

Ettrick & Yarrow Community Council

Monday 31st January 2022, Yarrowford Hall, 7.00pm

Present: Phil Grant (PG) (Chair), Jane Telfer (JT), Barbara Harrison (BH) (Secretary), John Davidson (JD), Miranda Alcock (MA) (Treasurer), Gordon Harrison (Vice Chair) (GH), Alison Renwick (AR), Alistair Moody (AM), Councillor Elaine Thornton-Nichol (ET-N) and 4 members of public.

1. Apologies: Jan Watson (JW), Margaret Cummings and Eileen Reid.

2. Police Report

There was no January Police report available as the meeting has been brought forward by a week. One is expected soon and BH will circulate.

3. Minute of October Meeting

The minute of 6th December 2021 was proposed as accurate by MA and seconded by JD. It was agreed as a true record.

4. Matters arising

Defibrillators : Tushielaw Inn has confirmed that it can agree to our terms and conditions and MA has ordered the equipment. Delivery is expected in 3-4 months.

Windfarm Funding for training: MA has clarified that costs already incurred cannot be refunded but ongoing expenses to continue to complete a course can be claimed. Action: **BH to recirculate all details of the grants available.**

A708 safety issues meeting: A meeting is being scheduled for March. The speed data has been collected but PG has argued that this exercise needs to be repeated in the summer months. AR hopes to feed in advice on this aspect.

Firing Range: The CC in the local area have been very active against the range. Action: **PG to write to Chair of Eskdalemuir CC offering support and asking about any other potential sites.**

B711 Road Issues: We await feedback from GE. JD reported that it has not got any worse. Action: **GE**

5. Financial Report

MA reported a bank balance is £8,870.83. She confirmed that the grant from SBC is on its way.

6. Reporting to Foundation Scotland and Proposed Distribution Plan for 2022

MA presented the proposed report to Foundation Scotland as well as the proposed distribution of funding for 2022. It was proposed that the micro grant fund stays at £2,000, that £3.500 is put into the defibrillator fund and £2,000 is allocated for appropriate Community Resilience initiatives so that we are placed in a better position to cope with future storms and power loss. The remaining funding will be available for open bidding. There was some discussion about defibrillator training and how we communicate information to residents. It was noted that Keynotes has produced its last edition and there may be a role for the CC to take on a Community Newsletter – possibly as part of the remit of the person assisting with the website

administration. Both the 2021 Foundation Scotland Report and the Distribution Plan presented were agreed.

7. ToTB

PG reported that he and BH have met with SBC Officers and Neil Dalglish of ToTB. A further meeting has been scheduled to discuss how SBC take forward Community Engagement.

8. Councillors Reports

The budget consultation has been extended and the format is for people to share their views on a number of issues. ET-N asked the CC to encourage people to take part. **Action: BH**

Yarrowford Bus: ET-N has spoken to Passenger Transport and received a very supportive initial response. The Community Council are asked to do background research into demand, numbers, most suitable times, days and destinations.

ET-N has spoken to Emergency Planning about getting vulnerable members of the public registered with SPEN. Action: CC need to encourage the community to do this. Emergency Planning are looking at ways to keep Community Resilience Co-ordinators better connected when power and mobile phones are down.

ET-N reported back about tree planting near to roads. There has been no historical agreement. Plantations now need to be 5 metres from the road. If trees are proposed to be planted within 2 metres of a road, permission has to be obtained from SBC Roads Department.

9. Queens Platinum Jubilee Fund

Non constituted groups can apply for funding up to £2,500 for events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee around the first weekend in June 2022 but need a constituted group to manage the money. The Community Council will encourage such groups to link up to their most local organisation, but agreed that it manage the money if needed.

10. Eildon Area Partnership

There has been no meeting since December.

11. Report from EYCDC

VD attended the meeting and provided an update, which is appended to this minute. There have been some issues associated with publicising the Captain's Road. EYCC offered to assist if there is anything we can do to help.

12. Ecomuseum For the Talla Hartfell wild land area

Donald Greig attended the meeting. He outlined that the project has identified a list of common concerns which are on the Southern Upland Partnership website and that it is looking at whether there are initiatives that can address these concerns. This has led to the development of a digital Ecomuseum focussing on the ecology of communities and how they relate to the landscape. Donald is looking for someone to assist with the information from Ettrick and Yarrow and was given suggestions to follow up.

13. Planning Applications

There is an application for exploratory masts up from Crosslee to investigate the suitability of wind there for a potential wind farm. It was agreed that we would circulate the information for comment. PG reported that the Deuchar Mill development has gone to appeal.

14. Correspondence

- i) *Flood Protection Consultation for the Upper Ettrick*: will now be held on March 17th
- ii) We have been asked about ideas for recognising the work of volunteers during the pandemic. It was agreed that we would prefer SBC to spend their limited budget on other priorities.

15. A.O C B.

Jim Bradshaw asked that Road Closed signs be accompanied by better detail about where.

Action: PG to write to Jason Hedley

16. Grant Applications

It was agreed that MA would ask Foundation Scotland for advice about the level of reserves that it is reasonable for organisations to hold that would not be taken into account when the organisation applies for grant funding.

It was agreed to award £1980 to EYCDC to improve the drainage of the part of the Ring o the Loch which runs around the back of Cappercleuch Hall. AM expressed concerns about the fact that the Ring o the Loch is attracting too many visitors without the necessary parking infrastructure being in place. **Action: AR will take this issue to the EYCDC Board.**

Next meeting of EYCC will be at 7pm on Monday April 4th, 2022, in Yarrowfeus Hall.