

Cree Valley Community Council

Minutes: 10th May 2021

7:00pm ZOOM Meeting

Attendees: Ben Palmer (Chair), Clifford Smithers (Vice Chair), Charles Marshall (Secretary), Richard Kay (Treasurer), Jim Brown, Rev. Newton, Angela Marshall, Jenny Marshall, Ben Palmer, M. McIlwraith, : Kerren Walker (DGC)

Apologies: Alison McCathie, Cllr, J. McColm

Elected Members: Cllr. D Inglis, Cllr J. Carson.

Guests : None

Chair – Welcomed all to the May 2021 meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Proposed – Ben Palmer

Seconded – J. Brown.

Chair – Matters Arising

None.

Police Scotland: Report & Questions.

Report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Elected Members

J. Carson reported that:

- Bids for the Community Renewal Fund had to be submitted by 17th May.

D. Inglis reported that:

- A meeting had been arranged to discuss the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme. He added that the footpath on the west side of the River Cree downstream of the Sparling Bridge was in danger of being “washed away”. He was therefore progressing this with Michael Smith of DGC and the organisation responsible for Core Paths to establish if work can be carried out in advance of the Flood Protection Scheme main works. Jim Brown replied that DGC were responsible for the river maintenance, including dredging.

1. Planning

It was agreed that an objection to the Artfield Wind Farm would be raised for the following reasons:

1. The visual impact of the development in addition that the cumulative effect of the new applications (3 immediately adjacent at Kilgallioch Extension, Airries & Artfield Forest) is excessive in our landscape.
2. Negative impact on fuel poverty as every turbine that goes up means an increase in bills, because of the guaranteed payment they receive.
3. The fact that because of the height of the turbines they will be lit which impacts on the Dark Skies.
4. The turbines will not displace a single ounce of carbon fossil fuel in generation in Scotland.

J. Brown expressed concern that the Local Development Plan had been ignored in the Car Park Planning Application at Blairmount Park. R. Kay stated that conditions had been added to the Planning Approval.

J. Brown added that work carried out in Conservation Areas appeared to be in contraction of the Local Development Plan. D. Inglis replied that an element of consideration/tolerance had been used. He added that the situation was an unfortunate incident.

R. Kay stated that access to the Planning officers should be reinstated. It was agreed that the Councillors would take this forward.

2. Newton Stewart Hospital

It was reported that the Hospital was currently being used for Covid-19 vaccinations.

3. Kilgallioch Wind Farm Benefit Fund

C. Marshall reported that he had attended a meeting with Jane Atterton of SRUC. He added this was the consultant carrying out the review of Kilgallioch Wind Farm Benefit Fund and he felt the meeting had went well.

In particular:

- She appeared to appreciate the issues CVVC have with the fund and the composition of the Kilgallioch Wind Farm Benefit Fund Board.
- She appeared sympathetic to the position CVCC finds itself in.

J. Brown is also drafting a reply to the Chief Executive of Scottish Power.

6.Events Group

N. Newton reported that the Christmas Fayre and Hogmanay Hoolie could happen, depending on the situation with Covid-19.

6. Resilience Planning

B. Palmer reported that Allan Marshall had managed to source another container.

C. Smithers stated that the legal position re using Barnkirk Depot was established.

It was agreed that the Resilience Team should report to CVCC on:

- Detailed Risk Assessment Plan
- Monthly report on activities

9.Action Points

C. Marshall reported that:

- A light on the approach to the Sparling Bridge was now fixed.
- Erosion on bank of River Cree – a temporary fence had been erected. However, it appeared to be inadequate. J. Brown added that he felt the area was unsafe. D. Inglis replied that he would progress this.
- Repairs to roads/pavements in Glentool are still outstanding.

Public Forum – None.

Correspondence

All issued prior to meeting.

Financial Update:

The Financial Reports were distributed.

AOCB

C. Smithers reported:

- He would progress the availability of the Community Payback Team.
- He would also progress funding for a Burns Lunch.

D. Inglis stated that the re-establishment of the Newton Stewart Business Association should be progressed.

Next meeting 7th June 2021 at 7:00 p.m. (via ZOOM).