

Approved Tynron Community Council AGM Meeting Minutes 131

28th September 2023

7.30pm Tynron Parish Hall

1. **Present:** Sue King-Smith (**SKS**); Linda McDonald (**LM**); Keith Lewis (**KL**); Mary Newbould (**MN**); Paul Jolley (**PJ**), Tina Jolley (**TJ**), Craig Brown (Scottish power communities manager) Members of the public
2. **Welcome from the chair:** **LM** welcomed all to the annual general meeting of the Tynron Community Council
3. **Apologies:** Sharon Irvine
4. **Annual report from the chair:** As there had been 2 chairpersons during the year (**SKS**) (**LM**) there were reports given from both covering their period in office:

Chair Report 2023 for half -year Sep 2022 to Jan 2023 Sue King-Smith

KPT

There was the question of whether or not Tynron should continue to belong to the KPT JCBF, paying it part of its windfarm community benefit. This was the only formal way Tynron had joined KPT. An open day was held (9 Oct) on KPT Development Trust, its history, structure and achievements. Afterwards voting sheets were issued to all 90 residents (i.e. those on the electoral roll). More than half (47) voted on Tynron's membership of the KPT's JCBF, and the result was therefore considered a valid representation of local opinion. The vote was as follows: Leave KPT JCBF: 28 (59%), remain in KPT JCBF: 13 (28%), take a break until April 2024: 6 (13%). Based on these results a resolution was passed to leave the KPT JCBF. A working party (MN, KL, SKS and LM) met to draw up a strategy and investigate the financial implications of current active projects, mainly income from the community hydroscheme. It could make no progress because of the need for the KPT directors to clarify the many financial matters related to the hydro. In the last year, GKS has constantly tried to arrange a meeting, but this has not happened.

Ideas for Tynron

Following the Ideas Day in June 2022, a vote had been held at the end of August; this was counted up and the result announced at the end of October. The five most popular ideas were as follows:

1. Re-wilding/tree planting/wildflower meadows
2. Generating renewable power for the Parish Hall
3. Generating renewable power for homes
4. Generating renewable power for a mini grid
5. Installation of a rapid charging electric car point in the village.

A working group (MN, KL, PJ and LM: KL has since withdrawn) was set up to establish what the consensus was on what each idea means, and to look at their feasibility.

Christmas Events

- 11th December very successful Christmas Lights with Light-up Tynron competition, organised by Peigi Romano and judged by John and Keith from Moniaive.
- a totally delicious Festive Feast was organised by the Hall Committee and funded jointly by the Hall and the TCC.

Windfarms

Sanquhar 2: Following the Govt's draft bill National Planning Framework 4 (ranking green energy generation and biodiversity as equally important), an extra inquiry was held for one day in Jan 2023 to

see if there was a case against S2 on grounds of loss of biodiversity. S2 was consented 30 Aug 2023. Financial Times reported 28 Sep 2023 that CWL had decided to halt development on S2, as too expensive.

I am very grateful to Linda for taking on being Chair, and to the members of Tynron Community Council and all the people of Tynron for supporting me as they did during my 8 years as Chair, through its many vicissitudes including being dissolved. I also thank the TCC for the generous parting presents of a garden gift voucher and a hebe, which is flourishing happily in my garden. I have remained as a Councillor with responsibility for windfarm, forestry and road issues.

Chair Report 2023 for half -year Jan 2023 to Oct 2023 – Linda McDonald

I would like to pay tribute to Sue. She served as Chairperson since 2015 but had been a key member of the previous TCC for a number of years before that. She is still undertaking a tremendous amount of work for the TCC

Thanks also to all TCC members for their hard work and support through the year. Sadly Peigi Romano resigned in August and I would like to thank her for her contribution to the work of the Council during a number of years

Flooding

On 30th Dec 6 Tynron households were flooded to a greater or lesser extent. Thanks to the Resilience Team and all the volunteers who helped their neighbours, especially those more vulnerable residents. On-going effects - one couple are still not back in their home.

In February D & G Council held a Flood Consultation meeting in the Hall which was a useful forum to gain advice about flood protection equipment and to liaise with a number of agencies.

The TCC offered grants to households who had a survey by D & G Council and then purchased flood protection equipment from them. Only 2 households took up this offer.

Sand bin refilled, a further supply of empty sandbags has been obtained and a number of hydrosnakes have been purchased as they will be easier to hand out quickly to residents.

Resilience Team

Thanks for all their work throughout the year- such as cleaning drains, reporting hazards such as fallen trees to the D & G Council and the Community etc

Road gritting

It was agreed to pay a private contractor to grit a section of the School Bus Route which is not on the D & G Council's gritting plan.

Ideas for Tynron Group

Following on from the Ideas for Tynron community vote and the vote to leave the JCBF, a subgroup of the TCC has been set up to consider the feasibility of the most popular ideas in order to draw up a list of potential projects for further community consultation and to create a Tynron development plan to aid long term planning. Some Ideas involved the provision of training and educational opportunities that can be developed in the shorter term e.g First aid and use of the Defibrillator.

Litter Pick

Thanks to everyone who participated in another very successful Litter in March. We had more volunteers than ever before, good weather and delicious soup and cake afterwards.

War Memorial

The War Memorial has been cleaned and the letters repainted – thanks to Tina for organising (note from TJ we hope to have the stones resited and the memorial repointed before the remembrance service) Repointing and resetting of the stones which front the memorial is to be done shortly
Planters – thanks to Peigi, Sharon and Dot for preparing the planters and providing a lovely display of flowers through the year.

