

*Skirling Community Council*

*Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 7.30pm, Skirling Village Hall*

*Minutes*

**Present:** Esther Daborn, David Galbraith, Isobel Hunter, Robert Laird, Katy Miller, Ross McIntyre, Sara van der Vat, Alison Leite, Councillor Drummond Begg, Colin McMillan (Clyde Borders Windfarm)

**Apologies:** Andrew Clark

**Approval of September 29<sup>th</sup> Minutes:** Proposed, Robert laird Seconded, Isobel Hunter

- **Funding**

- **Clyde Borders Windfarm – Colin McMillan (SSE Community Investment Manager)**

Colin McMillan was welcomed to the meeting. He was pleased to meet everyone and noted that Lisa Thomson will be the new panel member for Skirling, along with Robert Laird and Kevin Long. Lisa was unable to attend the meeting, so Colin will contact her to set up a virtual meeting. He wants to build a relationship with Skirling community council in order to support both big and small projects. He emphasised the importance of projects benefitting the community as a whole.

SV asked for specific examples of what the Windfarm is interested in funding. It would be useful to have a set of updated guidelines. SV asked about a recently submitted application to the Wind farm for funding STAR to initiate the CAP process for Skirling. CMc emphasised that CAPs are valuable individual action plans as they capture what the community wants as a whole. Community council minutes indicating the decision to undertake this action will be useful back up evidence for the application. It appears the application has not been received, so CMc recommended re-submission.

Microgrants and Youth Bursaries were also discussed. SV asked what was the annual amount allocated. It is around £2500. IH asked if Clyde wind farm might increase their maximum allowance for a micro-grant to £500 to match Glenkerie. CMc said he would inquire and confirm with us about this possibility. He would also send Sara a set of updated guidelines.

RL asked whether a village sign for Skirling Church might be in conflict with the guidelines. A photographic example was produced. CMc clarified that the wind farm will fund churches that do community activity such as the Gillespie centre. It is decided on a case by case basis. Colin was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

**Action: CMc will email SV up-to-date guidelines. SV will re-submit application to CMc directly. CMc to set up a discussion with LT.**

- **Endowment Funding - update (SV and RL)** Nothing further to add. As noted above Lisa Thomson will join the Skirling panel.
- **Community Action Plan - update (DG, SV)**

SV has submitted a series of applications to Glenkerie for micro grant top ups.

ED reported on the meeting with the Development Trust Association Scotland organised by Biggar community council. It's a centre for advice and a useful networking organisation. We can learn from what other DTs are doing, e.g, joining together to make larger funding bids.

**Action: SV will send the application for CAP to CMc.**

- **Warm and Well fund (DB/ KM/ IH)**

KM has applied for Council funding till March to create a Warm and Well space in village hall on Tuesday mornings.

IH reported that the church has published a list of all the locations that provide these spaces in the area. DB has provided us with cost of living support documents.

- **Community Speedwatch**

- Speed limit signs in the village – ED asked SBC Transport Safety team about old speed limit signs being re-instated. They are defunct, so they will be removed. There is a limited power supply to the poles. They will not be replaced until the new signage has settled in and we have taken stock.
- ED reported that the 20mph trial, started in October 2020 and since modified into zones, has now been made permanent with effect from January 16<sup>th</sup> 2023. In Skirling this means that there is a 30mph zone from the Eastern Village boundary to Goatfoot bend, and a 20mph zone from Goatfoot bend to the Western Village boundary. Signage has been ordered for a 40mph buffer from the Western Village boundary to Skirling Mill – just past the driveway to 4 Skirling Mill Cottages. This will be put in place when the new Village name plates are installed. We requested large village name plates combining name with speed limit similar to Dolphinton. Unfortunately, the verges at both village boundaries are too narrow, so we will have the same size plates with 'Please Drive Carefully' added. SBC anticipate being in a position to paint some roundels as well as dragon's teeth in Skirling.
- Purchase of Pop-up Bob – ED reported that Sergeant Bird has confirmed that it will not be possible for Skirling to purchase one of the pop-up bobs due to them representing Police Scotland. She asked if there had been another request for deployment. It was confirmed that Goatfoot/bus shelter has been requested.
- DB is working with police Scotland on the continued speeding issues and highlighted that the 20mph zones have proven successful and will be rolled out across the country. He also mentioned that SBC are hopeful that the Community Speedwatch programme will be re-instated.

DG asked about people making their own signage such as in Romano Bridge - DB pointed out rules and regulations against this. DB recommended that we might try again to present a case for purchasing a pop-up Bob to be stored in Skirling and maybe shared with Broughton. Copy our Councillors.

**Action** ED will enquire again about purchasing a pop up bob and copy our Councillors.

- Police report – IH asked if Skirling should become a ‘No cold-calling Area’. The meeting agreed with this idea. IH suggested the contact detail for the Community Police Officer should go on the new website.

