

TCC 108 Approved Minutes
TYNRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 20 July 2020, 7.30pm, held by Zoom

In attendance: Sue King-Smith (SKS), Chair; Mary Newbould (MN), Treasurer; Sue Hall (SH), Secretary; Linda McDonald (LM); Keith Lewis (KL); Peigi Romano (PR); members of the Tynron community

1. Approval of TCC Minutes of meeting May 18 2020

Proposed – MN

Seconded – KL

2. Matters arising – Actions:

Windfarm Agreement with SP Renewables - Changes submitted. Latest version received but not approved yet

Accounts and AGM – We have not yet appointed a new auditor yet so cannot yet organise an AGM

3. Police report

Report received from PC Lee Smith showed no local crime to report in the preceding 2 months.

4. Treasurer's report (MN)

Expenses:

- Email hosting for TCC and TynronHelp - £24.85
- Monthly contribution to Hall running costs & maintenance - £400
- Zoom – VC facility for CR & TCC meetings during lockdown (Covid DGC Grant Funding) - £28.78

Total Expenses £453.63

Income:

- £1000.00 ANCBC Grant reserved for Covid-19 community recovery

Total income £1000.00

Balance:

Our current bank balance is:

Uncleared	£10,917.28	Cleared	£10,973.71
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Reserved Funding

Potential committed funds in FY 2020/2021

- **£4,590.36** to KPT in FY 2020/2021 – Contribution from 2019/2020 Wetherhill Windfarm income
- **£200** – Auld Alliance funding approved – **source ANCBC Grant**
- **£1600** – TPHC maintenance grant (£200 per month x 8 months)
- **£122.99** – DGC Covid-19 Grant
- **£1000.00** – ANCBC Community recovery Covid grant
- **£56.43** – Uncleared BACs debit transaction

Considered Committed Funding at this time: **£7569.78**

Immediately Available reserves: **£3403.93**

Additional considerations: Emergency reserves @ 20% **£680**

Total disposable income FY 2019/2020 = £2723.93

Breakdown DGC Covid-19 Grant

Income: **£455.15**

Expenses:

Volunteers PPE £288.99

Zoom VC for TCC, TPHC & Community Resilience (Covid Support) Meetings £43.17

TOTAL expenses £332.16

Outstanding Balance: **£122.99**

Grant to be committed & spent by August 31st 2020

Breakdown ANCBC Community Recovery Grant

Income: **£1000**

Expenses to date: **£0**

Outstanding Balance: **£1000**

Funding to be committed by 31st August 2020 and spent by 31st December 2020. Any surplus funding to be returned to ANCBC

5. Secretary's report (SH)

- i. Adriano de Olivera has resigned from TCC with immediate effect. TCC would like to thank Adriano for his work as a Tynron Community Councillor.
- ii. The option of a Dropbox facility for TCC members for read-only documents such as minutes, agendas, important docs was discussed. Given the increasing amount of admin we have it might be useful in the event of the unavailability of a member of TCC. This was agreed.
- iii. Action: SH to set up
- iv. SH expressed thanks on behalf of the Tynron community to the Resilience Committee and members of the Tynron Community for their hard work and support of the community during the Covid-19 pandemic. This work will need to be on-going for the immediate future. Thank you to all involved.

6. ANCBC support for Covid-19 grant (MN)

MN reported on updates regarding funds allocated for community support during the Covid-19 pandemic. £1000 to be allocated by 31st August & spent by 31st December. It is proposed to spend this money on PPE for the hall as it cannot be used unless adequately protected, as well as activities based around the hall WHEN SAFE TO DO SO.

Proposals

i. Equipment:

Air hand driers in 2 main WCs

Portable hand sanitizing unit

Bottles and fixed holders for gel in 3 WCs

Wall mounted gel container by main entrance

There will be guidance from regulatory bodies such as Environmental Health which will be adhered to.

ii. Proposed Events:

Subsidised using Covid money, subject to social distancing and Government guidelines.

Art/craft days

Exercise/health type days/classes (e.g. yoga, line dancing, Tai Chi), maybe replace Tango with Line Dancing using same qualified tutor if he's willing.

Could use funds to pay for existing planned events

Christmas lights/carol singing event – outside only event

Festive feast with catering supplied, depending on distancing rules, etc at the time
It was suggested that TCC could liaise with other Community Councils to identify and share ideas of best practice.

Action: MN to speak to Community Councils, and D&G Council regarding restrictions on hall use.
There will be no summer events this year because of Government Covid regulations, although this may change with Scottish Government's Phase III regulations. TCC, in conjunction with the Hall Committee, will continue to constantly review the situation, and liaise with the Tynron community regarding what type of event would be wanted in line with the existing regulations.

