

AGM Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 28th November 2019

Present:

Andrew Clark, Esther Daborn, Isobel Hunter, Robert Laird, Ross McIntyre, Katy Miller, Sara van der Vat and Cllr Eric Small.

Apologies:

Ian Storie and Cllr Heather Anderson

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from 26th September approved by ED and RL.

Correspondence Received

- Email update received from James Taylor, Chair EDCC, in response to invitation to speak to Skirling CC regarding the Community Council Review Working Group. James represents Tweeddale alongside Cllr Shona Haslam, who has had to stand down due to the upcoming General Election.
 - As the next meeting, due to take place in December, has now been cancelled – James to be invited to the next CC meeting

ACTION

- SV to invite James to CC meeting end January

Police Report

- Police report had no incidents to report in Tweeddale West for the period September to November

Community Speed Watch Scheme

- SV has been in contact with Simon Edwards, Chair UTCC, who has been leading the initiative, to confirm Skirling CC's interest in joining the scheme
- Simon has informed the police of the interest shown by West Linton, Skirling, Eddleston, Newlands and Upper Tweed CCs
- Vetting forms for volunteers have been received but everything seems to have stalled over the summer since the police confirmed we would need to find out the cost for the relevant equipment
- Chased for an update before the meeting, but heard nothing

ACTION

- SV to try and follow up with the interested CCs on current plans and whether we can share the cost of the equipment

Windfarm Funds / Lottery Funds

- KM has bought low tables for the toddlers to be used in the village hall for £285.58 – to be split across two micro-grants from Clyde and Glenkerie (£200 CWF and £85.58 GWF)
- BH bought a lock box for the resilience shed for £22.89, to be paid for by the Glenkerie fund
- Jim Fraser contacted Skirling CC regarding the #CelebrateNationalLottery25 fund, to celebrate 25 years of the National Lottery. Applications for ideas to make a difference in their local community can be entered into a draw by the 6th December.
 - CC agreed to enter draw for funds to hold a party in Spring to celebrate the re-opening of the village hall
- CC discussed whether the Windfarm funds were considering longer term planning – i.e. endowments. It is believed that they are being considered at present.

ACTION

- SV to issue cheques to KM and BH
- KM, SV & IH to pull application together by Friday 6th December for the lottery funding
- RL to follow up re endowments, long term planning with Clyde/SSE

Village Maintenance

Path Erosion and Extension (Skirling to Skirling Mill)

- Thank you to SBC for completing the work at Skirling Kirk and for shoring up the erosion of the burn on the pathway to Skirling Mill. Very much appreciated.
- Thank you to Skirling WI for the new bench outside of the village hall
- ED/AC have secured two quotations for the replacement of the 50m of pathway to Skirling Mill, to be applied for via wind farm funding:
 - Colin Devenney Plant Hire at £4620 (which includes traffic management)
 - RG Erskine at £3700 (which includes extra gravel for village use)

Other Maintenance

- The damage to the verge outside Galalaw Farm has not yet been fixed, despite being uploaded to the SBC FixMyStreet app by BH in September, along with a report of more potholes on the road by the green.
 - BH suggests asking more villagers to report road damage and will look into getting a record of local reports.
- Candyburn Corner, by Candybank:
 - ED has been in touch with Christine Grahame MSP to suggest a meeting between Aileen Campbell MSP and Robert Laird – Christine Grahame has responded that the matter has been passed over to Aileen Campbell
- IS asked why, when the road was resurfaced at Toftcombs, white lines were not added as per our discussions in 2018

ACTIONS

- ED/SV to complete a grant application for the replacement path to SSE to include both estimates
- BH to look into how road damage reports can be reported back to the CC from the SBC app (once organised, SV to encourage villagers to report potholes etc. on the app)
 - ED to follow up with Neil Pringle
- ED to update CC once a response has been received from Aileen Campbell MSP re Candyburn (which will need to wait until January 2020, after the elections)
- SV to contact Caron McDonald for Amey details re white lines at Toftcombs

Resilient Communities

- Training to be set up in January for floodgate and lock box training now that new shed has been set up. Lock box number to be distributed to villagers.
- Although the defibrillator is set to warn when a new battery is required, the CC believes it would be good to have a back up now. Defib training also to be set up in January, as well as general First Aid
- The Tweedsmuir/Broughton First Responders are looking for volunteers

ACTIONS

- BH to organise dates for floodgate training
- SV to contact defib company (Laerdal) for batteries
- KM to approach Lesley Mason for defib/First Aid training
- SV to publicise once training days have been confirmed and ask for volunteers

Orphaned Land

- IH, BH, ED, Sarah Sinclair (SVH Committee) and SV had a meeting with Alison Crook from the Scottish Land Fund on 28th November, who outlined our next steps as follows:
 - Identify ownership of parcels of land using DTAS advice (Development Trusts Association Scotland)
 - Contact relevant owners to check willingness to sell
 - Undertake feasibility study and valuation, business plan, village survey, ongoing sustainability etc.
 - Set up a broad Skirling charity to include a development planning arm / two tier structure (possibly using the already established Pauline Fund)
 - Apply for funds to buy the land via the Scottish Land Fund – deadline 31 August 2020
- Skirling CC agreed to go ahead, with BH, ED, KM, SV and Sarah Sinclair as sub-committee

ACTIONS

- BH to lead sub-committee in first steps to identify the land parcels of interest and contact the owners (i.e. Carmichaels)

A.O.B.

Meeting Dates in 2020:

30 January, 26 March, 28 May, 24 September and 26 November