

WEST KINTYRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

AGM held at Whitehouse village hall 15th May 2017

Present:

Margaret Pratt (MP) (Convenor), Linda McCrae (LMcC) (Vice Convenor), Margaret Soudan (MS) (Treasurer), Morag Branson (MB) (Secretary), Christine O'Hanlon (COH), Zofija Sloan (ZS)

Apologies:

Duncan Macalister, Michele Seddon, Robin Currie

In Attendance:

Members of the public - 2. Councillors - Anne Horn. Local Reporter from Courier

Declarations of Interest:

None

Minutes of AGM in Tayinloan hall 16th May 2016. Proposed by MP and seconded by ZS

Matters arising:

None

Convenors Annual Report:

During the past year we have held 6 Community Council meetings and 2 for Wind-farm Trust. To encourage as many as possible to attend the meetings have been held in various venues throughout the area.

We have received a police report at 5 of these meetings. These reports show little crime within the area with the exception of road traffic accidents and speeding, which remains of concern to residents.

Throughout the year we have dealt with many issues relevant to the community, from firearm licencing, flooding/standing water, signage and wind-farm planning applications to name but a few.

Thanks to major funding from the wind-farm trust, repairs to the bridge and unadopted road caused by the severe flooding in Clachan have been completed.

In September 2016 we formed a short-life focus group with a membership of residents, businesses and community councillors charged with reviewing and updating the community action plan. As part of the review, a new community survey questionnaire seeking the views of the community on what they would like to see happen over the next few years, was drawn up and distributed to all households in the area. To ensure a good return, a freepost address was provided. This resulted in an excellent return with work still ongoing on drawing up the new action plan.

We have also held meetings with DTAS (Development Trust Organisation Scotland) with a view to setting up our own development trust for the area. This will enable us to take forward some of the ideas put forward by the community, such as bringing into use some of the derelict buildings as small business units, community hubs or similar.

As well as the normal community council meetings, we have attended several community liaison meetings with wind-farm developers, and have entered into a new legal community trust agreement for the administration of the Freasdail Wind-farm Community benefit payments. This agreement has new and groundbreaking ideas for the area and includes a local electricity discount scheme for all households within a 5km radius of each turbine with all eligible households receiving an application form from the wind-farm developer. This discount scheme will be run by the developer and discounts paid directly to the householder's electricity company.

With the remainder, a separate fund has been established and will be known as the West Kintyre Community Fund and will be operated by a mix of community councillors and residents. The Trust will offer 2 bursaries per year for up to 4 years for anyone resident in the WKCC area and under 50 years of age who is undertaking either a first degree or further education college course or recognised apprenticeship. As well as these bursaries the Trust will offer small start-up grants for those wishing to start a business within the area of WKCC.

We are also members of the Locality Planning Group(LPG) which is the Kintyre area group charged with implementing the new Integrated Health and Social Care Services. On behalf of the community I attend the monthly meetings and I'm also Vice Chair of the communications sub-group .

On behalf of WKCC I attended a very informative workshop day on the new Community Empowerment Act. This Act could be of help once we have the Development Trust set up.

With funding from the wind-farm trust we are placing 6 community defibrillators throughout the area. These are on order and will be in situ within the next few weeks.

It has also been agreed the wind-farm trust will fund a portaloos at Westport beach for this coming season whilst a longer term solution is found.

We still await the outcome of the public and appeal hearing for Creggan and Blary Hill wind-farms which took place in January 2016 and understand the Reporters submitted their report to the ministers on February 9th. Awaiting decisions of the ministers.

All minutes of meetings have been posted on the website where there is a *contact us* section for members of the community to use if they so wish. All meetings are advertised throughout the area.

All that remains is for me to thank my fellow CC and our local councillors for their support and work over the past year.

Secretary's Annual Report:

The CC has seen a good attendance by local councillors, police and members of the public.

Copies of minutes have been left in some local areas for uplift with varying degrees of success. Have been trying to encourage more people to be added to email lists and will continue to do all possible to engage more local residents in CC. New noticeboards may help.

The website is updated with minutes and agendas.

Treasurer's Balance Sheet & Annual Accounts:

See attached statement. MS will forward this to Argyll & Bute Council.

