

Minutes of TCC Meeting 28 March 2011

Present: Colin, Madge, Alec, Bryan, Rona, Sue

Apologies: Elaine, George. No policemen or councillors attended the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved: proposed by Madge, seconded by Rona

Sarah McConnel and Mary Waugh attended to raise the profile of the local Twinning Association, involving the villages of Tynron, Keir, Dunscore and Penpont and 4 similar villages 60 miles north of Paris. They spoke about the benefits of twinning, and said that the next visit is for the French to visit Dumfriesshire 17-21 August. Colin asked for a programme of events nearer time. Sarah asked if financial support would be available: Colin said she should apply to Madge, and that we would promote it as best we can.

Scottish Timber Traffic Fund: Colin had written up a report on the glen road at short notice for Graeme Allison. Landlords had been contacted and were willing to cooperate with donation of passing places, with the exception of the Scottish Wildlife Trust (which owns Stenhouse Wood). Nevertheless the chances of our getting a grant from the STTF seem slim.

Scottish windfarm meeting: Rona had attended. There was discussion of how the community benefit funds should be distributed, in what proportions. To date 60% goes to communities within a 10-mile radius and 40% to a general fund. Some thought it should **all** go to the communities within a 10-mile radius. Colin opined that there should be a mechanism for ensuring that the shareout between communities within a 10-mile radius should be fair. It was unclear when a final decision would be taken.

Litterpick: This was successful.

Grants: An administration grant of £458.25 had been received from DGC: Sue reported that applications for small grants had been submitted for comfortable chairs for the hall and for annual community events such as the Fun Day and the ceilidhs.

Community Powerdown: Sue passed over this item as she had not read up enough about it. There was some speculation as what an anaerobic digester might be.

Hall Matters. Linda reported that £170 had been raised by the Quiz. Phil had carried the issue of Hall ownership as far as possible: Mr Pollock went to the registrar at the Land registry: had said that because there is an extant copy of a valid lease (in Phil's possession) a title cannot be issued, even though the nominal rent has never been paid. When the lease runs out in 2025, if we are not contacted by an owner and no one can prove ownership, then the Community will have to apply for title and the Land registry will consider granting title to the community. It was noted that this means that funding bodies who require proof of ownership cannot be approached. Thanks were expressed to Phil for pursuing this. Sue and Linda reported on a meeting with a LEADER representative about funding for heating and the extension, and the problem of finding matching funding. Sue mentioned the CARES loan fund and whether windfarm income could finance one. Colin thought it not out of the question, but on the whole people were wary about the possibility of over-committing funds to the renovation project.

The Secretary had nothing to report.

In the absence of the Treasurer, it was noted that the balance in the account is £2627.93, and that Elaine has distributed cheques to reimburse expenses. Elaine has said that she will keep a petty cash float to avoid need to draw cheques for <£10.

AOCB: Billy Wallace of Barr Farm reported on his 'Mind Scotland' sponsored cycle run, for which he is hoping to attract donations. He will set up a justgiving account, and encouraged cyclists to join him for part of the way.

The AGM may be held on 18 April or 16 May, but the date will be confirmed nearer the time.