course Costing £240
 2. Certification for yoga teachers in trauma informed yoga teaching. The course is 40 hours online at a cost of £143.
 3. Training as a women's circle facilitator. The training is over 7 months online and costs £199.

Kim Wharton: Funding for the Hub Therapy Room:
Blind for velux window, Shelving Unit, Storage basket, Cupboard, Therapy bed, Massage stool, signage. Total cost £690

Lara Porter: Funding for a history of the valley which has already been started. This would include video recording equipment £287, travel costs £50, self-employed person to interview, transcribe and edit @ £14 ph. £1302, Management costs £300. Total c. £1940

The applications were approved with the requirements that receipts should be provided and reports submitted when the schemes had been implemented.

A.O.C.B. Barry Young thanked the Secretary for his organisation of the Remembrance Day Ceremony which had been very well attended. The D/G Council had provided the wreath.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: This would be on Thursday January 18th 2024 at 7pm.

