

## ESKDALEMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

7pm 04 April 2024 Community Hub

**PRESENT:** Nick Jennings, John Furlonger, Barry Young, Ian Warden, and Denis Male, Archie Dryburgh (D/G Council).

**APOLOGIES:** Liz McQueen, Stuart Green, Bernard Provost, and Beatrice Furlonger. Because of the continuing effect of Long Covid, Beatrice is obliged to offer her resignation from the Council.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** These were read and approved with minor amendments. The work on the mast referred to in the previous minutes should have included a reference to the planning application for amendments to the existing mast. There is still occasional obstruction to the area in front of the churchyard, but it is rare.

### **MATTERS ARISING:**

a) **Democracy Matters:** There had been a very successful public meeting with a good turn out and a report had been sent back to the Scottish Government, but as yet there has been no feedback. There had been two expressions of interest in joining the Council. Unfortunately, one was from somebody not on the electoral roll, the other from a local lady who had previously been a member. While the Public meeting had attracted an encouraging attendance, the test is in the long term response. More needs to be done to publicise Council meetings. They appear on the Council website, but Ian suggested they could be tagged onto the emails circulated by the Hub which seemed to be more widely read.

b) **Resilience Planning:** The plan to make the Hub more resilient in the event of severe weather conditions has not moved far forward. The money from the wind farms has not yet been used and there is still £11,000+ available to carry out the necessary scheme. We are still in Communication with CARE regarding the upgrading of the Heating system and an will liaise with Lara regarding the best use of the funds.

**PLANNING MATTERS:** The Chairman observed that several months ago he had raised the question of the 28 Day Rule in regard to the shooting range at Clerkhill with Emma Harper the MSP. He had expressed the concern of the Community Council regarding the two mile range shooting. He had only just received a reply. It appeared that the review had resulted in no change to the status quo. There appears to be a hold up on any decision on as to what constitutes a major develop-ment. Samye Ling have submitted a concern to the Public Services Ombudsman regarding the proliferation of activities at Clerkhill. Apart from the Range shooting there is Commercialised Game Shooting, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Quad Bike activity, Gun Dog Training

etc, which it is felt should be properly regulated. They were ordered to dismantle the buildings etc which had been erected without Planning permission and an enforcement notice was issued in 2022 but so far it has not been implemented. Their long range shooting activities have been moved outside the D/G area.

Samye Ling have put in a planning application for a solar farm

Scottish Water plan to build a treatment plant at Sandyford for the Black Esk, so far without consultation with local residents, nor has the E.C.C been informed. It is on a large scale and will certainly have an impact on the environment of those who live there. Archie Dryburgh will follow the matter up.

WEBSITE UPDATE: There are not many hits on the Council Website, and perhaps it would be helpful to have greater co-ordination with the Hub, Village page and Facebook to generate more activity. The Chairman pointed out that the lack of a regular secretary militates against the effective operation of the website and thus holds back the progress of the Community Council.

RESILIENCE PLANNING: The plan is in place and will in due course be updated. Rachel still maintains the database and keeps an occasional contact with the project.

EMAIL ACCOUNTS: We have three accounts - Info, Chair and Treasurer. The overall cost is £2-300 per year. One advantage is that we have access to Office 365.

LOCALITY PLANNING: We are involved in conjunction with the Hub, in the Local Place Plan. We have applied for the Funding, and provisional meetings are planned for 26th and 28th April and for the 18th May. Barry liaises with Lara on the details on matters such as Transport, the Environment etc. The Chairman indicated that he would appreciate if the UEDG would acknowledge in its correspondence the support provided by the Community Council in its backing, particularly in respect of Windfarm funding.. This would help to draw local attention to the importance of the Council to the Community.

PLANNING NOTICES: There are no significant notices that affect the Community.

WINDFARM COMMUNITY BENEFITS: Barry has been in touch to communicate feedback on accounts of our activities, including our disbursement of funds. There has been an issue raised regarding a Langholm resident, Sophie, who works at the Hub. She would benefit from some external training. Should Langholm or Eskdalemuir take the initiative in seeking appropriate funding? Ian could request Lara to pursue this matter. Kirsten Jenkins teaches Che Gong and wishes to develop her skills in Shiatsu massage. The cost of training would be £550. The grant of this sum was unanimously approved by the Council... The ESMP hall is about to celebrate its 100th Anniversary. A new front door costing £997 is required for the hall. This sum too was approved by the Council.

CORRESPONDENCE: None that is not already covered by the website.

A.O.B. Concern was expressed about the potholes in local roads. Archie pointed out that the Roads Department could now be fined if repairs were not up to standard.

NEXT MEETING: 3rd Thursday in May . May 16th at 7pm.