

ESKDALEMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
16th MAY 2024 - THE COMMUNITY HUB

PRESENT: Nick Jennings, John Furlonger, Barry Young, Stuart Green, Bernard Provost, Liz McQueen, Ian Warden, PC Barnfather (Police) and Lara Porter (UEDG)

APOLOGIES: Beatrice Furlonger, and Denis Male/Archie Dryburgh (D/G Council)

Beatrice regretted that she was obliged to offer her resignation owing to Long Covid which had persisted for a year and had resulted in her having to give up work. The Chairman expressed the regret of the council in which she had served for several years and proposed a vote of thanks for that service. This was unanimously endorsed by the Council members.

POLICE REPORT: This was made the first agenda item in order to enable PC Barnfather to keep his next appointment on time. Three incidents were reported:

1. A male contacted police to state that his vehicle had come off the road on the B709 near Eskdalemuir. No injury and no damage to property. Vehicle recovered. 8th Feb
2. Two male motor cyclists issued with S3 - Careless Driving FPTs after being involved in a collision on the B709. 14th Apr
3. Report made of an attempt to gain access to an oil storage tank at an address in Eskdalemuir during which the suspects damaged a lock. Enquiries ongoing. 10th May
4. 'Concern for Person' call which officers attended and then relevant partner agencies were informed to assist.

Members of the Council raised issues regarding responsibility for road signage in consequence of both the winding nature of the road in sections of the B723 and the poor state of the road in several places. PC Barnfather indicated that this was largely the responsibility of the D/G Council.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: These were read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING: Stuart Green will be refunded £365 for paying for the Office 365 licences for the Council website. Barry will arrange for the refund.

Other items will be dealt with as Agenda items.

PLANNING MATTERS: The new Septic tank at the hub is now under consideration by the D/G Council. There is some concern regarding whether it will be large enough for the purpose especially in view of possible future housing development Barry will pursue this matter with the D/G Council.

It had been reported that the shooting range at Clerkhill was being dismantled. An enforcement notice had been issued by the D/G Council had been issued some time ago, and presumably this was now being observed. It was also noted that the shooting event which had been planned there with the Hub as the site for refreshments etc, was now to take place elsewhere.

PROMOTION OF WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK UPDATE: Barry had done his best to keep the sites up to date, but reported that there had been very little interest. John expressed concern that despite an earlier public meeting which had been well attended, and which had been intended

to generate interest in the Council activities, response from the community had been very disappointing. Barry asked Lara if he could be given advance warning of the publication of the UEDG newsletter in order that he could include notification of Council matters to see if this could help to improve matters.

LOCALITY PLANNING UPDATE: Lara and Barry reported that there had been two meetings. They were fairly well attended and were intended as introductions to the process. The first meeting, on Climate Change and Environment were seen as too abstract to generate great enthusiasm. The second was to explore the concerns that were felt on such matters as Transport, Health, Housing and Safety. The meeting was not intended to produce solutions or precise suggestions. It was an introduction to the next series of meetings. Lara stressed that these would be much more specific and would concentrate on areas that might be of local concern. There was a feeling that our local publicity was not sufficient to generate enthusiasm and that perhaps we should consider the possibility of employing an outsider to advertise more widely, perhaps through the media.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION: This will take place in October. The community should be informed well in advance in order that they might consider playing a part.

RETURNING OFFICER: Supplied by D/G Council.

PLANNING NOTICES: None beyond that referred to earlier.

WIND FARM COMMUNITY BENEFITS: The next round of benefits will be forthcoming at the end of September or October. Up to £90,000 may be available. John asked whether funding may be available for repairs to some of the roads off the beaten track in the parish. The Chairman stated that an application should be put in via the local constituted group, such as exists at Twiglees.

Sophie has put in an application for £493 to pay for courses to improve the quality of the services she can provide for the Hub. She has provided detailed costing and will be required to provide evidence of this. This was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: Information regarding the Council Election sent by the Council.

NEXT MEETING: The third Thursday in July

AOCB: John pointed out that the Eskdalemuir Bus Shelters need some attention. He agreed to approach Tom Warbeck, who built the shelters, to give an estimate and to carry out the work. The Chairman agreed that the work could be funded from the General Fund.

The meeting then closed