

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 25th November 2021

Present:

Andrew Clark, Esther Daborn, Isobel Hunter, Katy Miller, Robert Laird, Ross McIntyre, Ian Storie, Sara van der Vat and Cllr Eric Small, Dominic Ashmole (Dawyck)

1. Community Speedwatch

Please see attached report from ED following on from Teams meeting attended by Philippa Gilhooly (SBC Road Traffic Safety), Samantha Elliott (SBC Road Traffic Safety), Cllrs Heather Anderson and Eric Small, Esther Daborn and Andrew Clark.

ACTIONS

As per the attached report.

2. Funds Update

COVID Funding Report

Please see attached report on how the COVID funds from SSE Clyde Windfarm, Ventient Glenkerie Windfarm and SBC were spent over the last two years.

- SSE Clyde Windfarm has agreed to allow any remaining COVID funds to be used for their other two funds (YBF and micro-grants)
- Ventient Glenkerie has agreed that their remaining COVID funds can now be used to support general micro-grant activity (the maximum spend of which is now £500.00 per request)

Endowment Funding Report

Report following a Zoom meeting with SSE and 2x Community Councils:

- The SSE Clyde Windfarm fund is set to run until 2040 with the annual fund of £140,000 split between 3 communities (Skirling, Upper Tweed and Tweedsmuir)
- An endowment fund is similar to an ISA or pension
- The annual surplus from the Clyde Windfarm funds for the three communities would be invested until the fund ends
- £20,000 needed to start the fund up
- Needs to be administered by e.g. Foundation Scotland or SSE (with a % charge)
- All 3 communities must agree to do it and this will be formalised
- 2 representatives from each of the communities to set things up
- Foundation Scotland to be brought in for first meeting alongside Gareth from SSE
- Representatives from the 3 CCs are:
 - Upper Tweed: Nick Shapowal and Andrew Beveridge
 - Tweedsmuir: Gavin Parker plus 1
 - Skirling: Sara van der Vat and Robert Laird

Platinum Jubilee Fund

Funds of up to £2,500 will be made available for celebratory events/community and legacy projects to celebrate the Queen's jubilee next June.

- Applications open on the 5th January and close on the 30th April 2022.

ACTIONS

- Possible requests for funding:
 - Storage shed for the village hall
 - Community sign for church
 - Xmas decorations for the village hall
- SV to set up meeting with SSE, Foundation Scotland and CC representatives
- CC / village hall committee to consider applying for the Jubilee Fund for a village celebration or similar (using our new gazebos)

Village Maintenance

New Paths

Skirling CC to look into possibility of establishing paths from Skirling to Broughton and to Biggar.

- The Broughton path already exists but could do with maintenance and way signage
- The Biggar path would be a much bigger project and would need the development of a locality plan and funding

General Maintenance

- Cllr Eric Small confirmed that the flooded area of the A701 by Muirburn is on the list for works to be undertaken by SBC
- The CC raised the ever present issue of the state of the stone wall by the BT exchange and the possibility of turning the land before it into a green parking space for the village hall
 - The issue is getting funding for land that doesn't seemingly belong to anyone – this raises the importance of tackling the orphaned land scenario and/or contacting the Carmichaels for written permission
- RL raised the issue of the children's playpark, which has been in the planning for years and holds quite large sums of money
- A car parking in the space directly outside the village hall is now impacting on the more frequent use of the village hall now that it has re-opened for public use

ACTIONS

- Cllr ES to send SV ideas/contacts to approach for planning and funding the paths
- Dominic Ashmore to send SV details of Eddleston path funding
- Bob Hunter is chasing up the issue of orphaned land / contacting the Carmichaels / SV to look at past meeting minutes regarding the BT Exchange wall and any approaches made
- KM to approach Francesca Bell re an update on the children's playpark
- CC to send letter to car owner to ask for more consideration now that the hall is open

A.O.B.

- Next CC elections are to be held in 2022
- CC to find new secretary

Meeting Dates in 2022:

27 January, 31 March, 27 May (AGM), 29 September, 24 November