

BARRHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Meeting held on Wednesday, 26th June 2013
Memorial Hall, Barrhill at 7.30pm.

No	Item	Action
	<p>Sederunt: Barrhill Community Council Mark Bradshaw (MB), Andrew Clegg (AC), Ann Robertson (AR), Dave Russell (DR) (Chair), Andrew Sinclair (AS), Celia Strain (CS) (Minute Taker), Johnnie Thomson (JT).</p> <p>In Attendance: Councillor Alec Clark (ACk) (SAC), PCs G. Barclay (GB) & R. Keenan (RK) (Girvan & South Carrick Community Policing Team), Gillian Arnot (GA), William Black (WB), Siobhan McLaughlin (SMcG), Gordon Anderson (GAn) (All Scottish Power Renewables: (SPR)), William Boyd (WB) (Pinwherry CC/Saylsa Member), 9 Members of the Public.</p>	
1	Apologies for Absence	
	<p>Debbie Miles (DM) (DR informed that DM had also tendered her resignation. She had enjoyed her time on the CC, albeit brief, but informed that she is leaving the district shortly. The news was greeted with regret. CS to send the CC's best wishes for the future and to thank her for her time on the CC.)</p> <p>Douglas Niven (DN), Peter Linton (PL) (SAC).</p>	CS
3	<p>Presentation: Scottish Power Renewables Proposed Extension to Mark Hill Windfarm/Kilgallioch Update <i>(This item taken early due to late arrival of the Police)</i></p>	
	<p>The representatives from SPR introduced themselves and GA and WB initially gave an update on Kilgallioch Windfarm, consent for which was granted in February 2013 for a 96 turbine windfarm. 94 of these could be up to 146.5m tip height and the remaining 2 up to 125m blade tip height. Construction likely to commence in 2015 and hopefully become operational in 2017. SPR is committed to submitting information to SAC in support of planning conditions relating to the construction.</p> <p>A Recreation & Access Plan will be agreed with the local Councils and improvements made to the Southern Upland Way in Dumfries & Galloway, with interpretation boards being provided. There will also be employment opportunities and support for a turbine technicians' course, which commenced at Ayr College in March and due at D & G College in October 2013. Community initiatives will be supported, with dialogue taking place in the future.</p> <p>SPR intend to work closely with D & G Council regarding path improvements on the SUW to make it more valuable to the communities en route and will fund a review of the current structure and marketing of the SUW.</p> <p>.A third party will be appointed to talk to the local communities regarding this, hopefully in the Summer/Autumn, so that the aspirations of the communities involved are reflected. Questions were then invited from those present.</p> <p>AC enquired re-recreation facilities, namely, the absence of a car park on the plans. He was informed that discussions on this are 'going forward'.</p> <p>AS pointed out the lack of electricity storage facilities. WB stated that technical research is ongoing to try to store kinetic energy. AS asked if allowances made in regard to storage capacity as this is inefficient.. WB replied that there is presently a generation mix. There will be a package of community benefits of £5,000/MW for the operational period of the windfarm. SPR is currently carrying out a review of how the funds are apportioned to try to obtain a fair balance. The review will identify the preferred model.</p> <p>DR commented that it was known that Carrick Futures would prefer the funds to go directly to them and felt that SPR should liaise with them. ACK concurred.</p> <p>It is proposed to fund 2 Countryside Ranger roles to promote the SUW with its extensive history and archaeology. Discussions with D & G Council are ongoing.</p> <p>ACK enquired if SAC was involved in discussions, but it is not at present, apparently. This will be considered.</p> <p>DH referred to the 'Scott Report' on paths, commissioned by SPR's John Alexander, which did mention car parks. (He then gave copies of the leaflet showing plans for the Hall refurbishment to the SPR personnel.)</p> <p><i>The Police entered the meeting, having been unavoidably delayed, and their report was taken immediately.</i></p>	
2	Police	

	<p>PC Barclay apologised for the late arrival, which had been unavoidable as their presence had been required elsewhere. He informed there had been eight incidents reported to the police since the previous meeting. Of these, only one crime had been recorded.</p> <p>There had been a theft of goods from a caravan at Queensland Caravan Park.</p> <p>GB then read out more detailed results from those initially sent, of the speed survey recently carried out in Barrhill. The initial report had been forwarded to all C Councillors. There were detailed numbers for both south and northbound traffic, with average speeds of 22 and 20mph (Private Light Goods and HGV vehicles) registered for the former direction and 21 and 22mph respectively for the latter. Only 14 vehicles exceeded the speed limit. CS to contact Sergeant McKeown regarding the survey.</p> <p>GB and DP were thanked by DR for their report and they then left the meeting.</p>	CS
