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**Douglas Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**1st August 2022**

**19:00**

**St Bride’s Centre**

1. **Present:** James Smith, Kyle MacMillan, Kenneth Sludden, Brian Muir, Sarah O’Sullivan, Kenny Lean, Robert Flowerdew
2. **Apologies:** Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Ross Gowland
3. **Police Scotland Report:** n/a
4. **Sarah O'Sullivan:** Sarah O’Sullivan and Kenny Lean give a brief description of the Development Framework for the Hagshaw Energy Cluster. Their aim is to optimise the use of community funds in the area. SO won’t be involved in every project in the area however is there if we need assistance. KL talks briefly about new £7.5M funding application about to be submitted to UK Government for a project to connect the South Upland Way with route in the Douglas and New Lanark areas. Discussions take place regarding the ownership of the *Blue Bridge* and hopes to repair and renovate the bridge. SO to investigate this further and provide regular updates. SO is looking for representatives to attend a meeting in September with the aim to consolidate the workings of all surrounding villages. KM to get back to SO with chosen representatives.
5. **Minutes of last meeting:** Proposed: BM Seconded: KS
6. **Matters Arising:** n/a
7. **Correspondence:**

* Email from Laura Fleming (BayWa. Re) regarding community drop-in sessions in Douglas and Roberton.
* Email from Michael Newton (Banks) regarding public consultation events – Bodinglee.
* Request from Constituent to have road markings at Welldale/ Manse View junction relined. KM forwarded to MH who took care of this. This has since been completed.
* Constituent requested assistance to have school transport organised after change of school. MH looking into this.
* Cass and D&A requested assistance regarding recently situated family from Ukraine. KM has been working with her on this matter.

1. **Reports**
   1. Chairperson’s report: *“I have had a good number of items to report to SLC, from overflowing bins at Debog Farm on A70 to a smashed gate at the playpark on Manse View Terrace. We have now had all planters in the villages filled and the area outside McColl’s on Main Street and six tubs at the cross have been filled also. I was contacted by Marcus Cortzee from Community Enterprise regarding a project he is working on with DCDC. I had a 50 min conversation with him. He is collecting info on the village that we can use in our funding applications and to give us assistance on promoting the villages to encourage tourism etc. he attended the Gala Day and interviewed several people. He will pass on the info when the project is complete. I was in the Cemetery the other day and noticed a few sunken graves and some paths with weeds. I have passed this onto the relevant department in SLC for further attention.”*

James Smith, Chairperson

* 1. Treasurer’s report: CC account: £489.79 Microgrants: £4,041.94

1. **Local Issues** 
   1. School Astro-turf pitch: Jim Ferguson and Elaine Melrose are working on this project. EM has taken over from Judith Gibbs. Unfortunately, work will not be completed during the October school break as previously hoped as the funding application is still with Clyde Wind Farm Panel awaiting approval.
   2. Active Travel Project, Douglas: Pathway to Glespin – RDT has passed the project onto Community Action Lanarkshire who are currently recruiting a member of staff to that this project forward. Further public consultation to be held.
   3. Kennoxhead Wind Farm: A site visit was arranged by Tom Parkin which representatives from the CC attended. They are currently running final tests before the site is handed over in the coming weeks. They also attended the site of the Glentaggart Christening stone and advised TP of the correct positioning of the stone. TP to pass this on and have the stone repositioned.
   4. Local Housing: JS contacted Julie Bell from Clyde Valley Housing Association for update on when public consultation is scheduled to begin regarding the empty properties. She informed us that they are no further forward. Complaints have been received from CVHA residents on the state of the gardens in the empty properties. They stated that they were experiencing difficulties with their current contractor however will see that something is done soon.
   5. Kirk Brae Improvements: We have been waiting on SLC Land Services fixing the handrail. It was originally repaired with wood however metal railings have now been installed. They still must come back to fix some snagging. We are now looking at repairing the walkway and are awaiting a quote from Jim Gold.
   6. Local Energy Discount Scheme: KS has been chasing RES for regular updates regarding the LEDS. Contract is with RES and in final stages. Community Benefit from Kennoxhead WF is now available. It is hoped that we will see things starting to move in the weeks to come.
   7. Blue Bridge: Sarah O’Sullivan informed JS that she is making progress but is still unable to contact Grant Conchie at D&A however will keep trying.
   8. Douglas Community Development Company: KM gives briefing of DCDC projects. 54 Ayr Road Project: regular communication is made with the current owners. DCDC have now submitted an Expression of Interest to Scottish Land Fund to progress the project and put the Design Feasibility stage out to tender shortly. Weavers Yard Improvement Project: SLC has now fully installed the power outlet needed to install the LED lights. Lights will now be ordered, and it is hoped that they will be installed in the not-too-distant future.
   9. CC Noticeboard: DCDC have taken this project forward and have submitted a funding application to Hagshaw Hill Wind Farm Trust which they are currently waiting on being progressed to purchase and install the noticeboard.
   10. Egerton Traffic Calming: An online meeting took place by request of Councillor MH. BM, JS, Councillor MH, and Scott Laird (SLC) were in attendance. Councillor MH suggested that traffic lights may be the best solution, but it was agreed that firstly, more signage and better road markings will be put in place. D&A will be approached and asked to cut back branches to improve visibility.
   11. Galawhistle Wind Farm Site Information: JS was contacted by Alan Alexander from Ventient Energy and informed him that they will be applying for a ten-year extension for the wind farm as there is a lot of unused land surrounding the site and they are investigating the possibility of further turbines. This will also mean a ten-year extension to Community Benefit.
   12. BayWa-re Funding: JS has spoken with Laura Fleming who has been in touch with RES regarding the LEDS, enquiring about including Dalquhandy funding to this scheme. Unfortunately, this will not be possible. CC agreed that the funds (£10,000.00 per annum) should be administered by the CC like the ongoing microgrant schemes. JS to forward this to LF.
2. **Microgrant Schemes**
   1. Funds: Microgrant account is currently sitting at £4,041.94
   2. Applications: Due to the postponement of the CC meeting scheduled for 18 July, CC took the decision to review the applications via email and officially approve at tonight’s meeting. All applications approved and funding through the Coalburn, Douglas and Glespin Community Fund Microgrant Scheme (previously Galawhistle):

Douglas Horticultural Society [APPROVED]

£500.00 to purchase marketing materials and certificates for Douglas Flower Show.

Douglas Community Development Company [APPROVED]

Max. of £500.00 to cover annual accountancy fees.

7th Lanarkshire (1st Douglas) Scout Group [APPROVED]

To purchase and install an emergency throw line at *The Tunnel*.

Douglas Heritage Museum [APPROVED]

Max. of £500.00 to commission a duplicate of a 1820 map of Douglas.

1. **AOCB:** n/a
2. **DONM:** 12th September 2022
3. **Close of meeting:** 21:25