

TYNRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING 112

Monday 18th January 2021, 7.30 pm

Held by Zoom

Approved minutes

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

1. Approval of TCC Minutes of meeting November 16th 2020

Approved: LM

Seconded: KL

2. Matters arising

LM asked that thanks be extended to Hilary and Callum for the gift of the Tynron community Christmas tree; to Helen Maxwell for compiling and marking the Christmas Quiz; and to Alistair, Terry and George for erecting the Christmas tree in the Hall car park. Also thanks to all involved with the Tynron Village Christmas Lights. Despite Covid, Christmas was still celebrated in Tynron. SKS thanked all involved in the Christmas goody bag project

3. Police report

A large number of crimes had been reported in the area in the past two months, including vandalism, assaults, shop lifting and drugs. Of particular concern in the Tynron community are reports of dog thefts and quad bike thefts.

4. Treasurer's report

Details in Appendix 1 at the end of these minutes.

5. Secretary's report

On behalf of TCC SH thanked community members who had helped with the alternative Christmas celebrations. The wreath making and raku pottery workshops had been very successful despite the challenges of Zoom and social distancing; and the Goody Bags had been very well received by the members of the Tynron community.

The Post Office in the Spar in Thornhill is scheduled for closure by the Spar owners on 20 February 2021. Thornhill CC is looking for an alternative location for a Post Office in Thornhill. The closest Post Offices with 'regular hours' are at Closeburn or Sanquhar; Post Offices at Penpont and Moniaive have restricted opening hours. (After the TCC meeting a letter was received from Thornhill CC asking that TCC write a letter of objection to the owners of the Thornhill Spar objecting to the Post Office closure, which TCC has done)

6. Local planning matters

D&G Council have received an application on behalf of the developers of Eucharhead wind farm for a Meteorological Mast Planning Ref: 20/1990/FUL

Max 90m high with 50m radius guide wires.

Flex site positioning with 4.5 metres due to 30 – 40 cm depth peat plus clay soils

Location NE 270007/600304

Life: 60 months

Application includes bird deflectors & LED warning lights

Purpose: To measure wind conditions; speed, direction, pressure & temperature to ensure site suitability & exact position of wind turbines for maximum effect & efficiency.

TCC are asking why is this being submitted now after submission of the Eucharhead wind farm to the Energy consents unit. The location of the mast appears to be close to Allan's Cairn and the Southern Upland Way but the map provided is not specific as to its precise location. The track

digger to excavate will damage land getting to and from proposed mast site as well as affecting the residences at the top of the Shinnel Glen.

Action: MN to write to D&GC expressing TCC's concerns

7. Resumption of timber extraction

SKS has been in discussions with Tilhill regarding their plans to exceed the current arrangements for timber extraction. Tilhill are not seeking permission for their plans, they have been told it is OK to do so. A trial run of 4 loads per day, with wagons travelling in pairs (not convoys) has been agreed by TCC. TCC are seeking comments from the worst affected people; timber wagons have been seen in the area after the official 5pm finish.

In comparison, it is felt that the Scottish Forestry timber wagon drivers are adhering to rules and regulations and give no cause for complaint.

It has been noted that there are sometimes a number of large farming contract vehicles in the area. If there are any cause for complaints about these vehicles please contact TCC.

8. JCBF feedback from Development Trust meeting and KPT updates

LM and KL had attended a JCBF meeting on behalf of TCC. In 2018 the JCBF had given money for the KPT hydro scheme on the understanding that it would recoup the investment from subsequent FITs from the scheme, and oversee the disbursement of any profits. However, it was subsequently realized this would incur tax payments, which, if the monies were paid to the KPT DT instead, would not.

There are now discussions as to how best to deal with this. As full running costs of the hydro project will not be known until 4Q2020 there is no immediate need for a resolution to the issue, but suggestions have been made that:

- The JCBF and the KPT DT merge into one body – it is felt that accountability and independence of the two groups is important; the JCBF is an elected body of 2 CC members from each of the 3 villages; the DT is not elected representatives.
- Money is paid to the KPT DT and ring fenced for the use of the JCBF, the issue being not so much that the JCBF wants the money but would like to oversee its use.