Coronation

We would like to thank Janet and Alastair Davies, Madge Rorison and others for organising a very successful Community event to celebrate the Coronation which was funded by the TCC. A Coronation tree will be planted shortly

Forestry – Lamb Craigs

EJD Forestry on behalf of the land owner's Foresight are planning a large commercial Forestry development at the top of the Shinnel Glen. A Community consultation was held on 30th August which was attended by 20% of the Tynron Community. Based on feedback from community members, the TCC has sent a response to EJD and Foresight suggesting alternatives to the commercial forestry plan; expressing concern about the impact on traffic and other forestry concerns if the proposed use of the HOV extraction route is not viable and the use of deer fencing amongst other issues. The TCC has also asked whether a range of community facilities could be included in the development based on suggestions from our "ideas for Tynron" vote.

Roads

Lann Hall Road finally improved but disappointed that the section between the War Memorial and the bottom of the Shinnel Glen has not been repaired.

5. **Appointment of office bearers:** There is no change to the current office bearers, elections will be held in 2024.
6. **Treasurer's Report and Independently examined and certified Statement of Accounts:**

This financial statement is prepared in support of the TCC AGM on 28/09/2023.

A formal examination of accounts has been completed by Robert Waugh the appointed auditor for these accounts as agreed at the TCC AGM on 10/10/2022.

The accounts were signed off as being correct on 23/09/2022

Funds at 01/04/2022 : £22,148.91

Income: £22,287.38

Expenditure: £10,867.13

Carried Forward Balance: £33,569.16 (including reserved/committed funding)

Reserves: £14,393.09
Available Balance: £19,176.07

The breakdown of Income and Expenditure is shown on the attached Balance Sheet (BS).

The following considerations should be taken into account when reviewing the BS:

1. *The accounts are in a positive position, with income substantially exceeding expenditure for this financial year, and an increase in funds of £11,420.25 over the 12 month period.*

2. **INCOME:**

*The income this year included the first annual payment of £9000.00 from the Windyrigg Windfarm and the annual payment of £10,129.86 from Wetherhill Windfarm
TCC also received the annual windfarm payment from ANCBC & the annual grant for DGC towards any administrative costs.*

3. **EXPENDITURE:**

*Expenditure is higher than the previous year by **£5,500.68**. Mainly due to:*

- *The TCC annual payment to KPT Joint Community Benefit Fund (KPTJCBF) was withheld in 2021/2022 so was paid this FY*
- *Additional funding was used to provide community resilience (Road gritting & flood damage restoration)*
- *There was an increase in event expenditure to match pre-covid levels*

3.1 **Revenue expenditure:**

3.1.1 *the cost of running Christmas events was covered by SPR Wetherhill windfarm funding*

3.1.2 *the cost of additional community resilience activity – gritting school bus route not covered by DGC, Flood prevention & restoration activity was covered by SPR Wetherhill windfarm funding*

3.1.3 *administration expenses were covered by DGC Administration grant*

£2,474.49

3.2 **Grants awarded:**

ANCBC Funding:

Each year we apply for a £2000 revenue grant to Foundation Scotland known as the ANCBC grant (Annandale & Nithsdale Community Benefit Company – formed to distribute Harestanes Windfarm benefit funding). This funding has a restricted spend and can be used to award small local grants. It is awarded in September based on our satisfactory completed return for the previous years' spend. It is a stipulation of the grant that the income and expenditure are both shown separately on the Balance Sheet with credit carried forward to following TCC FY.

- *Subsidised use of the hall for TCC events & local groups.*
- *Grants were also awarded to Tynron WI (centenary lunch), Morton Thistle Juniors, Thornhill & District Community Bus*

SPR Wetherhill Windfarm funding:

- *Grant towards the running costs of our hall to assist with the shortfall in income due to lack of activities/groups using the hall during this period.*
- *Grant to the Food Initiative in Thornhill*
- *2021/2022 KPTJCBF grant*

£7,786.46

3.3 Sundry expenses:

Gifts, poppy wreath, donations

£98.85

4 RESERVED/COMMITTED FUNDING:

- *Wetherhill Windfarm: Reserved funding of £13,593.09 from previous years underspend*
- *ANCBC 2021/2022 grant: Carry forward of £800.00 into 2022/2023*

£14,393.09

5 CHANGE TO PAYMENTS TO KPT JOINT COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND:

The annual payment to KPT Joint community benefit Fund (KPTJCBF) has been reduced. Previously all 3 CCs paid 66% of their total windfarm income to KPT JCBF. Under the new agreement Community Councils will pay a minimum of 40% of their total windfarm income EXCLUDING the £2000 ANCBC Harestanes windfarm funding.

In future years Tynron will no longer make payments to KPT. Following a vote by members of the community Tynron resigned from KPTJCBF, which subsequently folded. For clarification KPT Development Trust still exists but there are no financial commitments from Tynron Community Council.

- 6 *TCC voted in favour of making an emergency loan of £507.33 to the residents of Tynron village that use a communal septic tank to allow an urgent problem to be dealt with quickly. This loan was repaid in full by the ten residents involved. The loan & repayments are shown on the balance sheet as expenditure & income.*

7. **Appointment of independent examiner of accounts:** *Robert Waugh has been appointed for FY 23/24*

8. **Confirmation of dates and times of future meetings and month on which the AGM is to be held:** *It was decided that the TCC would change its meeting dates to the 2nd Monday of even months. The dates for 2023/24 are as follows:*

October 23rd 2023

December 11th 2023

February 12th 2024

April 8th 2024

June 10th 2024

July AGM 15th 2024

August 12th 2024

October 2024 14th 2024

9. **AOCB: Christmas events:** *it was agreed that we will hold the annual carols around the tree followed by mulled wine and mince pies the date TBC. It is hoped that we can encourage newcomers to the village to get involved with other events and a meeting will be arranged to discuss this further.*