

New Cumnock Community Council  
Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014

**1. Sign in by members and visitors**

**2. Welcome**

- 2.1 welcomed Members and Visitors to the meeting.  
2.2 (Kier Mining) was volunteered to take the minutes for this meeting.

**3 Apologies**

- 3.1 (Secretary) and Cllr B Crawford

**4 Police Report**

- 4.1 No Police Report
- 4.2 Minerals Trust meeting held at Visions Leisure Centre on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2014. Only local application was for the Working Men's Club - kitchen and foyer which was deferred to the next meeting.
- 4.3 Still waiting on BT repairing manhole in front of pool.
- 4.4 Still waiting on when shelter will be available at railway station supposed to be ready a month ago.
- 4.5 Wind farm trust meeting, only 1 application - NERV £1000 for a new printer.
- 4.6 asked the community council if they want NERV to continue to print the newsletter. It will cost £800 for the October and Christmas edition.
- 4.7 took vote to keep the newsletter going - 7 VOTES in favour to keep the newsletter going. All agreed.

**5 Guest Speakers**

**Hargreaves**

- 5.1 from Hargreaves, invited by to speak to the group to update on progress and answer any questions about the operations.
- 5.2 Hargreaves taken on sites following liquidation of ATH and Scottish Coal. Duncanziemere site near Logan and Lugar is operational. A revised restoration has been submitted and approved at planning. An application to extend operations is currently going forward.
- 5.3 Netherton - Hargreaves are the contractor. Currently working in consultation with EAC having called in a bond at the site. Working with EAC to do a restoration scheme.
- 5.4 House of Water - Hargreaves are the contractor. Current operations are at Burnston Remainder. Employing 80 staff. Working with EAC on revised restoration scheme. There will be a public consultation of scheme - this will likely be at the end of September.

- 5.5 Chalmerston - working with the site owners Forestry Commission and EAC. Currently a drill rig on-site and assessing the remaining coal seams. This will determine the remaining reserves and restoration scheme.
- 5.6 asked what was happening with the Grievhill site? TP said that Hargreaves are not directly involved with the site - only use the processing site.
- 5.7 Glenmuckloch - Hargreaves are the contractor. Coal is coming out by road by 8-wheelers and through New Cumnock. Not had any complaints to the site or to the Council.
- 5.8 asked for Hargreaves to provide the number for the complaints to go to.
- 5.9 asked whether it was the existing coal or from the extension? Hargreaves, commented that it was from the eastern extension and restoring the previous workings.
- 5.10 how many lorries come through New Cumnock per day? GW commented that at the moment it was three 8-wheelers and the most it would be six 8-wheelers. There is a Traffic Management Plan in place which means the lorries cannot run in convoy. There will be several minutes between the loads. asked how many lorries per hour will be coming through? - would need to check the figures. If there were any specific complaints about vehicles to let Hargreaves know. asked if Hargreaves will be making contributions towards the roads and any repairs? commented that the biggest objection was the lorries coming through the village especially with the school and the new Town Hall. recognised the views of the community and explained the reasons for using the road. The conveyor could not continue to be used as the scheme did not stack up economically without using the road. Hargreaves have implemented measures to mitigate the impacts and was assessed by Transport Scotland and the Planning Authority to make it as efficient and safe as possible, If there are any complaints please let us know. to leave contact details.
- 5.11 asked whether they had considered the times for the school? - this was looked at during the planning application but as it was a Trunk Road there were no restrictions. asked whether they had considered the bridge and traffic lights to make it one way? said this had been part of the study undertaken. - concerns over the safety of the bridge. commented that already had lodged complaints to East Ayrshire Council and Transport Scotland and had not listened to the community. said he would look into the bridge and get back to the community.

### **Npower - Ashmark Windfarm**

- 5.12 from Npower gave update on Ashmark Windfarm planning application. This is due to go to EAC Planning committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014. Any objectors to the scheme would have been notified to this and if they want to speak at the hearing. Those in favour of the scheme would not have been notified.

- 5.13 The planners recommendation was to refuse the application on landscape and visual grounds.
- 5.14 Npower recognised that New Cumnock Community Council had been in support of the application and thanked them for their support. Npower are hopeful that the Councillors can still make a decision in favour of the application.
- 5.15 stated that he did not object to the application but he had still got a letter from the Council and asked why that might be? stated that any support from the community would be welcome and to correct EAC if that was the case and make position clear. If anyone wants to make recommendation in favour then that would be helpful. It was suggested by the community that a letter could be written in favour of the scheme?
- 5.16 asked who were the elected members who sit on the planning committee? Cllr Eric Ross (ER) stated that it was Cllr Billy Crawford. Cllr Barney Menzies (BM) stated that any previous response from the community showing support will already be stated within the report and all members will see this. ER detailed the planning process. said that it is usually 5 mins per objector; however this could be reduced depending on how many objectors wanted to speak.
- 5.17 asked would it be helpful for someone from the community council to be present/show support and suggested to attend. said yes that it would be good to have support there - it will be held in Kilmarnock at 10am (3<sup>rd</sup> September). agreed to attend and represent the Community Council.

## **6 Minutes of Last Meeting**

- 6.1 Not available, however these had been emailed through by who minuted the last meeting. The previous minutes were sent by Email well in advance to all the members who had passed their Email addresses to the Secretary. A printed copy was sent by 'snail mail' to . Secretary had notified various members that he would not be available for this NCCC meeting in advance.

## **7 Treasurers Report**

- 7.1 stated that there was no Treasurer.
- 7.2 informed the Community Council that was interested in the role, however everything must be sorted and in order before she would take on role.
- 7.3 commented that she would need to co-opted on to the community council or become an elected member.