3	<p>Continued</p> <p>Mark Hill Extension</p> <p>SMcL informed that this was at an early stage but surveys are currently being carried out into the Autumn. She outlined the history of the site, SPR having purchased the consented site from Catamount Energy/Force 9 in February 2009. The present windfarm opened in June 2011, each turbine having 2MW capacity. The proposed new site is currently private forestry. The existing access could be used or a new one from the A714. To be confirmed during the site design. It is hoped to submit a planning application by next Spring, possibly April 2014. Surveys will continue into Autumn 2013. Planning would be the Scottish Government's remit under Section 36. SPR are liaising with neighbouring properties, meeting with CCs and will arrange Public Information Days, which will be well advertised.</p> <p>Questions were then invited.</p> <p>AS enquired about the effects on fishing at the Black Loch. These were not known.</p> <p>DR referred to the delay in informing the CC of the planned extension, when the nearest properties had been lettered. CS stated she had been informed by one of the most affected residents that they had not received any notification. The first they knew was when someone appeared on their property to survey newts. SMcL regretted these incidents and said that in future they would be avoided.</p> <p>AS also wondered about the effects on low flying in the area. The Ministry of Defence is being consulted.</p> <p>DH asked what the minimum distance from a dwelling to a turbine is—no set distance, only recommendations</p> <p>CS referred to the noise factor, having heard that since trees were cut down, presumably in anticipation of this development, one dwelling can hear more noise from the existing Mark Hill turbines. She was informed that SPR is happy to speak to anyone who has queries.</p> <p>The SPR representatives stated that the proposed development is grid dependent.</p> <p>DR thanked SMcL, WB, GA and GAn for their presentations and they then left the meeting.</p>	
8	<p>SAYLSA</p> <p>This item taken out of sequence as William Boyd, from Pinwherry CC, the local representative had come to address the meeting. WB introduced himself and informed as to the present situation within Saylsa, who are facing opposition in their quest to become a Scottish Community Rail Partnership. WESTRANS proposals for the make-up of yet another group appear to be unrepresentative and opposed by Saylsa. Since Stena moved the ferry terminal from Stranraer to Cairnryan passenger numbers have seen a 50% loss on the line south of Girvan, although passenger numbers at Barrhill, Girvan and Maybole stations had actually increased.</p> <p>To increase passenger numbers, steam train excursions are seen as a visitor attraction. The poor condition of the Laggansarroch bridge is seen as a cause for concern. WB gave an interesting account of the bridge's history, the present structure dating from 1877. It is hoped Network Rail can be pushed to allot a bigger budget for the line. There is also persuasion to bring in cheaper fares to and from Stranraer.</p> <p>DR thanked WB for his presentation. The CC will write a letter of support for Saylsa.</p>	CS
4	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 22nd May 2013</p> <p>These were approved, proposed by AC, seconded AR.</p>	
5	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p>Item 4: Matters Arising from the Minutes: Carrick Characters AR informed that the siting of the plaque had been approved by the BMHCA.</p> <p>Structural Plan Presentation: PNE Wind UK Ltd. ACk informed that there was now clarification on the structure plan and he would email a link to this on the web.</p>	