**Action** ED will follow up on setting up Skirling as a ‘No cold-calling Area’. SV will update the website with contact details of our Community Police Officer from police report.

- **Village website and information dissemination (SV/KM)** SV reported that the new, more secure and mobile friendly village website was launched this week which allows several users access to update and amend the news. Publicised by Facebook there have been several new sign up to the newsletter database and people are starting to send photos in for the gallery. IH has been looking into a new village noticeboard similar to the one at Tweedsmuir. It would have a history of Skirling section, information about the church and hall as well as temporary information such as upcoming events.

- **Village Maintenance**

- **BT Hut** - update (AC/SV/ ES) no update
- **Land Registry search for Orphaned Land** - update on Scottish Land Fund (BH) BH has obtained mapping software. The issue is ongoing.
- **Children’s playground** – update (KM) No update. DG suggested this would potentially be included in the CAP. ED suggested we do something else with the land if the play park is not feasible.
- **Howes Brae sign** - (SV)  
**Action** SV to take a photo of the damaged sign.
- **Derelict house** – Waulkmill (ES/ IH / ED) Secretary Skirling received Email from George Phillips giving details of the solicitor dealing with the estate of Mrs Dorward, deceased owner of Waulkmill. IH advised that the solicitors are also pressing for the owner to sell.

**Action. IH will draft an official community council letter to send to the owner. DB will be copied in.**

- **Flood prevention measures (All).**The maintenance of the burn was discussed. Andrew has cleared the top section. It was advised that there are flood barriers in the shed in the car park behind The Green.

**Action-KM** will ask around to arrange another possible training day.

- **Subsidence on path to Skirling Mill** - maintenance of the burn bank (ED/AC) For the record - Andrew reported after the meeting that he and George Noble will work on this before lambing starts (end of February).

- **Date for litter pick (All)** It was agreed April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm. Kit can be collected from village Hall.

**Action-IH** will arrange uplift of rubbish.

- **Retaining wall Skirling graveyard (IH)** An email has been sent to Neil Pringle displaying the damage, but no reply received.

**Action IH** will resend and copy DB

- **Public Transport** - 101/102 Bus (ED/ES) – update from David Mundell received 25/01/23: following direct negotiation with a number of bus operators, SPT has confirmed that a preferred bidder for the 101/102 bus contract has been identified. A recommendation for award will be made to the SPT Operations Committee on Friday. ED thanked DB and other councillors involved.

- **Giftcard** – no update.

**Action IH** will pursue this.

- **Howes Brae impromptu items** – **Action AC** will uplift

- **A.O.B./ Correspondence received**

- **Cloich Windfarm proposal** – request for support (ED)details – James Taylor Eddleston. This is a private email regarding Partnership forRenewables (PfR) proposal for a windfarm at Cloich, South of Leadburn, on high ground, owned by Forestry & Land Scotland, between the A703 and A701 that was approved in May 2015. There are 2 issues

- 1) Since then, French multi-national EDF has purchased the consent from PfR, and submitted a revised proposal (Energy Consents Unit website: ECU 00003288 - Cloich Forest. EDF seeks to increase the turbine height for the 12 turbines from 115 metres to 149.5 metres
- 2) There are over 30 Private Water Supplies in the immediate vicinity of Cloich that are at risk, and with them the dwellings and businesses, the inhabitants and livestock dependent on

them in the community. EDF propose to deal with water pollution or loss of supply by supplying bottled or bowsered water at the consumer's cost.

According to the Scottish Government, wind farm projects should be approved "only in the right place." This is not the right place for a development of this size, this visibility, and with this risk to our natural resources. Skirling Community Council is requested to submit an objection to The Energy Consents Unit – deadline 3 February. JT offers to supply a draft.

**Action-** It was discussed and deemed not appropriate for Skirling CC to object. Individuals might wish to.

- **SBC Planning Training** - event offered on TEAMS for up to 2 members of each CC in the Tweeddale West Ward.
- **Chambers Institute Peebles** – Hannah Lacon (Community Engagement Officer) is asking if anyone would like to be involved in consultation on refurbishment. Removal of suspended ceiling and change of door underway. HL is inviting views on what the building should be used for and how it could serve the community in Tweeddale West.
- **Tweeddale Citizen of the year** – nominations deadline extended to 28<sup>th</sup> February.
- **Retraining of defibrillator use-** KM has organised a training evening on Wednesday 22 Feb at 7pm and thanked Clyde windfarm funding for their generosity in funding this. The defibrillator is stored in the porch of the village hall.
- **Minute taker for the next two meetings** – Alison is not available to take minutes on March 30<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed to move the meeting to the previous week – March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**End 9.15pm**

**2023 Meeting Dates:** **March 23rd**, May 25<sup>th</sup>, September 28<sup>th</sup>, November 30<sup>th</sup>, all at 7.30pm