TCC suggested that the following should be proposed to the JCBF and then the Development Trust "The windfarm funds should be ring-fenced in the Development Trust accounts and spent in consultation with the JCBF - i.e. any spending to be agreed with the JCBF."

LM and KL asked for views in the next few months.

SKS told the meeting that the hydro scheme has been submitted to the MyPlace Scotland scheme. The Tracks and Trails group have purchased a bike equipment, pump, and information boards unit and there is one for each of the villages. There is an on-going discussion as to the siting of this unit; whilst the obvious place would be the hall car park, planning permission would be required as it is a conservation area, plus the parking is limited as it is. The information boards also limit the placement of the unit.

The Tracks and Trails group have money to buy a bench for the Tynron-Keir core path. It was suggested that it could be sited between the Linn and Ford in an area with a good view.

Action: MN to check with Hall committee about planning permission

SKS to speak to Tracks and Trails group

9. A Green Policy for TCC

SH suggested that Tynron has a community-led 'Green Policy', to try to reduce Tynron's carbon footprint through community-led initiatives such as a gardening club, tree planting, wild flower planting, and recycling and upcycling projects. Whilst it is not possible to start any of these projects immediately due to the current Covid restrictions, it is hoped that they could be started later in the

year. TCC agreed this would be a good idea for the community. If anyone has any ideas or would like to be involved please email TCC at tcc@tynron.org.uk

Action: SH to send out Grapevine asking for ideas

10. Windfarm updates

Euchanhead wind farm: the majority view of the Tynron community was to object to Euchanhead wind farm. SH has drafted an objection on behalf of TCC which will be submitted to the Energy Consents Unit.

Windy Rigg wind farm: no updates

Wether Hill wind farm: the agreement is due to be signed Tues 19th January

Sanquhar II windfarm: following an objection by D&GC a public enquiry will be held. No date has been set yet for this to occur. Stop Sanquhar II action group has employed a QC to help with their case, and he will also be able to provide advice to TCC if they so require.

11. AOCB

Litter: The village litter pick has been cancelled this year due to the Covid restrictions currently in force. An increase in litter has been noted in passing places. It was agreed that TCC do not want notices or litter bins, but are asking people to be vigilant about who might be dropping litter.

There were no further comments regarding speeding through the village.

Grit spreading: TCC have been asked about the provision of grit spreaders to make the process safer, easier and more efficient for the community members who spread the grit.

Action: MN to investigate options

Covid jabs: MN highlighted that no transport is provided for people who have been sent an appointment for a Covid vaccination. Cairn Valley Transport has been running a limited service to vaccination venues.

12. Date of next meeting: Monday 15 March 2021

Appendix 1 Treasurer's Report

TYNRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING – 18th January 2021

Expenses:

- Email hosting for TCC and TynronHelp
- Monthly contribution to Hall running costs & maintenance
- Zoom – VC facility for CR & TCC meetings during lockdown (Covid DGC Grant Funding)
- Covid Activities
- Christmas goodie bags
- Defib Pads
- Windfarm Agreement
- Marquees

Total Expenses £1607.43

Total income £0.00

Income:

Balance:

Our current bank balance is:

Uncleared £9815.50

Cleared **£9815.50**

Reserved Funding

Potential committed funds in FY 2020/2021

- **£4590.36** to KPTJCBF in FY 2020/2021 – Contribution from 2019/2020 Wetherhill Windfarm income

- **£1320** to KPTJCBF (66% x £2000)
- **£400** – TPHC maintenance grant (£200 per month x 2 months)
- **£50** – Hogmanay Piper (ANBCB & TCC funds)

Considered Committed Funding at this time: **£6360.36**

Immediately Available reserves: **£3455.14**

Total disposable income FY 2020/2021 = £3455.14

Breakdown ANCBC Community Recovery Grant

Income: **£1000**

Expenses:

Gel Dispensers & Gel	£198.62
Craft events	£435.77
Christmas Bags & prizes	£324.52
Contribution to Hogmanay piper	£41.09
Expenses to date:	£1000.00
Outstanding Balance:	£0.00

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