## **8 Windfarms**

- 8.1 IH gave an update on the windfarms - from Scottish Power Renewables - Harehill extension and the £165,000 per year for community benefit. £2,500 per MW installed to go to Community Benefit. offered to give money directly to community. Urgent decision required by by tomorrow (28<sup>th</sup> August) and would need to report back. Vote was taken by Community Council - 9 VOTED in favour of retaining the money within the community. All agreed.

- 8.2 Renewable Energy Fund set up by East Ayrshire Council is looking to have a central fund for the windfarms. Rather have the money go direct to communities the Council would manage the fund. Strict criteria for applying for the funds.
- 8.3 BM said it would be worth challenging EAC if turn down application based on that as not a material consideration. ER stated if application is conditioned to include a contribution to Renewable Energy Fund that this was voluntary, applicant could refuse. BM said that it was important that other community councils were involved and that it was important to align themselves. said that he is meeting with other communities tomorrow night at 7pm (28<sup>th</sup> August).

## **9 Opencast Coal - Liaison Groups**

- 9.1 Update given by on the Coalfield Communities Federation - AGM meeting, accounts all up-to-date and fine. Camps concert on this week commemorating First World War. Service being held at 6pm on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 at Old Cumnock Church in the Square. Refreshments served in hall after service - all welcome.

## **10 Communication with Wider Community**

- 10.1 asked to speak to Community Council to gain support for Community Empowerment - keen to get allotments going in the area. There are obligations on Council if the community want to get allotments, Council had previously stated that they had consulted with the Community Councils - but didn't think this was the case. asked if there was support from the Community Council to push forward. asked if they were in agreement - all agreed to give support.
- 10.2 knew of similar schemes that had got Lottery Funding for allotments - it may be that this is available?
- 10.3 BM suggested that could identify suitable land through Vibrant Communities - possible Community Asset Transfer?
- 10.4 said the Community Council would write to EAC showing support for the proposal and possibly suggest that the community are not aware of any consultation undertaken by the Council.

## **11 Facebook Page**

- 11.1 said that at a previous meeting would put together a facebook page for the Community Council. General discussion as to what should be included in the page. Should not be used for personal purposes.
- Information on what's going on in the community
  - What is actually happening in the area
  - Details of events etc.
- 11.2 suggested using the Minutes from the meeting to up-date the facebook page. pointed out that the minutes would need to be approved first before using the information and this gets done at the next meeting.

## **12 Signed CC Code of Conduct Sheets**

12.1 stated the Code of Conduct sheets were sent and needed to be signed and returned. Sent by email.

## **13. Correspondence**

13.1 None at meeting.

## **14. AOB**

14.1 asked members whether there should still be 1 speaker at Community Council Meetings - should this be changed? suggested limiting speakers to 10 minutes. commented that if only allow one speaker then may miss something important. said that the Community Council get advance warning if someone wants to speak at meetings and therefore shouldn't miss them. It was agreed to take a vote whether 1 speaker or 2 speakers should be allowed at future meetings [1 speaker = 4 VOTES. 2 speakers = 6 VOTES]. All agreed that 2 speakers will be allowed at future meetings. They will each have an allocated time of 10 minutes which will include the presentation and the questions and answers.

14.2 ER suggested that if there is a really important talk which may take longer - the Community Council could suspend the standing orders and allow a longer time. All agreed.

14.3 apologised to (E.ON) for the mis-communication of the date of the Fun Day by which resulted in E.ON missing the event and thanked them for their efforts.

14.4 asked about the report on the flooding in New Cumnock and had heard it may take up to two years before any works are actually done. said that consultants are doing an assessment and will produce a plan. It may take 2-3 years to implement and the Government pay up to 80% of the costs. BM updated the community - Action Plan will look at mitigating the pressure points identified from the consultant's assessment. The report will be ready for next Flood Group meeting in early September 2014. This will go to Cabinet for approval in Oct/Nov 2014. Can take up to 2 years to get implemented and if get government funding this will be up to 80% - not guaranteed. New Cumnock are on Flood Risk Register which includes 183 towns and therefore will hopefully get funding.

14.5 asked if EAC has got plans for sandbags if it happens again? Who will look after New Cumnock? ER said that there were a number of things that exacerbated the flooding earlier in the year. Explained the process of how the council will have to bid to the government for funds. Contractors will then be involved to do the works. Will also need to get planning for the works - all these things take time.

14.6 commented on the Bridge at Afton getting used for dumping. Needs to get sorted. ER/BM said that it would be Community Payback. MW to make enquiries.

14.7 said that the next PPF meeting was on Monday (1<sup>st</sup> September 2014) and will update the group at the next meeting.

- 14.8 asked if there was any update on the Town Hall? said that he had spoken to Fiona Lees at EAC and that it had been sold to the Prince's Trust for £1. Funding is in place, still doing surveys/architectural works and will then require building warrants etc.
- 14.9 (Vattenfall) commented that the South Kyle windfarm application had been rejected by EAC. Will go to Public Enquiry.
- 14.10 spoke to the Community Council about small projects involving 10-17 year olds. Possibly set up workshop to build hovercrafts help with children doing team work and learn engineering skills - just be small mechanical projects. Happy to help out - got skills in teaching and engineering background. He has only been here since February 2014 so just enquiring as who to best speak to etc.
- 14.11 asked if there was any advancement on the miners memorial as nothing has been done? said that had been dealing with it not sure whether it was through NERV or Community Council. said she would speak to and ask what was happening and keep informed.
- 14.12 called for a public meeting for the flooding. BM said that there had been two public meetings already. Once the mitigation measures had been assessed then another public meeting would be called. ER stated that a working party had been put together, the Flood Group, which people had put their names forward for. said the community council would press for a public meeting.

Meeting ended at 8.25pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 7.00pm.