

Minutes of meeting 52 29 July 2013

Apologies: George, Bryan, Elaine, Andrew Wood

Present: Council (Colin, Madge, Rona, Alec, Sue); public: Linda McDonald, Margaret Irving, Carol, and Mick Outhwaite, John Cowdery.

Approval of minutes of last meeting: proposed Rona, seconded Madge.

There was no police presence so no report.

Windfarms: Sue reported on a meeting that had been held in Moniaive about Scottish Power Renewables' proposed windfarms in the area: the Wether Hill extension, Cormilligan/Kirkconnel and Eucharhead: no more information had emerged than had been divulged at the meeting with Scottish Power Renewables on these windfarms held in Tynron Hall on 29 May, i.e. that access to Cormilligan would be from the top of the glen rather than through Tynron and up the glen, and that the power line would go out over the top to a new substation at Glenglass. Carol asked why there had been no earlier notice of the meeting, and was told that very little notice had been given to the council. Sue promised that in future she would take particular care that alerts to such meetings would be given as soon as possible and to as many people as possible. There followed much discussion of the issues of having windfarms in the glen, summed up by Madge that while windfarms would be highly objectionable visually, if anyone is offered vast sums of money to allow them on their land, they will do it. It was clear that the issue could cause ill-feeling. Colin reported on the meeting in Thornhill attended by him, Bryan and Sue in which the DGC had outlined its role in the allotting of community benefit: to help with negotiation between local community councils and windfarm companies, but that it would hope 50% of the benefit could go to concerns outside the immediately affected areas. It had emerged that the companies were aiming to distribute £5,000 per Mw per annum to councils within a 15km radius; that they were keen to promote community-owned turbines; and that there were limits on what benefit could be spent on (e.g. not on individuals or on infrastructure). Madge expressed the hope that there was a D&G Councillor knowledgeable in all aspects of windfarms who could attend further meetings and explain matters; and asked whether the rules of disbursement could be negotiated. Colin understood that they could, and said we needed to decide whether we want the community benefit. Several possible projects were quickly proposed: the hall carpark, the church, roadside ditch maintenance, the village septic tank, general upgrading of the insulation etc. on all houses; general handout to reduce electricity bills.

Community Council Enquiry Service: Colin said he saw this service as potentially a great help for targeting the right areas of the Council for help in matters such as potholes, windfarms, drains etc. Madge thought it is to go live on 16 August.

Fun Day: the date will be 11th August not 18th, which is the last day of the school holidays. Various other dates were suggested but all seemed less suitable. Madge is to get the bouncy castle and the food and drink; Bryan to organise the tug -o'-war and goals for the football; Alec suggested asking Alastair for stilts. The Day will start at 2pm; organisers meet at 10am to set up. Sue to send out a community email advertising it: Madge has a poster.

Day of the Region: Madge reported on the most recent meeting, concerning Tynron' contribution. Eunice is to do a photography quiz in the hall, and Madge is to reply to Gordon Neilson about this. There is to be a Tai Chi demonstration: either by the teacher, Angela Johnstone, if the TCC could pay her a small fee (as it would not be provided by Day of the Region sponsors) or by members of the Tai Chi group; ceilidh dancing; pancake making; and lunch for 100 people (including classic car drivers who would be passing through Tynron). Entry-cum-affle tickets would be sold for £2, mainly so that organisers could get an idea of how many they were

catering for. Prizes, such as rural holidays or a meal out, would be welcome. The timetable will be finalised at the next meeting: 20th August, 7.30pm, Gladstone Hall Penpont.

Drains: Madge has asked for someone to come and attend to these: when they do, Colin and Rona and Andrew Wood will all be present.

Roads: most of the remaining bad patches in the glen have been re-surfaced: various people noted that a patch at Kilnmark, the precipice on Clodderoch Brae and the patch by Glenturra still needed to be done, and that one of the glen bridges had been damaged. John asked about the Strathmilligan road, saying that timber hauliers had been filling potholes on it, and that most of the timber round Kirkconnel has been extracted. Colin has asked Andrew Wood about these omissions. Carol asked about cutting roadside trees, which are tending to shed branches and to obscure visibility: Madge is to ask DGC about it.

Hall Matters: Linda reported that July teas had made £450: thanks to Margaret for her efforts. The final money from LEADER had come in, and the next plan for using it was to open up the cupboard on the stage as better storage. All had enjoyed the Hogroast celebration of the hall renovation.

Secretary's Report: Food Train wishes to start up in the area and would like volunteers. There is a new waste management plan, involving the scrapping of community recycling bins and having separate personal bins instead; some people thought changing the system might be a waste of money. Madge described the form each household can complete on its strategy for winter resilience, and that she had had no response to her question why DGC could not disseminate this instead of asking local councils to do it, or how much this exercise was costing council tax payers. There was also a letter stating that DGC's public liability had increased to cover losses incurred by individuals as a result of helping people out in winter emergencies. Thanks had been received from Penpont playgroup for TCC's contribution to their chocolate factory outing.

Treasurer's Report: none, in Elaine's absence.

AOCB: John Cowdery asked if Pat's ashes could be placed by the War Memorial, as she had felt so much a part of the Tynron community. All were in favour. The war memorial needed tidying up: John offered to get his grandchildren to tidy it up, and Alec proposed asking Alastair if he would strim on a regular basis in return for a consideration from the council.