

Kirriemuir Landward West Community Council

Minutes of the Kirriemuir Landward West Community Council Meeting held in Kilry Village Hall on Thursday, 31st May 2012 at 7.30pm

Present:

Roger Clegg (RC), Chairman, Kilry
Geoff Hobson (GH), Deputy Chairman,
Kingoldrum
Sheila Beckett (SB), Secretary, Lintrathen
Gillian Beckett (GB), Balintore
Major John Gibb (JG), Glenisla

Terry Roberts (TR), Glenisla
David Robinson (DR), Airlie
Dave Koller (DK), Kilry
PC Alan Bell

Visitors: Cllr Ronnie Proctor, Cllr Jeanette Gaul, Linda Connor, Malcolm Connor, Anne Bryce, Chris Nicol, Edith Koller, Jill Hobhouse, Janetta and David McMicking,

1.0 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Sue Smith, Fi Bird and Cllr Ian Gaul.

2.0 Approval of Minutes of Meetings held on 23rd February 2012

The Minutes were approved and the Chairman signed them.

3.0 Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting on 23rd February 2012

Item 6.4. Roger Clegg had written to Angus Council requesting reassurance regarding the weight given to written objections versus attending the Development Standards Subcommittee meeting. While written objections are taken into account, there is no substitute for making personal representation at the meeting however there needs to be co-ordinated representation regarding speaking at the meeting. Where a local councillor is not on the committee they may also make representation at the committee meeting.

4.0 Planning

4.1 Presentation about Tullymurdoch Wind Farm Proposal

Representatives from RDS Element Power made a presentation to the members and visitors, primarily addressing the noise issues and visual effects covered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The guidelines for calculating noise emission are set out in ETSUR97 which states that general background noise is deemed to be 35-40 decibels and that turbine noise should not increase this by more than 5 decibels. The overnight noise limit is 45 decibels. Perth and Kinross Council follow these guidelines. The property at Craighead is thought to be the only property that might be affected. The methodology used in the modelling is that published in the Institute of Acoustics Bulletin and the turbine noise figure is the warranted noise level provided by the manufacturers. The developers expect that the noise is unlikely to exceed the requirements including those covering the cumulative noise from Drumderg and Bamff.

There is no industry guidance regarding the visual effects of a wind farm and architects use their professional judgment. There is Scottish Government policy which planning authorities follow. Proposed sites less than 2km from towns and villages are particularly scrutinised but each is looked at on a case by case basis. Where cumulative effect comes into play a 5km area is considered. Consideration is also given to the effects on views from gardens and residential internal areas. To do this wireframe models are created to inform turbine siting for areas that would be affected. The architects identify in the EIS where there are significant visual effects, however this does not necessarily mean that the proposal is unacceptable – just that the Council needs to consider them.

Linda Connor said that the presentation had given no reassurance regarding noise and asked whether turbine ageing contributed to noise as Drumderg seemed noisier now than when first constructed. Turbine age should not impact noise as the hum is created by the blades. The noise is worse at low wind speeds because higher wind creates more background noise. The frequency of the noise produced is not considered material. Developers are only required to observe the guidelines and the Enercom turbines currently proposed by RDS are slightly quieter than the turbines at Drumderg. It was suggested that the Environmental Health Officer be asked to investigate the Drumderg noise levels.

The effects on mental health were raised as a paper had been published in the British Medical Journal.

The 5km cumulative sensitivity guidelines apply to the proximity of the Drumderg wind farm in service and the Bamff project application. The EIS will contain an appendix covering properties deemed to be affected and will also consider the landscape as well as residential amenity.

Impact on tourism and the Cateran Trail was raised. RDS will carry out assessments from various points on the route and affects on tourism will be covered in the EIS.

It is expected that application will be made at the end of June/beginning of July. Perth & Kinross will post the application on their website. RC also asked RDS to advise him of the planning reference number when they know it. RC urged those wishing to comment on the application to read the paperwork and Perth & Kinross Council's supplementary guidelines and to assess the development against these guidelines. Any comments or objections must relate to Perth & Kinross not Scottish Government policies.

RC and DK are the KLVCC representatives on the Tullymurdoch Community Liaison Group and residents may advise them of any issues they have regarding the proposal.

4.2 Bamff Wind Farm Application. The application was submitted on 25th May. Perth & Kinross Council have not fully registered it yet and until this is done a planning reference number is not available. RC has requested the planning number and will circulate this once he has it. RC circulated a draft wind farm survey sheet for the Kilry community. This was similar to the Mile Hill and Carrach surveys. RC has investigated the possibility of delivery of this by the post office and Linda Connor suggested that it could be circulated with the newsletter.

4.3 Carrach Wind Farm Proposal. There was no further news.

4.4 Other Planning Matters.

4.41 Airlie turbine. DR advised that a 33.5m turbine close to an osprey nest had been applied for.

4.42 Cumulative Effect of Wind Farms. Perth & Kinross and Angus Councils liaise with each other and the local MSPs have written to both Councils who have undertaken to ensure this is done. The guidelines regarding cumulative effect, however, are very vague. Angus Council is introducing new guidelines. Perth & Kinross wish to update their guidance by the end of the 2012. The guidance is not the same for each Council.

4.43 Roads. TR pointed out that not clearing the ditches encourages them to flood and wash away new tarmac used to mend potholes. He thought a more holistic approach would be helpful. At Little Forter there is an area where the water bubbles up below the road surface and removes the tarmac.

5.0 Community Policy Report

PC Bell presented the Community Police Report. There is a problem with drivers speeding through Airlie village which will be addressed. A Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is being set up in Westmuir village to tackle problems highlighted earlier. CCTV has been installed but PC Bell urged residents to continue reporting any issues. Without such reports the CCTV would not be deemed to be working and would probably be removed. Roger Clegg thanked PC Bell for attending the Community Council meetings, frequently when he was off duty, as on this occasion.

6.0 Finance

There were three cheques presented for signature:

Angus Council for corporate insurance - £93.17

Information Commission annual fee – £35.00

Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland - £20.00 subscription

7.0 Correspondence

Glenisla post office, which is situated in the hotel, has proposed a change to their opening times. TR reported that these seemed acceptable.

The Courier is planning a Community Council section and need a volunteer from each council to prepare a short report. Interested parties should advise RC.

The Bi-annual Community Council meeting is on 7th June. GH and SB will attend.

8.00 Website

GH spoke to Lee Haxton regarding the Angus Community Grant Scheme. This is available to set up a project but does not cover ongoing costs including honorariums.

GH has registered the domain name and will host the site. The website address is: www.klwcc.org.uk. A draft of the website was available for members to view at the end of the meeting. RC asked GH to present his invoice to the Treasurer for payment.

9.0 Members' Items

There were none.

10.0 AOB

There was no other business.

12.0 Date of next meetings:

The AGM will be held on Thursday 30th August 2012 in Kilry Hall at 7.30 pm followed by the Community Council Meeting.