

Ettrick & Yarrow Community Council

Mintue of Meeting held on Monday 6th February 2023 Kirkhope Parish Hall, 7pm

Present: Alison Renwick (AR) (Chair), Miranda Alcock (MA) (Treasurer), David Currie (DC) (Vice-chair), Jane Telfer (JT), John Davidson (JD), Paul Scott (PS), Fiona Hewson (FH), and 9 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Kirsty Irving (KI) (Secretary), Elizabeth Williamson (EW), Karen O'Brien-Barrett, Cllr Elaine Thornton-Nicol (ET-N), Cllr Caroline Cochrane (CC), Cllr Leagh Douglas (LD), PC John Murray for Police Scotland.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2022 was proposed as accurate by MA and seconded by JD.

3. Matters arising (Not on agenda)

Item 3 (Matters arising): PS and MA agreed to discuss the potential development of a website and report back to the next meeting. **Action: MA and PS**

Item 4 (Councillors updates):

- ET-N has reported the state of Paddy Slacks and is awaiting a response – will forward response as soon as she receives it. There was agreement that this road is becoming more and more dangerous.
- ET-N has emailed regarding the litter issues and the lack of receptacles around Megget including the concrete pipe bins previously promised by previous Councillor. She will forward the response on receipt.

4. Police Report

No police present. There were no particular issues relating to the Ettrick or Yarrow valleys identified in the police report previously circulated.

5. Councillors Reports

There were no councillors present so no verbal updates.

6. Financial Report

- MA reported bank balance of £12,866.43 on 31st January 2023
- Further to the last EYCC meeting, MA had investigated the potential of opening a savings account, to enable us to get some interest on our bank balance. There is an RBS Business Reserve Instant Access deposit account that currently gives 0.80% interest on balances of less than £10,000 and 0.85% above that amount. It was agreed this was worth pursuing, and also the potential for the savings account to automatically transfer funds to the current account when balances reach an agreed level. **Action: MA to take forward**

- With the change of office bearers agreed at the last meeting, the signatories on the bank account need to be changed, with the previous office bearers' signatories removed and the new ones added. This was formally agreed. **Action: MA to take forward**

7. Langhope Rig Community Benefit Fund – Annual report and Distribution Plan

MA presented the draft annual report for 2022 and distribution plan for 2023 for the Langhope Rig Community Benefit Fund. There was some discussion about how the wind farm funds could be spent in the future. MA thought the distribution plans could be amended during the year if the Community Council wanted to set aside some of the wind farm fund for other uses, not in the proposed distribution plan (NB Foundation Scotland has subsequently confirmed this is the case). It was agreed these would be submitted to Foundation Scotland as drafted and EYCC would discuss further options for wind farm funding at a future meeting. **Action MA to submit plans to Foundation Scotland; KI to add to agenda for future meeting.**

8. Wind farms update

- Brown Rig: AR is waiting to hear from SSE with a proposed date for a public meeting. This is likely to be sometime towards the end of March.
- Scawd Law: The planning application has now been submitted and is with the Scottish Government.
- Oliver Forest: EYCC has received notification that Statkraft has submitted scoping proposals for a wind farm on land lying north-west and south-east of the A701, between Tweedsmuir and Glenbreck, approximately 12.5km south of Broughton. Scoping Submission ECU 00004669. There is a dedicated website for this development (www.oliverforestwindfarm.co.uk) where further information is available. Statkraft has asked to attend a meeting of EYCC. **Action: KI to invite them to the next meeting.**

9. Tour of the Borders

- AR reported that the Tour of the Borders is going ahead this year, but under a revised route, with additional agreement on how it will be run and with shorter timings. SBC and the organisers have agreed that after this year, ToTB will not be organised in this area for at least two years. The organisers have also agreed to donate £1,000 to the community council, in recognition of the disruption to the community caused by this event. However, this is not to be used to compensate individual businesses. Once the money is received, EYCC will need to discuss how it should be used. **Action: AR to check arrangements for the donation.**
- AR also reported that the SBC Economic Development officer has suggested attends a meeting of EYCC later in the year to discuss how future developments to promote the local and regional economy could be organised with more involvement from the local community. It was agreed this was a good idea. **Action: AR to organise.**

10. Ettrick Valley Flooding

ET-N has emailed SEPA about this. She had a highly unsatisfactory response and has gone back to ask for more detail and support. She has also contacted Emma Harper MSP for additional support with this issue and is attempting to raise it with Ministers.

11. Talla Hartfell Land Use discussion

The meeting with Donald Greig, scheduled for 10 January had to be postponed unfortunately. It will be arranged for sometime in the next few weeks. He is keen to come to the next meeting of EYCC. **Action: KI to organise if agenda space available**

12. Update from EYCDC

There are five business units still available to let. All the houses are now occupied. There has been a lot of interest in the development, with a number of visitors and presentations to other groups. Vicky Davidson is planning to run drop in coffee sessions on Monday lunchtimes to anyone interested in seeing round the development. Rangers are still working in Ettrick Marshes. They are likely to fell some of the trees in this area in September. EYCDC is organising a First Aid at Work course in the Kirkhope Village Hall in early May.

13. Planning Applications

No planning applications had been received

14. Co-option of new Community Council Member

With the resignation of Phil Grant, there was a vacancy on the community council. John Wildish was proposed as a co-opted member by AR and seconded by MA.

Clive Whittingham has also resigned from the Community Council with immediate effect.

15. Correspondence

There were three bits of correspondence:

- Information on the Warm and Well Fund – **KI to circulate**
- Consultation from Galbraith on the renewal of their long term forest plan for Over Dalgliesh Forest Estate 2023 – **KI to circulate**
- An email from a resident in Cappercleuch informing EYCC she had paid for the memorial wreath there out of her own pocket and she was wondering what should happen in the future. It was agreed that the community council should refund her and that we should investigate how memorial wreaths are funded more generally in the valleys. **Action: JT agreed to look at the current arrangements for memorial wreaths, MA to refund the Cappercleuch resident.**

16. AOCB

There was no AOCB.

17. Dates of future meetings

Monday 3rd April 2023, Yarrow Feus Hall, 7pm

Monday 5th June 2023, Boston Hall, 7pm (AGM)