Election of New Office Bearers:

Convenor - nomination Margaret Pratt - proposed COH and seconded by LMcC

Vice Convenor - nomination Linda McCrae - proposed MP and seconded by MS

Treasurer - nomination Margaret Soudan - proposed LMcC and seconded by COH

Secretary - nomination Morag Branson - proposed ZS and seconded by MP

Thanks to Anne Horn for copy of election nominations.

Dates for next set of meetings:

All Mondays commencing at 7.30pm

17th July 2017.....Clachan

18th September 2017.....Tayinloan

20th November 2017.....A'Chleit

15th January 2018.....Glenbarr

19th March 2018.....Whitehouse

21st May 2018.....Clachan.....AGM

Other meetings may be called outwith these dates if the need arises.

22nd James

Date of next **AGM** 21st May 2018 at Clachan village hall

CONVENERS ANNUAL REPORT

During the past year, we have held 6 Community Council meetings and 2 Windfarm Trust meetings. To encourage as many people as possible to attend these meetings have been held in different venues throughout the area.

We have received a Police report at 4 of these meetings. These reports show little crime within the area with the exception being that of road traffic accidents and speeding, which remains of concern to residents.

Throughout the year, we have dealt with many issues relevant to the community, ranging from fire arm licencing, flooding/standing water, signage and windfarm planning applications to name but a few.

Thanks to major funding from the windfarm trust repairs to the bridge and unadopted road caused by the severe flooding in Clachan have been completed.

In September 2016, we formed a short life focus group with a membership of residents, businesses and Community Councillors charged with reviewing and updating the community action plan. As part of the review a new community survey questionnaire seeking the views of the community on what they would like to see happen over the next few years was drawn up and distributed to households throughout the area. To ensure a good return a freepost address for the return of these questionnaires was supplied. This resulted in an excellent return with work still ongoing on drawing up the new action plan.

We have also held meetings with DTAS with a view to setting up our own Development Trust for the area. This will enable us to take forward some of the ideas put forward by the community, ideas such as bring into use some of the empty derelict buildings as small business units, community hubs or similar.

AS well as the normal Community Council meetings, we have attended several community liaison meetings with windfarm developers, and have entered into a new legal community trust agreement for the administration of the Freasdail Windfarm Community benefit payments. This agreement has some new and ground breaking ideas for the area, and includes a local electricity discount scheme for all households within a 5km radius of each turbine with all eligible households having been sent and application form by the windfarm developer. This discount scheme will be run by the developer and discounts paid directly to the householder's electricity company. For the remainder of the Trust fund a separate fund has been established and will be known as The West Kintyre Community Fund and operated by a mix of community councillors and residents. The trust will offer 2 bursaries per year for up to 4 years for anyone resident in the WKCC area and under 50 years of age undertaking either a first degree, further education college course of recognised apprenticeship. As well as these bursaries, the trust will offer small business start-up grants for those wishing to start a new business within the area of WKCC.

We are members of the Kintyre Locality Planning Group, which is the Kintyre area group charged with implementing the new Integrated Health and Social Care Services for the area. On behalf of the community I attend the monthly meetings of this group and am also the Vice Chair of the communications sub group of this Group

On behalf of the Community Council I attended a very informative workshop day on the new Community Empowerment Act. This Act could be of help once we have the Development Trust set up.

With funding from the windfarm trust we are placing 6 community defibrillators throughout the area. These are on order and will be in situ within the next few weeks. We are also replacing and installing new notice boards throughout the area within the next few weeks.

It has also been agreed the Windfarm Trust will fund a porta-loo at Westport beach for this coming season whilst a longer-term solution is found for the future.

We still await the outcome of the public and appeal hearing for Creggan and Blary Hill Windfarms which took place in January 2016, and understand the reporters submitted their report to the ministers on February 9th. We await the decision of the ministers.

All minutes of meetings have been posted on the web site where there is also a "contact us" section for members of the community to use if they so wish. All meetings are advertised throughout the area.

All that remains is for me to thank my fellow Community Councillors and our Local Councillors for their support and work over the past year.

Meeting dates for the forthcoming year are as follows:

Monday 17th July 2017 – Clachan

Monday 18th September 2017 – Tayinloan

Monday 20th November 2017 – A 'Clie

Monday 15th January 2018 – Glenbarr

Monday 19th March 2018 – Whitehouse

Monday 21st May 2018 – Clachan – AGM

All meetings commence at 7.30pm.

Other meetings may be called out with these dates if the need arises