

Kirriemuir Landward West Community Council

Minutes of the Kirriemuir Landward West Community Council Meeting held in Kilry Village Hall on Thursday, 27th November 2014 at 7.30pm

Present:

Roger Clegg, Chairman, Kilry
Geoff Hobson, Deputy Chairman, Kingoldrum
Sue Smith, Treasurer, Balintore
Sheila Beckett, Secretary, Lintrathen

Gillian Beckett, Balintore
John Gibb, Glenisla
Dave Koller, Kilry
Terry Roberts, Glenisla

Visitors:

Councillor Ronnie Proctor, Jo Chapman-Campbell, Ron Chisholm, Anne Heron, Malcolm Connor, Linda Gillies, Jill Hobhouse, Graham McLaren

1.0 Apologies

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and reported that apologies had been received from Liz Hamilton, David Robinson, Councillor Iain Gaul and Councillor Jeanette Gaul.

2.0 Minutes of Meeting held on 28th August 2014

The minutes of the meeting on 28th August were approved.

3.0 Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting on 29th May 2014

Whirlie Gate – In David Robinson's absence Roger Clegg reported that the grant had been turned down but that there might be an application to another fund.

4.0 Financial Position

There had been no change to the financial position since the end of June when the balance was £3,895.60. There was discussion about the Webster's High School minibus for which the CC had set aside £500 at the meeting held on 29th May 2014. The parent council has raised £22,000 of the estimated £39,000 cost of the bus and it is now on order through Angus Council's Procurement Services Department. Delivery of the bus is expected in about six weeks time. Sue Smith requested some paperwork from the Parent Council confirming this together with a letter confirming receipt of the sum so that she could maintain a paper trail for the CC's books. Geoff Hobson agreed to provide this and the cheque was presented to him.

5.0 Community Police Report

PC Gail Beattie was not available to present the police report.

6.0 Correspondence

The Bi-Annual meeting for community councillors with Angus Council will be held on 4th December. SS said that she would be able to represent KLVCC.

7.0 Members' Items

This was taken with Any Other Business.

8.0 Roads

8.1 Winter Maintenance – The Winter Road Treatment 2014/15 leaflet is now available from the Access Office and the Library in Kirriemuir.

8.2 Mud Clearing – There had been a road traffic accident in Kilry where there was mud on the road. There had been some flooding at Little Kilry due to ditches becoming clogged despite the issue being reported to the Access Line and work having been done. Councillor Proctor said that he would follow up with the Roads Department regarding the clogged ditches if Malcolm Connor could let him have details of where the problem exists. Sheila Beckett said that she had used the Access Line to report mud on a road and that that had resulted in the road being cleared. RC said that he understood that farmers leaving mud on roads were expected to clear it within a defined period of time and to place signs notifying other road users of it.

8.3 Den of Airlie – The road works to rectify the landslip have now been completed and the road is open. Those present expressed their thanks to Angus Council for the result of the works.

8.4 Forter Bridge – The works have now been completed. John Gibb commented that the signage for the recent road works in Glenisla frequently had been unspecific, insufficient and too late especially for drivers with trailers on roads where it is very difficult to turn large vehicles.

9.0 Post Office Update, Kirriemuir

The Kirriemuir Post Office will continue in its present location until February 2015 after which it is expected to move to the Thistle Newsagent. There were rumours that the Thistle Newsagent was up for sale although the owner assured SB that while this had been the case prior to the transfer of the Post Office it was no longer the case. It was reported that the Westmuir Post Office will now close on 20th January 2015 leaving only one functioning Post Office in the Kirriemuir area. The Royal Bank of Scotland has notified customers that it will be closing its branch in Kirriemuir and is advising customers to use the Post Office.

10 Planning

10.1 Macritch Wind Farm – It is expected that the planning application will be made by Christmas but as it is planned to generate more than 50 Mw it will be considered by the Scottish Government. Concerns were expressed that whilst the site is remote from a residential point of view it attracts many visitors and will have a significant impact on tourism. There was also concern that the proposed dense siting of the turbines would increase the potential for noise pollution. Anyone with views regarding this proposal should make them known both to the body in charge of the decision and to their local Council and the Cairngorms National Park as these organisations are statutory consultees. Malcolm Connor referred to the Wild Cat Survey SNH had conducted in the Angus Glens. GH said that he understood from Enerco's exhibition at Kingoldrum that they may query the methodology used in the Angus Council/Scottish Natural Heritage report on the area's capacity for wind turbines. It was agreed that a survey of local residents' views would be conducted. At the Chairman's request SS said she would prepare the CC's response regarding this application.

10.2 Black Hill (Saddle Hill) – The planning application has been submitted to both Angus Council and Perth & Kinross. Any comments to Angus Council should use the Planning Reference Number: 14/00947/EIAM. Any comments to Perth & Kinross Council should use the Planning Reference Number: 14/01993/FLL and must be made by 5th January 2015. A survey will be circulated to residents of Kilry, Glenisla and Lintrathen regarding this application and the CC will prepare a submission to both Councils. Anyone wishing to comment on these applications was advised to make separate submissions to each Council and to copy them to both Councils.

10.3 Carrach – Following Angus Council’s refusal of planning permission the developer has made an appeal for the matter to be considered by a Reporter.

10.4 Surveys, Petitions and other comments – GH will post the survey forms on the www.klwcc.org website so that residents may download it for completion. There was discussion about the CC’s representation of views of visitors and tourists in addition to those of residents. RC said that tourism is vital to many residents’ livelihoods. Terry Roberts said that visitors should be encouraged to object if wind farms would discourage them from making future visits. VisitScotland’s research shows that 20% of people are put off by wind farms and Jill Hobhouse pointed out that a 20% reduction in a tourist business would spell disaster. Malcolm Connor said that undertakings made to him by the Saddlehill developers had not been met regarding feedback on the noise monitoring carried out in his garden prior to submission of the planning applications and that these had also contained unauthorised photographs taken from his garden.

11.0 Members’ Items and Any Other Business

11.1 Community Benefit – RC mentioned that KIWCC would receive community benefit following the approval of the Tullymurdoch wind farm and that consideration should be given to this. He proposed that a subcommittee of community councillors should be formed to consider this and that it should include himself, Geoff Hobson and Sue Smith. Councillor Proctor suggested that John Wood would be able to provide some advice regarding the experience that Glamis had had of this.

11.2 Rural Parliament – RC reported that he had attended the meeting in Oban regarding this. There had been discussion there about the fact that community councils have no real power and the community empowerment and local democracy are not real. COSLA had published a report regarding support of local democracy which is available on their website under the title “Effective Democracy (Reconnecting with Communities)”.

12.0 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on at 7.30 pm on Thursday 26th February 2015 in Kilry Hall.