

Approved Minutes of Meeting held in Strachan Hall
On Thursday 23rd February 2017 at 7.30pm

Present:

Community Councillors:

Mr.W.Smith jnr., Mr.I.Brockie, Mr.I.Morrison, Mr. A.Neish, Mrs J.Randalls,
Mr. M.Smith

Banchory and Mid Deeside Councillors:

Cllr. K Clark

Co-opted members:

Mr. I. Adams, Mr. R.Sheridan, Mr. W.Smith snr

Minutes:

Mrs. I.Addison

Members of Public:

18 members of the public were present.

1. Apologies and Absences

Cllr.J.Webster, Cllr.L. Clark, Mr.P.Tyrell

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes for the previous meeting were approved subject to adjustment to Glen Dye Windfarm discussion and paragraph on page 5 relating to possible discrepancy of accounts which required further investigation.

Minutes Proposed by : Mr. W.Smith jnr.

Seconded by : Mr. I.Adams

3. Treasurer's report:

Opening Balance		£ 1493.02
DD to BT Web-Cam	62.04	
Chq. 271	26.00	88.04
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Sub-Total		£ 1404.18
Income from Mid-Hill Wind Farm		13980.00
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Closing Balance		£ 15384.98

The treasurer advised that annual Council Grant Funding of £489.98 had been applied for as well as Glen Dye Windfarm Funding of £851.04 to cover WebCam costs.

FWCC Accounts will be prepared and ready for the end of March.

4. Police Matters

No Police were in attendance and nothing reported by email. It was noted that since Sgt. Murdoch had re-located no new point of contact has been established and there has been no correspondence received. This issue will be addressed with the Inspector.

5. FWCC Community Benefit Applications

Strachan Bowling Club has made an approach for Funding.

A cheque has been received from GDWF amounting to £13,000 to cover repairs to the lesser hall. Mr. P. Tyrell will be contacted in this respect.

6. Planning Issues

Strachan Hall

An application has been received for alterations and ramped access.

Burnside, Strachan

An application has been received for alterations and extension to dwellinghouse

Minnonie, Bridge of Feugh

An application has been received for the erection of two dwellinghouses for short-term let on land adjacent to Minnonie, Bridge of Feugh. It was agreed that it was important that such applications were followed through to their intended purpose and should be monitored.

It was noted that there is a great shortage of tourist accommodation in the area which is highlighted by recurring events throughout the year such as upcoming Orienteering events.

There have been no comments or objections to date on current applications.

7. Transport, Roads and Infrastructure

Current Issues regarding barbed wire fencing at Bridge of Feugh are still being followed up and resolution pursued.

Corner at Braehead Farm

It was noted that the bank at the corner at Braehead farm is posing a danger to traffic. Particular concerns were raised about how it has been reported that the school bus has to pull into the middle of the road in order to pass. Roads Department will be approached for further investigation and a site meeting.

Pavement at West End of Strachan

Despite repeated attempts to address the issue of the danger posed by lack of a footpath, no resolution has been found. It was agreed to liaise with Roads Department once again to appeal for help with a view to contributing Midhill Windfarm funding.

Castlehill

It was noted that three trees growing from the wall at Castlehill are posing a danger to motorists. This will be brought to the attention of the Roads Department.

8. Education and Youth

Nothing to report.

9. Community Issues

Strachan Village Hall refurbishment

Ongoing. Proposals and detailed quotes are awaited.

Glen Dye Wind Farm

There was further discussion about the proposed Glen Dye Windfarm.

Following last month's mail-drop and ensuing results, there was pressure from members of the public present for FWCC to take a stand against the Windfarm proposals, in the light of what some members of the public deemed a valid representation of public opinion.

However it was pointed out that as no Planning Permission had even been applied for as yet, FWCC was responsible to take a neutral stance for the time being whilst ongoing investigation was being made into the Pros and Cons of such a development. It was also pointed out that, as far as the Scottish Government was concerned, targets for wind energy outweighs landscape value.

It was acknowledged that the one-month opportunity to respond to a scoping consultation last year had been missed.

It was agreed that Mr. Piers Blaxter at Planning would be approached for a fuller understanding of policies and of the full process in general. Scottish Natural Heritage will be approached with a view to a fuller understanding of environmental and wildlife impact.

It was intimated that the next windfarm consultation is in regard to finances. In the meantime a letter had been received from Coriolis:

"As discussed, and on behalf of Coriolis Energy, I can confirm that a Community Fund, in line with the industry best practice will be established with effect from the first commercial operation of the wind farm. Funding will be at the prevailing Scottish Government recommended rate, currently £5000 per Mega Watt (MW) of installed capacity, index linked, for each operational year of the wind farm (anticipated to be 25 years)

As an example, should the current 26 turbine layout be approved for the wind farm, with each turbine having a capacity of up to 4MW, the total wind farm would have an installed capacity of up to 104MW.

As per the £5000 per MW rate highlighted above, this would provide a Community Fund of up to £525,000, index linked, for each operational year of the wind farm. (anticipated to be 25 years)

There are several options for distributing these funds for the benefit of the local community and we would welcome any feedback you may have on this.

We are happy for you to share this information.

Many thanks

Steven Park, Managing Director

Liberty One Communications"

The present proposal is for the annual amount generated to be split between two communities, Feughdee West and Mearns, although further applications may be considered.

It was agreed the whole issue of windfarm proposals was emotive, complex and potentially divisive in a local community and that, irrespective of personal opinion the community should work together for a peaceful conclusion. It was further agreed that all advantages and disadvantages of the proposed windfarm would be taken into consideration in preparation for any forthcoming planning application.

A member of the public sought clarification as to whether any members of the FWCC had been meeting with Coriolis. Assurance was given that apart from Will Smith attending a general Coriolis meeting to keep up to date with progress and to stay informed, no such meetings had taken place.

10. Current Consultations/Correspondence received

Nothing to report.

11. Any Other Business

There had been some previous queries about the possibility of installing a defibrillator at the hall. This will be followed through.

12. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.04pm

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 30th. March 2017 at Inchmarlo Hall 7.30 p.m.

As this will also be the AGM, FWCC will meet prior at 7pm.
It was intimated that there will be five positions (+ 1 youth)