

Feughdee West Community Council APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting Thursday 26th July, Inchamarlo Hall

Attendees:

Simon Richards (chair)
Lynsey Craig (minutes)
Sam Wylde
Marijke Stallaert
Jill Randalls
Ian Brockie
Ian Morrisson
Andy Neish
Peter Tyrell
Willem Ross
Iain Adams (co-opted member)

1. Apologies for Absence – Will Smith

2. Minutes from previous meeting on 29/06/2017- Previous minutes were signed off. Proposed – Sam, 2nd – Marijke

SW asked for clarification regarding outstanding Coriolis correspondence on the proposed Glendye Windfarm. This was originally requested two months ago and has still not appeared.

ACTION – Simon agreed that a deadline should be set with Willie for this information to be shared with the FWCC.. He agreed that it would be useful for the summary of all correspondence between FWCC and Coriolis/Liberty 1 to be ready prior to the next meeting with Coriolis.

Clarification is required re Glendye Windfarm and the 3 additional representatives attending the CLG pre meeting. It is proposed that this will be discussed further at the special meeting on the 9th August.

Agenda item 6: FWCC Midhill Community Benefit applications -

This item was brought forward due to the presence of a number of members of the community and their children. They had attended this meeting to support the application for a playpark in the area. Peter gave a summary of the last Midhill Community Benefit sub committee meeting. This had been a difficult meeting and the first time we had had a situation where we had competition for funds. We had to prioritise the applications and work out the best way forward. This meant that we would have limited funds available for any applications over the next few months.

PT read out summary table of funds and applications for those funds with a focus on the Strachan Playpark which had applied for £20,000 which would be added to the amount already committed by Aberdeenshire Council of £30,000. These combined funds could then achieve LEADER match funding which would bring the total to £100,000 which is the amount required to match the quotes received from the playpark equipment specialists recommended to us by Aberdeenshire Council. However the LEADER funding application has very strict deadlines and so we have to have the funds in place (to be matched) by the 10th August – thus placing a sense of urgency with regards to this particular application, plus given BREXIT, we did not know how long those funds would be available for. Peter Young explained that this Playpark application was part of a bigger project, the Strachan Improvement Project as LEADER had encouraged the 3 separate projects to apply as a single project (that is the playpark, the village hall renovations and the car park) as it would have better chance of funding. This would be an example of the Midhill Windfarm Funding giving leverage to other funding and allowing the community to gain even greater benefit. PY also stressed that timing was critical here both for the LEADER funding and also the money promised by Aberdeenshire Council for the playpark.

Peter T expressed concern over the third element of this project and funding for the Hall car park. It was explained that the car park would not be another application to Midhill Funds but was already accounted for as part of the match funded Strachan Improvement Project.

Andy Neish also commented that we needed to have a small residual amount in the Midhill Windfarm Funds for any small community project that was received.

Tanya Sinclair thanked the FWCC for agreeing that £20,000 would be given to the Strachan Playpark and said that all the plans would be up in the hall for local residents to comment and vote for the version they liked best. She also said that once the playpark was developed that the Aberdeenshire Council would take over the running (maintenance) of the playpark. It was again reiterated that low maintenance should be a key criteria in the design of the park.

3. Treasurers Report - presented by Andy Neish. Opening balance - £2344.45. Spent £63.60 on Cairn O Mount web cam. Closing balance - £2280.85

4. Police Matters - No written report was available or representation from Police Scotland. Councillor Ann Ross had said at previous meetings that she would look into this.

5. Glendye windfarm - Sam gave a good summary overview of the topics covered by the Working Group (WG). A number of topics have been covered by the Group, looking at both the pros and cons of the proposed development. In summary:

- It was discussed that maybe it was premature to invite the 3 community members to pre funding discussions and this needs to be discussed and then the right way forward agreed at the meeting on the 9th August.

- The Community Benefit Fund associated with the windfarm also needs to be explored fully. Looking at other examples of windfarms and how the communities have used those funds, there may be alternative opportunities for the Feughdee West Community.

- There may also be the chance for the community to have a stake in the development but this still needs to be fully explored and understood.

- Sam and Marijke met with a representative from Aberdeenshire Council Planning department – this was a worthwhile meeting which explained the planning process. The WG have also looked at the potential impact on water life in the local rivers, and how fish life and spawning could be affected; How the removal of peat could present water retention and flooding issues; and also if there might be a potential impact on house prices.

- The proposed “agreement of Intent” which Coriolis have asked the FWCC and Mearns CC to sign as part of the agreement/ access to Community Benefit Funding was discussed. Several members of the FWCC expressed concern over what this document meant and the fact that there has been so little information available to them to make the decisions before signing up to anything. Simon made it clear that we will not be signing anything that has not been presented and discussed by the whole FWCC. We need to fully understand what this all means and what the implications are in relation to the FW community. This further highlights the importance of receiving past communications so that we can all make an informed decision on this matter.

- A Fact Sheet is being developed by the group which will be distributed around the community to provide them with more information on this topic and help them make an informed decision. Geoff Dickens raised the issue of the Fact Sheet needing to be checked to ensure it provided a balanced and impartial view. Simon assured everyone the fact sheet will be presented to FWCC and verified before distribution to the community. **ACTION** – Geoff has promised to explore.

6. FWCC Community Benefit applications - covered at the start of the meeting

7. Planning issues - Invercanny House – Plans submitted for a garden room; Glencommon farm, Inchmarlo – major renovations and 2 extensions; Plots 3 and 4 at Cults farm – Iain Adams sent an email 27.7.17 about this and essentially the FWCC will object to the proposal to build two dwellings in this area.

8. Transport Roads and Infrastructure - Covie said he'd chase up the tree trimming around Castle Hill (on B976) branches which overhang the road - the council had agreed to do this in the spring (on condition that the trees were on their land) but this had to be delayed until after August - Best Practice for wildlife management, ie no nesting birds and insects etc.

9. Education and Youth - Jill Randalls mentioned working with the Strachan Youth group to help them understand what other funding opportunities existed within the community and how they could access them.

10. Community Issues - Jill commented that Alistair Cunningham, the LEADER contact for our area, was a mine of information regarding available funding. It would be valuable to invite him to a future meeting as we develop our Community Action Plan as he could show us what other funding options exist.

11. Any Other Business -

1. Reminder about the FWCC closed meeting on the 9th August;
2. We did have a date in the FWCC calendar for October to discuss the new LDP. However the Council have advised that they are unavailable on our October meeting date. Simon will invite them to our November meeting instead.
3. Elizabeth Tully had recommended that we look at the Planning Aid Scotland website to get some training on Community Councils and associated responsibilities. This may be something we need to look at.

12. Date of next meeting – Thursday 31st August Strachan Village hall