7. Consultation on the Review of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in Dumfries and Galloway (SH)

There has been a review of the criteria around the Establishment of Community Councils, prompted by the recent Coronavirus pandemic and the impacts of restrictions on communities and Community Councils. There is a consultation for CCs about the changes. Several changes have been made which now include:

- i. Community Councils need to have 5 'regular' meetings and 1 AGM to prevent dissolution, the date and time of scheduled meetings may now be altered by majority agreement of the Community Council. If a Community Council doesn't hold quorate meetings on 2 consecutive scheduled occasions, it **may** (as opposed to automatically as previous) be deemed to be dissolved. The Community Council shall not be deemed to be dissolved if the reason for their failure to hold two consecutive quorate meetings is a risk to public health or public safety, such as a global pandemic or other emergency situation.
- ii. Election of Community Councillors may now occur between election periods as Casual Vacancy Elections (CVE) – the decision on whether to fill vacancies through a Casual Vacancy Election can be determined at an ordinary meeting of a Community Council and shall be minuted.
- iii. Co-opted members may now count towards the quorum for a meeting.
Maximum permitted CC members 11
Minimum permitted CC members 4
Maximum number of Co-opted CC members 3
- iv. Treasurer's accounts may be electronic or paper
- v. Virtual meetings are accepted as valid CC meetings.

It was felt by TCC that the new measures were more relaxed and enabled community councils to continue during difficult times, however there was still some confusion around the Casual Vacancy Elections and the functions of community councillors elected this way.

8. Local planning applications (MN)

Kirkland House

TCC have submitted their comments on both the planning Application & LBC. These are available to view on the Dumgal website. For information to those with Listed Buildings, if you need to initiate any repairs or remedial works then get in touch with HES for advice (it's free) and always submit a LBC consent form. You don't necessarily need to get planning consent if it is something internal, eg structural repairs to roofing timbers.

Land opposite Clonrae Farm

MN visited the site when alerted that ground works had commenced and the digger was still in action. MN was made aware that the owners were proposing to erect a sheep handling shed but hadn't applied for Planning consent at that stage, and at the time of the meeting (20 July) still hadn't. TCC have also

received an email from the owners of Shinnelwood House & Cottage saying that they hadn't been alerted to the proposal despite the works altering access to their land/holding Cairneycroft, a place of significant historic interest which they are proposing to work with HES to restore. MN has spoken to the landowner to ensure that they realise that Planning consent would be required to build an agricultural shed on the site, and alerted them to potential restrictions due to the proximity/line of sight to/from Tynron Doon and Cairneycroft, another site of historic importance.

9. Tynron Community Resilience (MN)

It has been a quieter 2 months. TCR are continuing with community and buddy system shopping and have had a couple of requests for additional help/support which have been dealt with.

TCR have a Zoom meeting every 2 weeks to discuss the latest legislation and what is needed to be done to comply. Options for the Covid grant funding have been discussed as the TCR Team consists of members of both the Hall Committee and TCC, and any events proposed would be likely to require the hall facilities.

The team will continue to function but will review its functions as restrictions are eased.

Huge thanks to Jill Burgess, doing a brilliant job of updating the Tynron Community Website and Facebook pages with all the latest Covid information from the council and other local events etc, and Linda MacDonald dealing with Grapevine emails and the website.

SKS seconded SH's thanks for the fantastic job the resilience Team are doing.

10. Windfarm updates (SH)

- i. The proposed Windfarm Agreement between SPRenewables, Tynron CC & Tynron PHC is being finalised.
- ii. Sanquhar II updates – we are awaiting more information on a revised layout of the wind farm, including loss of 6 turbines (now 44 in total).
- iii. Quantans Hill Wind Farm – Tynron CC have submitted their comments and concerns to Vattenfall about their Quantans Hill wind farm scoping consultation. TCC are concerned that due to the Government's restrictions on public meetings due to Covid 19, all communications by Vattenfall about this proposal will be undertaken '....virtually to comply with these regulations and will try to engage in person at the right time if and when regulations are lifted'.
- iv. This emphasises the importance of Community Councils in the communication process at grass roots level.
- v. Eucharhead Renewable Energy Development – an online public information event will be held by SPRenewables 27 July – 3 August 2020. SPR are hoping to submit a planning application to the Scottish Government in September 2020 for 21 turbines of up to 230 metres height predominantly in the Shinnel and Scour Glens. SPR have added an additional turbine in the centre of the site following the previous consultation in February.
- vi. Concerns were expressed that moving everything on-line disenfranchises many folk in an area of poor, limited or no internet access.
- vii. **Action:** SH to contact SPR to ask to have documents mailed to all Tynron/Scour Glen residents and raise concerns about internet access.
- viii. Lorg windfarm – TCC have submitted an objection to increased turbine heights submitted. No site inspection was possible because of Covid-19 restrictions
- ix. SH raised concerns that the current pressures of wind farm developments are too much for Community Councils.