	<p>The Scottish Government had also produced clarification on Pan 47/PAN 3/2010. The Ayrshire Joint Structural Plan regarding-Wind Turbine construction had commissioned consultants and was sensitive to turbine construction. The Local Development Plan will come into law early next year.</p> <p>War Memorial Handrail: ACk informed that PL had submitted Barrhill's application form to the War Memorials' Trust. Regarding the history of the monument, CS had informed PL of further information given by Andy Kennedy, a Second World War veteran, concerning how the money was initially raised for the Memorial.</p> <p>Activated Speed Sign: ACk had discussed this with George Fiddes of SAC and was informed that the situation is being reviewed. He will chase up the matter of whether SAC would pay for installation if the BCIC purchased a sign.</p> <p>Roads Meeting: ACk understood that Kevin Braidwood has proposed to carry out permanent repairs to the A714 between Girvan and the Dumfries & Galloway boundary. Discussions are presently taking place between the Ayrshire Councils re-shared control. DR informed that a member of the public, JD, has continued to ask questions of SAC and discovered that the money set aside for the A714 was not used where planned and that SAC invested the money instead. He has been informed that the Police will undertake a survey of the A714. AR referred to the poor state of the road near Pinmore, and DR to the unsealed sections of the road.</p> <p>Right of Access to Mark Hill Windfarm: AR has now received a confirmatory email from SPR that there are no vehicular access rights for members of the public. The landowner's permission should be sought</p> <p>Item 6: Updates: BCIC: Arnshen Park: ACk reported that he had made extensive enquiries within SAC and unfortunately no relevant records can be found. A discussion followed with some members being of the opinion that the park had been given to the village. ACk will investigate to see if old Kyle & Carrick Planning Committee minutes are in the archives, which may shed some light on the matter.</p> <p>Item 8: Planning Applications: Car Park: In DN's absence, CS informed that the height of the car park gates could be altered, as an adjustable height restrictor could be fitted.</p> <p>Item 10: AOB: Broken drain: AR reported that this was now repaired. The signpost issue is ongoing.</p>	<p>ACK</p> <p>ACK</p>
6	<p>Treasurer's Report</p>	
	<p>AR reported that this year's grant money of £600 had been received and lodged in the bank. BOS had returned the forms submitted and required yet more information. CS to get copies of appropriate minutes and send to Edinburgh. Hopefully, all will then finally be in place. AR had paid the cheque to DH for the domain name/web hosting.</p>	<p>CS</p>
7	<p>Updates</p>	
	<p>a) BCIC CS reported on the June 3rd meeting, the main points being as follows:</p> <p>Mark Hill Windfarm The latest payment from the benefit fund has been received.</p> <p>Reconvened AGM. It was acknowledged by all that the reconvened AGM held on 19th June had been most acrimonious. It had not been possible to continue the meeting due to the hostility of some members. It was agreed by all those Community Councillors who had been present that the behaviour of some members, and one in particular, had been totally unacceptable and extremely disruptive. Some comments made were offensive and the general view was that the behaviour exhibited was disgraceful and quite the worst ever seen at a meeting in the Memorial Hall. A further attempt to conclude the AGM will be held at a later date (possibly 22nd July) and information packs will be sent out to all members of BCIC when the date has been confirmed.</p> <p>ACk commented that if anyone's behaviour at a meeting was such that a public nuisance was caused, the Police could be asked to remove that person from the meeting. Noted.</p> <p>Car Park The work is scheduled to commence shortly in spite of the objections lodged to the recent secondary planning application These do not affect commencement of the work as planning consent has already been granted by SAC for the car park.</p> <p>Flower Tubs The Primary School has once again kindly agreed to plant the flower tubs.</p> <p>Community Bus It was agreed that if spare seats are available, non-residents of Barrhill can join a bus trip for the nominal amount of £1. Today's scheduled trip to Ayr was cancelled due to lack of support. Next scheduled trip is on 25th July, to Castle Douglas.</p> <p>Holiday Activities The summer holiday family event will be to Heads of Ayr Farm Park on Saturday 20th July. This is free to all Barrhill residents and children must be accompanied by an adult.</p>	

