

**JOHNSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016**  
**AT 7.30PM in the Johnstonebridge Centre**

**PRESENT**

Mr Richard Mann (RM) Chair	Mr Richard Bray (RB) Vice Chair
Mr Tony Thomson (TT)	Mrs Sharon Bell (SB) Treasurer
Ms Anita Cooper (AC) Secretary	Mrs Marion Bell (MB)
Mrs Margaret Currie (MC)	Mrs Heather Robb (HR)
Mrs Sylvia Harper (SH)	Mr Jim Bell (JB)
Councillor Stephen Thomson (ST)	

5 members of the public, 3 representatives from RES Windfarms

**APOLOGIES**

Mr Tom Halliday, PC John Cowan, Councillor Peter Diggle

**Matters Arising**

- Treasurer (SB) stated that the ring fenced amount in the Community Council Account should read £3067.93 and not £3017.93.
- Councillor Thomson stated that Beechfield Lane did not qualify for a salt bin, but that he would look into this.
- A sub-committee is to be formed to oversee the Memorial Garden. Volunteer SB.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January were read and proposed as true and correct by TT and seconded by JB.

**Councillor's Report**

Bus Shelter - The bus shelter sides were on the agenda of SWestTrans board meeting in May to discuss.

Roads Dept - Invite to John Howell to attend the next meeting for an update, and help in understanding any concerns re the layout of the bus shelter and the newly planted hedge.

Noticeboard – ST in contact with Joe Weir from Loreburn Housing to look at the site at Kirkhill for the possibility of a noticeboard.

Potholes - Ever increasing amount of potholes to be reported.

Budget – Dumfries & Galloway Council budget is set for Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February.

**Treasurer's Report**

SB reported that the Community Council account was standing at £ 4915.42, of which £3067.93 is ringfenced. Cash box £81.11.

Hall account balance £1237.71/£79.11 cash box.

The Fundraising account was holding £159.57.

**Police Report**

As attached.

RES Windfarms

Three representatives from RES were present at the meeting to give an account of their progress at Minnigap and to answer any questions.

Callum Whiteford – Community Relations Manager

James Dominiak – Construction Site Manager

Plus Graham .. ? Senior Development Manager

Since November 2015 the construction team have completed all necessary access works and from April 2016 will start on the main wind farm construction site. August 2016 should see the delivery of the first of the ten turbines. Construction traffic will increase on the A701 to the access point at the newly upgraded Annandale Forest track, site main entrance. RES are looking to March 2017 to energise the wind farm but will send out regular newsletters to keep the community informed of progress.

Community benefits will include a fund of an annual £50,000 for local people to invest in community projects, and a local electricity discount scheme whereby those living closest to the turbines will be offered a £200 annual discount off their electricity bill.

A panel of RES representatives plus local representatives from each of the community council areas closest to the windfarm will make up a funding panel i.e Templand, Johnstone, Kirkpatrick Juxta, & Beattock.

Correspondence

Thank you letters received from Johnstonebridge Primary & Johnstonebridge WRI for the awards of their grants.

A letter has been received from Johnstone & District Show & Sports Association requesting a funding of £300 towards the costs of the Johnstone Show this year. Agreed (from Hall Account).

Various emails from:

Community Safety Fund – open for applications

Funding for flood affected communities

Scottish Community Council Website re-launch

Foundation Scotland – flood recovery

Consultation for Leisure & Sport, Libraries & Registration

Community Resilience Equipment

Public Forum

JB brought up the problem of the road surface at the junction to the services, being completely broken up. ST to look into this and chase up action.

Lorries had been seen again at the entrance to Margot Steele's, loading and unloading & also turning in the entrance. This was deemed extremely dangerous for the local children out playing. RM to investigate.

We also have the added problem of the area being used as a toilet for drivers.

It was also brought up about the grass cutting in the village this year. Who is responsible, and who does the mower belong to? The Community Council or the Development Trust? This is to be looked into. RM/RB

#### AOCB

A sub-committee is to be formed for the organisation of the Memorial Garden. SB  
The JCC Treasure Hunt is to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in July (3/7/16), as usual. Last year's winners to organise the hunt. Start at the old hall and finish at either the Lorry Park or the JB Centre. (TBA). RES to be approached as sponsors.

Fundraising – A JCC Quiz Night is being held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April at JB Centre. (In hand).  
A Community Tea Party was discussed to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, but it was decided not to go ahead. It was agreed to plant a tree for the Queen's Birthday, with a commemorative plaque.

RM to speak to John Sloan of the Bowlers in connection to the proposed JCC grant.

The JCC Lottery was drawn:

1<sup>st</sup> Andrew Purdie 2<sup>nd</sup> Julie Nelson 3<sup>rd</sup> Kerry Currie

Date and Time of the next meeting is Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.30pm at the Johnstonebridge Centre.