Action: SH to write to SMPs and local councillors raising concerns.

11. Shinnelhead project

Sharon Moodie at Shinnelhead has written the following proposal

My partner Kevin and I purchased an off grid property in D&G called Shinnelhead in December 2019. It was immediately obvious to us just how truly blessed this area is in terms of diversity and how wonderfully untouched it remains. It is also incredibly popular amongst local residents as are the wonderful previous owners.

Shinnelhead is rich in wildlife and birds of prey in particular, vast species of trees, plants and flowers and essential vegetation and habitat. It also enjoys wonderfully dark skies due to its extremely rural location. We are beginning to set the wheels in motion to create a nature reserve at Shinnelhead to protect the area and reduce biodiversity loss and threat from unnecessary over development of windfarms.

We are dearly hoping to welcome the community into this project and have as much involvement as possible with a view to offering local employment opportunities in the long run.

We want the reserve to be as non invasive as possible to preserve the area as it is, only adding to habitat and diversity.

We would like this to be an area for dark sky observation, wildlife observation and conservation, incorporating a bird of prey centre and being a dedicated wildlife release area. We are hoping to have the area as an education centre for local schools, scouts, astronomers and hope to hold events such as bushcraft days, sporting events, doggy days and much more! We hope that this will also provide a tourism attraction for the local area too as it is nestled into not just beautiful scenery but some historical sites and trails along the way.

All of this is currently under serious threat from the Sanquhar II and Eucharhead windfarm developments which would see over 70 up to 225m tip height turbines proposed for surrounding Shinnelhead. We are fighting relentless battles daily with the Eucharhead project and we will not back down!

Kevin and I are in brainstorming territory only right now but are hoping to move very quickly to put a real spanner into the windfarm works!

We are in desperate need of sponsors, funding of any kind and donations of as much recycled stuff as we can use! Every little helps but most importantly support from the community.

Because we want to do this for the community, we are coming up with special ideas to make sure every pair of hands that helps is always a part of this. We would also like to hear your ideas too!

If you would like to be a part of the Shinnelhead Project then we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch either on facebook by sending me a message or indeed feel free to visit us at Shinnelhead, you will be very welcome.

12. AOCB

KPT affordable housing (LM)

This is considered to be an important project for Tynron. A Grapevine message has been circulated as well as a survey to evaluate the views of the KPT community, to find out what the community actually needs. Current views are that new build (with a site to be identified) or renovation of a building could be acceptable but properties should be affordable to buy or rent, and have low running costs, high fuel efficiency and low energy requirements.

Phone Box (SKS)

There have been no public objections to the removal of the pay phone in the village phone box, however D&G Council can have until 28 Aug to decide whether or not we can go ahead with plans for it to be adopted/bought by the Tynron community. Ideas are sought for its future use, bearing in mind that as Tynron is a conservation village we are restricted as to how we can decorate or paint it.

Speeding in the village (PR)

Concerns were raised about the speeds of traffic through the village and the danger to pedestrians and dog walkers. This is possibly because of the location of the 30mph sign being obstructed. Options discussed were moving the speed limit sign to a more visible location; installing electronic 'your speed' signs; reducing the speed limit through the village to 20 mph.

Action: SKS to ask D&G Roads Department for advice.

Local forestry planting

Question was asked by a member of the public regarding future tree planting proposals for local forestry close to the village. Replanting following clearance has started in some areas, with more hardwoods and fewer conifers, and less overall planting than previously because some areas are unsuitable/difficult to access.

Natural gas provision in the village

TCC was asked if there was any chance of natural gas being available in the village. It is thought this is highly unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Timber extraction

Issues around timber extraction from Pinzarie and Auchenbrack were raised by a member of the public, including hauling after hours, exceeding the 6 loads a day, exceeding the max 20mph, not slowing down further whilst passing road-side properties, and very poor response from Tilhill management (who are managing Pinzarie) when these issues were raised with them.

Action: to be specifically included on the Agenda for the next TCC meeting.

13. Date of next meeting

Monday September 21st at 7.30pm. Venue and format to be decided nearer the time with regard to Covid-19 regulations on public meetings.