

Approved Minutes 136

Tynron Community Council

Monday 10th June 2024 7.30pm Tynron Parish Hall

Present: Keith Lewis (KL); Sue King-Smith (SKS); Mary Newbould (MN) Tina Jolley (TJ)

Craig Brown (Scottish power communities manager) and members of the public

1. **Apologies** – Paul Jolley
2. **Approval of TCC Minutes from 8th April 2024**

Proposed (MN) seconded (SKS)

3. **Matters arising**

None

4. **Forestry update**

Lamb Craigs - Foresight sustainable forestry has been sold to ARIZONA BIDCO LTD, a newly formed company owned by AVERON PARK LTD who trade predominantly in UK in onshore wind, forestry, social infrastructure, battery storage & solar projects. This might explain why we have not heard from Foresight regarding the final plan for the project.

Corriedow – In the latest email from Tom Tryon he confirmed that they are concluding various additional surveys and looking to formalise plans. We confirmed no further comments following the reminder in March had been received but Deer Fencing would be an objection should it form part of the plan.

5. **Memorial garden tree removal update**

We were unable to commence work on the 13th May as permission from the council had not arrived, and we still had potentially 2 more weeks before their deadline. It actually arrived later that week but work had already begun to reseed the field. The work will still go ahead but it has been postponed until either autumn 24 or spring 25.

(TJ) to ask R Gauld to invoice for work already completed on this project.

6. **Police report**

There had been 1 incident of theft. One male has been arrested on several warrants for driving offences after he took and drove away a works vehicle from the Tynron area without the permission of the company he was working for. The male driver was located in Dumfries having been involved in a road traffic collision whilst joyriding the vehicle. Several charges have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

7. **Planning**

Nothing to report with regard to planning applications or approvals

(MN) will be joining an online meeting on Wednesday night run by DPEA (Directorate for Planning & Environmental Appeals) regarding Planning Appeals Training, to see whether there is any benefit as under current legislation there is no appeals process to allow third parties, such as community councils, to appeal against bad planning approval decisions by Local Authorities even when statutory Planning policies have been ignored. Only the Applicant or LA have the right to appeal.

8. **Treasurer's Report**

Expenses:

- Communication: email (3) - £54
- Monthly contribution to Hall running costs & maintenance - £400
- Fused Glass Workshop - £750
- Easter Egg hunt - £50.50
- Grant to Auld Alliance - £200 (uncleared)

Total Expenses £ 1,454.50

Income:

- SPR Wetherhill Windfarm - £11,505.30

Total income £11,505.30

Balance

Our current bank balance is:

Uncleared	£50,393.16	Cleared	£50,193.16
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Reserved Funding

- £596.74 - DGC Admin Grant (Gmail, general admin costs)
- £1,800.00 – Tynron Hall Grant (committed at meeting on 08/02/2024)

Considered Committed Funding at this time: **£2,396.74**

Immediately Available reserves : **£47,796.42**

Additional comments:

SPR Annual Report Audit – passed

9. Secretary's Report

A newly formed group has contacted us, and are looking for volunteers. See below:

Since the Scottish Wildlife Trust / Saving Scotlands Red Squirrels program required all groups to become independent, the group had to form a legal structure which is now formalised as a community interest company.

Efforts are now being made to apply for funding and local support towards conserving the remaining red squirrel populations.

We are seeking volunteers in each of the villages in Mid Nithsdale to help with various roles including sightings verification and administration, all done through the continuing framework of the Scottish Wildlife Trust:

<https://scottishsquirrels.org.uk/>

We have a facebook (search Mid Nithsdale Red Squirrel Group) and our own website www.midnithredsquirrels.co.uk

Community Council elections – October 3rd 2024

A poster has been put up in the Hall window advertising the forthcoming community council elections. (TJ) to send a grapevine message to the community advising them about the election process etc. No current Community Councillors are planning to seek re-election but will ensure that a smooth handover to a new council happens.

General election 4th July - the polling station will be Tynron Parish Hall, however this does not mean that we will not be joined with Penpont in the future, this is simply because the council have not finalised their plans.

10. Grant Applications

The current RiverTrack sensor was installed in February 2018 and funded by the Scottish Flood Forum as part of their initial roll out of RiverTrack sensors across Scotland to communities at risk of flooding. The Tynron sensor is an early prototype version and recently we have been experiencing issues with connectivity and the screen resolution is now so poor it's almost impossible to read.

CR Team request that we upgrade the Tynron sensor to the latest production level design. The cost will be around £1000 including installation and commissioning. This was agreed, but we are going to try to get match funding of £500 from the climate officer towards the cost. (TJ) to contact.

It was also suggested that a small grant form be created to enable individuals to apply for grants as this is now available under certain criteria from the S P energy windfarm monies. (TJ) to source form and share.

11. AOCB

Craig Brown from Scottish power visited primarily to thank (MN) for the work she did on their recent audit, which is now the benchmark for other community councils going forward. He asked to take pictures of the flood defenses we have for the parish hall to show to another community hall with a river alongside. He discussed the smart solutions department at Scottish power and offered to get them to contact us about providing assistance with the potential hall extension.

Community resilience was also discussed as we need more volunteers who would be prepared to keep a drain near their home clear, notify any dangerous trees, etc. An email to be drafted and distributed once approved.

At the meeting there was a discussion around using contractors to clear drains. It was pointed out that we cannot use Wetherhill money to finance that as it cannot be used for activities that are the responsibility of other bodies i.e. DGC. Craig raised that issue on his previous annual visit & in correspondence over gritting part of Shinnel Glen. We were only allowed to fund it from SPR funds as DGC do not grit that road anymore & the fact that it was for the school bus run.

We presented Linda McDonald with leaving gifts, and a copy of the nomination for Thornhill rotary club "local hero" award. Whilst Linda did not win, she was very touched by our nomination.

12. Date of next meeting

Monday 10th August, however, this may need to change due to holiday commitments. An update on the new date will be distributed once the date has been confirmed.