

Minutes of meeting 53 30 September 2013

Apologies: George, Alec.

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

Matters arising: Roads need attention: there are potholes on the Strathmilligan road to be filled; the roadside edge on Clodderoch Brae is still caving away, there are bushes to be trimmed on the Quarry Brae road, and the potholes on the road between Lannhall and Low Lann have not been filled and make empty timber lorries rattle deafeningly. Andrew Wood noted these, especially the last which had not been previously noted.

Police matter: There was no police presence, but Brian had earlier reported (30 August) that the community bench at the turning into the glen road had been stolen (police had been notified). See AOCB.

Windfarms: Andrew Wood said some local windfarm proposals were being refused planning permission; the council had approved a strategy document (which Andrew will forward to us), which was governing decisions. Some areas have been designated as protected, but not the area including Tynron. Madge asked why not solar panels instead of windfarms: Andrew said solar panels are being encouraged, and he agreed that the number of windfarms locally is becoming excessive. Colin asked if advice would be available for how to spend community benefit. Andrew said there was no councillor knowledgeable in all aspects of windfarms who could attend further meetings and explain matters. It might be possible to offer all local residents money to reduce electricity bills (perhaps via a dedicated turbine), but it would be better to plan to save community benefit to build up reserve of money to create e.g. community energy scheme, or community housing. Madge objected that matters such as housing were the Council's responsibility. Colin complained about the short notice provided by the energy company of the meeting about Cormilligan, Wether Hill and Eucharhead windfarms: Andrew said it would be worth contacting each energy company to find out the situation; and asking a senior planning officer to go through what the planning stages are of all the windfarms we know about. Colin asked about procedures with regard to vested interests of Community Councillors: Andrew said councillors with interests should declare them and leave the meeting while decisions concerning these issues are being taken.

A grit bin is needed in Strathmilligan: Andrew needs names of three people prepared to spread grit from it. The fact that timber lorries will need the road gritted will not carry any weight. We should contact the winter resilience team. There are new lighter versions of the grit-spreader: the current ones don't work when grit is damp.

Windfarms: Sue said it was still possible to reply to the consultation on Eucharhead. Elaine asked if there was any point in saying anything, and it was thought we should voice our objections even so. We will need to alert Planning to the existence of a Striding Arch on the ridge where the Cormilligan windfarm is proposed. Most people agreed that turbines serving individual properties were less objectionable than windfarms on prominent ridges, and that the benefit of turbines should be generally spread in the community.

The Fun Day had gone well. No changes were needed.

Day of the Region: the official brochure omits the names of Elaine and George as members of the TCC: Colin apologised (although not his fault). Madge went through the programme of events for Tynron.

Drains: Colin had had a meeting with Ronnie Miller and was waiting to hear back. The case for DGC intervention had not been dismissed immediately, but drains could be householder's responsibility. Andrew's help might be needed.

Timber traffic: Various people, including David Blair and Jane Parker-Clark, had submitted information about frequency of timber traffic, which regularly exceeds the allowance of 6 lorries per day, with as many as 17 reported some days. Nobody reported timber traffic at weekends. The early morning lorries, sometimes

before 5am, are a particular nuisance. Speed is also a concern. Sue will compile a report to negotiate with the haulage companies and forestry owners concerned.

Halloween Party: it was decided to hold a Christmas party for children on the 21<sup>st</sup> December instead, and a separate event on Sun 1<sup>st</sup> December (5pm) to switch on Christmas lights. Mary and Terry will provide mulled wine; Colin will speak to George about a tree.

Hall Matters: Repair of the leak in the meeting room ceiling is in hand. The cupboard on the stage has been opened up and insulated, allowing for more storage space. The latest electricity bill was low. Janet, Linda, Mary and Sue will attend the Rural Awards event for which for the hall project has been shortlisted. New tables and a new fridge have been ordered. The new heaters are to be serviced. The memorial bench is being stored at Strathmilligan for the winter. An Arts and Crafts weekend is being held in the Hall on 16 and 17 October, and the Created coffee morning on 9 November. The Hogmanay ceilidh is being investigated (musicians required). A Christmas meal for the over 50s is planned for Sat 14<sup>th</sup> December: £300-£400 requested from TCC to fund this and agreed. Madge to get presents, Rona to help wrapping them.

The Secretary had nothing further to report.

Treasurer's Report: Bank balance: £3063.60. £600 is to be deducted for Fun Day expenses, and a cheque from Scottish Power for £2,356.53 to be added. Elaine had received a letter of thanks from the Thornhill Dancers for the money voted to them for their China trip.

AOCB: Bryan initiated discussion about replacing the stolen bench; was it used (answer: Yes); whether insurance could be claimed (will a crime reference number); whether it could be insured against repeated theft; and how we could guard against another theft (engrave it as a community property, weld it to the ground, cement it in). £350 would buy a replacement bench, and Madge suggested it might be made of stone (dykestone and sandstone) instead: nice-looking and less stealable. Rona said it would be damp, Sue said it would be cold and Colin said it would cost more than £350, but even so they were in favour. Elaine suggested we hold a decision over until the next meeting or the spring.

The next meeting will be on 25 November