

Minutes of meeting held in the Village Hall on August 29th 2013.

Members present Fred Dale Chairman Tony Thompson Deputy Chairman Sharon Bell Treasurer Jacky Taylor Secretary Sylvia Harper Marion Bell Jim Bell George Muirhead Tom Halliday John Graham and Richard Mann. Also present one member of the public

Apologies from Margaret Currie PC John Cowan and Peter Diggle.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Jacky Taylor to follow up on Dog Fouling Notices with D&G Council. Fred Dale to contact Highways department re misleading signage for services area. Tom Halliday reported that large vehicles were still using the back road and ignoring the weight limit signs. PC John Cowan to be contacted re this matter. Farm Watch messages still not being forwarded as required, PC Cowen to be contacted re this matter also

Proposer and Seconder

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed as true and correct by Jim Bell and seconded by George Muirhead.

Councillors Report

There was no Councillors report due to the absence of Peter Diggle. A meeting was being arranged between Fred Dale and our local Councillors to discuss the proposed closure of the Village Hall.

Police Report

A written report was submitted from PC Cowan. Copper to the value of £8000 was stolen from Harestanes construction site in June 2013 and quad bike and Heavy Plant thefts have been reported from Nithsdale and Stewarty areas .On 11/8/13 a 19 year old male James Abba was pronounced dead in Ecclefechan. On 23/8/13 a 40 year old male was found dead in Ecclefechan. Two males have been charged with murder. Investigations are ongoing. Police Scotland extend their condolences to the families concerned and the local community. Ongoing initiatives recently include targeting unlicensed and uninsured drivers. Fixed penalty fines have increased to £50 for some offences and £100 for others.

Lockerbie Swimming Pool

Alan Barlow and Ann Mac Donald from the working group for the proposed new swimming pool in Lockerbie made a short and interesting presentation about their project. The proposed new swimming pool is to be built behind the existing Ice Rink. Facilities will include a café and some other sporting facilities. Completion subject to funding is expected to be at the end of 2015. The Community Council will be sending a letter of support for their project. Any individuals who wish to show support should e mail to alan.leisureplan@btinternet.com

Treasures Reports

A Sharon Bell reported that the Community Council account stands at £1443.68 with £50.99 in the cash box and the Hall Account at £766.62 with £64.42 in the cash specific funds being ring fenced for specific projects.

Village Hall

Dumfries and Galloway Council have indicated that they intend to terminate the current lease on the Village Hall. An initial meeting has been held between D&G representative, Lord David Johnstone and Fred Dale. Various matters were discussed including a possible use of Templand Village Hall which was dismissed as totally impractical by Fred Dale. D&G Council are aware of our proposed new Centre and it was pointed out to their representative that it would not be possible for the Post Office to relocate to elsewhere prior to our new centre being completed. There is also a strong possibility that any of our present Hall Bookings having to relocate would result in loss of business. The Community Council would be unable to take up the lease if D&G terminate their lease as the Hall would not be considered fit for purpose in its current state. Our local councillors have been contacted to assist with our efforts to keep the Village Hall open and functional. Estimated repairs to bring the Hall up to a required standard could be in the region of one million pounds so this is not a feasible option for us. Fred Dale asked the Council representative what had happened to the £1200 which D&G Council annually reserve for the upkeep of the Hall as this does not appear to have been utilised. Three years ago the D&G Council obtained a quote to install disabled toilets but no action was taken. The Annandale Estates have indicated that they intend to hold D&G Council to their lease agreement which terminates in November 2014. The Annandale Estates do not intend to update repair to the Hall.

Fred Dale then asked as D&G Council intend to terminate their lease within the next 12 months or so would they be prepared to make an "in kind" contribution towards funding for the new centre by surfacing the Car Park and footpaths and forming the entrance. This would also contribute towards our match funding as required by The Lottery.

Negotiations are still ongoing

Windfarm Grants

The Community Council were asked to agree to the Minsca and Clyde Windfarm Grants being utilised for match funding as required by The Lottery. Minsca funds for 5 years in total and Clyde funds for 2 years in total Amounts being as £10k and £20k respectively. The matter was unanimously agreed.

Tony Thompson to attend the Clyde Windfarm grant review in the first week in September, there are three applications in for Johnstonebridge; two for Play Area equipment and one application for a container shed.

There is £183.25 remaining in the micro grant. Letters of implementation for the individual grants awarded this year are to be forwarded to Foundation Scotland prior to the next Micro Grant fund being made.

Foundation Scotland who administer Clyde Windfarm grants brought up two matters of concern to them which need to be addressed prior to the next round of grant applications to bring us into compatibility with their legal requirements. The first item was our local lottery draw. It was felt that we were not making much contribution towards funding with this and that some months the prizes were being subsidized by the Community Council due to lack of revenue. Sharon Bell disagreed with this statement, figures to be provided for the next meeting in September. The second item of concern was the two individual Community Council accounts. It was agreed that for auditing and reporting matters the accounts would be merged but still keep the individual bank accounts. It was also agreed that a single auditor be sourced to cover all the Community accounts. Spa accountancy to be contacted to request a quote.

There was some concern from The Windfarms re upcoming members of the local communities to take over in the future from the present community councillors in all areas. There is a lack of interest from younger people in general to take community responsibility It is important to note that the Windfarm Grants will continue for another 25years.

Correspondence

A letter from Beechfield House was received apologising for their chickens escaping into neighbouring gardens and thanking residents for their assistance. The matter is now resolved. Letters of congratulations were received from Elaine Murray SMP and David Mundell MP congratulating the Community Council on their recent lottery award of £10k for Play equipment. Another letter from David Mundell MP was received regarding the School House possibly being sold back to the School by DGHP but nothing definite yet.

Upcoming Events

September	Candle Party
October 11 th	50/60s and Country Music/Dance Night
November 1st	Halloween Night

November 16th Christmas Craft Fair/Coffee Morning/Christmas Draw
November 29th Quiz with a difference
December 20th Childrens Christmas party/Lottery
December 21st Seniors Christmas Lunch/Christmas squares
December 22nd Carol Service

As there was only one quote for the Seniors Christmas Lunch it was agreed that this would be held at the Lorry Park. Tony Thompson to contact Samuel Elliot Trust for funding contribution.

AOB

A few Community Councillors commented on the volume of e mails requesting attendance at meetings organised on various matters by D&G Council. It would be impossible as individuals to attend all the meetings that were arranged. Fred Dale has commented to D&G Council about the amount of e mails and meetings arranged and the cost of these. The Council are reminded that we are all volunteers and all our Community Council work is undertaken in our own time. Fred Dale to arrange two notice boards for general notices.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday September 26th in the Village Hall @ 19.30