	<p>Martyrs' Tomb Walk Maintenance The contract for this now been implemented and the first grass cut has taken place, resulting in an improved appearance.</p> <p>b) Carrick Futures (CF) AC reported that he had attended the special CF meeting on 5th June to ratify the review of operating instructions, the main outcome being that Barrhill would keep the 30% from Arecleoch for a further 18 months to allow time for the hall development plans and costings to be presented as a funding bid to Carrick Futures. He also informed that Barr had been most supportive of Barrhill and objected to the review findings, feeling the status quo should be maintained. The 'Prospects for Carrick' document was also discussed.</p> <p>c) CCCF CS reported that she and AR had attended the 11th June meeting. The main points of the meeting were as follows:</p> <p>Community Benefit Funds & SAC It was noted that five Local Authorities had taken in all windfarm benefits</p> <p>Lack of Community Engagement/Communication It was agreed that members would send in a list of issues, if they had any, with SAC officials and Link Officers</p> <p>Bruce Programme Update Now approaching final part of contract – still to obtain furniture. Lion of Alba Now looking at 2015 - Ailsa Horizons is actively seeking funding for this project.</p> <p>Girvan Harbour Marina This will open on 21st June.</p> <p>'Ayrshire Alps' Carrick Cycling Event 17th/18th August</p> <p>Carrick Tourism Update Julia (Ailsa Horizons) gave an update on this.</p>	
9	<p>Planning Applications</p>	
	<p>AR reported none relevant to Barrhill but repeated the previously notified application for a met mast at Chirmorrie. She noted that the BCIC application for the car park super structure had been withdrawn. Noted. DR informed that he had received an email from Planning reporting that the Corwar application was currently suspended due to insufficient fees being lodged. This had now been rectified, apparently.</p>	
10	<p>Correspondence</p>	
	<p>DR referred to emails received by him and CS concerning the first meeting of the Altercannoch Liaison Group. He had requested that, as the community most affected, Barrhill be allowed four representatives on the group. PNE Wind UK had agreed to this and AS and AC had both expressed an interest. These four would attend the first meeting on 1st July with AR willing to attend in future if required</p> <p><i>In addition to correspondence already emailed out</i></p> <p>Various communications from NHS Ayrshire & Arran Including advertisements for Board Member vacancies and Roadshows: Posters to be displayed on notice board</p> <p>PNE Wind UK: Proposed Altercannoch Windfarm Public exhibition and newsletters also sent to all households.</p> <p>SAC: Renewal of Insurance Arrangements for Community Councils.</p> <p>Playpark Equipment leaflet</p> <p>Speed Survey results from 3rd-5th June.</p> <p>SAC: Letter re-withdrawal of a skip. CS to query.</p> <p>Local Government & Regeneration Committee Report. Received by email today--will be forwarded tomorrow.</p>	<p>CS</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>CS</p>
11	<p>AOB Council Members/Members of the Public</p>	
	<p>A member of the public attended the meeting to enquire about the street drains from the bridge down to the crossroads. There has been an ongoing problem with the drains at this end of the village for some time. When there is heavy rain the drains flood and water leaks back under the houses, causing damage to them. ACK was able to answer the queries. It is hoped the drains will soon be cleaned out.</p> <p>It had been noted that the bridge had finally been re-pointed.</p> <p>CS: referred to the PNE Proposed Altercannoch Windfarm exhibition/consultation event held on 4th/5th June in the Memorial Hall. This had been well-attended and newsletters had been delivered beforehand to all households.</p> <p>Meeting regarding Windfarm Planning Applications DR, AR and CS had attended this at Girvan Academy on 3rd June, but it had not proceeded as expected.</p> <p>CS and DR had attended a meeting of BMHCA and its architects, together with AR as BMHCA Chair. A new scale plan for the hall refurbishment was discussed, following a change in the boundary due to a measurement error.</p> <p>AS asked if the sign indicating 'No Windfarm Traffic', which had been removed from the</p>	

<p>Knowe Road, would be replaced before Kilgallioch windfarm commences construction. SPR to be asked later.</p> <p>AC pointed out that trees and bushes obscured the view at the approach to the bridge at the south end of the village. Noted that these are not on SAC's land. He also referred to the broken kerbstones opposite the former Scott's Garage. AC will report this matter to Roads. He also referred to a forthcoming closure of the New Luce Road. No information had been received re-this.</p> <p>MB brought up a matter on behalf of a resident who had been in discussion with Dr Sloan regarding the presence of a defibrillator in Barrhill. Other members were puzzled as some years ago the community had raised funds and a defibrillator had been purchased. This was understood to be in the surgery at Barrhill. To be confirmed.</p> <p>Date & Time of next Meeting <u>Wednesday 28th August 2013 at 7.30pm</u> Dates for remainder of 2013 25th September 23rd October 27th November NB. There are no meetings in July & December</p>	<p>AC</p> <p>CS</p>
---	---------------------