

**APPROVED**

**BARRHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**Meeting held on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016**  
**Memorial Hall, Barrhill at 7.30pm.**

No	Item	Action
	<p><b>Sederunt: Barrhill Community Council</b> Mark Bradshaw (MB), Andrew Clegg (AC), James Duffie (JD), Sarah Redman (SR), Ann Robertson (AR) (Treasurer), Dave Russell (DR) (Chair), Andrew Sinclair (AS), Celia Strain (CS) (Secretary &amp; Minute Taker), Johnnie Thomson (JT). <b>In Attendance:</b> SAC Councillor Alec Clark (ACk), William Burfitt (WB) (Tilhill Forestry), Stewart Forsyth (SF) (Coriolis Energy), PCs Harding (H) &amp; Graham Barclay (GB) (Girvan &amp; South Carrick Community Policing Team), Amy Donnell (Corri Wilson MP). 27 Members of the public.</p>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
	Peter Linton (PL) (SAC Link Officer)	
<b>2</b>	<b>Police</b>	
	<p>DR welcomed PCs Barclay and Harding to the meeting. They informed that there had been 8 incidents recorded in the Barrhill area since the last CC meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January but no crimes recorded.</p> <p>CS enquired as to notification procedures involved during road closures, as she had experienced road closure signs regarding the A77 south of Maybole situated a number of miles north of Glasgow, then nothing after that, creating the impression the road had re-opened when it had not. GB informed that this was the responsibility of the road maintenance company for the area (ARA).</p> <p>DR thanked GB and H for their report. <i>They then left the meeting at approx. 7.40pm.</i></p>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Speakers: William Burfitt, Forest Manager, Tilhill Forestry</b>	
	<b>Artnoch: Woodland Creation Proposal</b>	
	<p>DR introduced William Burfitt from Tilhill Forestry, who then gave a summary of the proposed plans for Artnoch Forest.</p> <p>WB informed that the owners, the Tilhill Forestry Co already managed a number of properties, some locally, and had purchased the land at Artnoch last June. The proposed plans had been in the making for over a year and the woodland creation proposals submitted include details of the site surveys and assessments carried out to date. These are now with the Forestry Commission and will go online this week. A list of surveys etc includes designated sites and specifically the potential impact on the neighbouring SSSI at Feoch Meadows has been taken into consideration. All relevant matters will be discussed with local communities.</p> <p>Different trees will be planted on site and discussions are ongoing with the Scottish Wildlife Trust, as the land to the North-East of the scheme is similar to that of Feoch Meadows.</p> <p>Buffer zones will be created adjacent to burns and also to architectural features. Broadleaved species will be planted at the edges of the scheme to soften them.</p> <p>There will be a maintenance regime, which will meet forestry framework guidelines. The area extends to approximately 110 hectares. The life span for conifers is a minimum of 30/35 years to felling and then re-stocking will take place. Local contractors will be used where possible and it is hoped to commence work in April to June. When asked about public walking tracks WB Informed that suggestions regarding this would be welcomed. Further questions were then invited.</p> <p>The matter of deer control was raised, with the effect on public access queried. WB informed that this will take place but that all safety precautions would be implemented.</p> <p>JT enquired as to the buffer zone around power lines, having experienced power failures due to trees falling onto lines. The plans are for a 13 metre distance between lines and the trees.</p> <p><i>WB was thanked for his talk and then left the meeting at approx. 8.15pm.</i></p>	
	<b>Stewart Forsyth (Coriolis Energy)</b>	
	<b>Proposed Chirmorrie Windfarm</b>	
	The second speaker, Stewart Forsyth, introduced himself to those members of the public who had not previously encountered him. He then gave the meeting an update on current progress, covering <i>Access, Community Benefit and the Planning process.</i>	

	<p>Discussions are still ongoing with the Forestry Commission regarding access to the site through forestry roads, which is the preferred route. As yet there is no agreement to use the haul road but the route through the village presented in the planning application is the worst case scenario. SF is confident that agreement will be reached with the Forestry Commission and is prepared to return to the CC in 3 to 4 months time (May/June) with an update.</p> <p>Most material required can be won on site, which will reduce heavy traffic. There will be a Traffic Management System and a Liaison Group will be formed in order to work closely with the community and the residents affected on Main Street.</p> <p>The proposed plans, which were submitted to SAC in early December, are for 22 turbines of 146 metres height to blade tip. It is understood that Scottish Natural Heritage have not objected but have raised concerns. SAC have objected but may yet withdraw their objections. Questions were then invited, resulting in a lengthy, and at times hostile, discussion.</p> <p>A member of the public enquired if there was a problem with the Forestry Commission as planning had been ongoing now for many months. SF explained that the time factor was due to an agreement previously in place between the FC and SPR which prevented discussions taking place until 9/10 months ago.</p> <p>ACk informed the meeting that he had made the Planning Officer, Adrian Browne, aware of the extreme disquiet in the community regarding possible access through the village and of the CC's response as a consultee, in which objections were lodged against this route.</p> <p>A member of the public raised the lack of communication regarding the development. She was in a property affected by the proposals but had received no communications from the company. SF was under the impression neighbours had been informed but this was refuted by the resident.</p> <p>JD also queried what he understood to be a lack of time for the CC to respond. CS pointed out that CC members had all been emailed during December, emphasising that they must ensure to read the communication prior to the CC meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January so that the CC's response could be sent immediately afterwards in order to meet the deadline two days later.</p> <p>The Community Benefit was reported to be in the region of £350K per annum.</p> <p>AS enquired if there would be compensation for those residents whose properties on Main Street would be affected by heavy transport within inches of their doors. Would properties be surveyed prior to transport? SF informed there would be an Access Liaison Group to address these concerns and a Traffic Impact Assessment. He also informed that the abnormal loads are no heavier than present heavy traffic.</p> <p>JT enquired as to the possibility of ownership of a turbine for Barrhill. SF replied that this had been raised by other communities but that as there were problems concerning maintenance costs etc of the turbines this idea had never really come to fruition.</p> <p>DR enquired if Coriolis Energy would place any restrictions on how the community benefit is spent and was informed that, within reason, there should be none.</p> <p>The session was finally brought to a close.</p> <p><i>SF was thanked for his presentation and left the meeting at approx. 8.50pm.</i></p>	
4	<p><b>Altercannoch Windfarm</b></p>	
	<p>DR informed that following discussions with ACk prior to the start of the meeting regarding 'Declarations of Interest', this agenda item was being adjourned until the next meeting on 30th March. ACk would, in the meantime, consult with SAC's legal section to seek clarification on what exactly is involved, to ascertain which CC members should declare an interest.</p> <p>JT, who had declared an interest, then quoted from the latest minutes of the Altercannoch Liaison Group from the meeting held on 14th December 2015, which he had requested from Brookfield, concerning a paragraph on shared ownership of turbines. He queried the 4 CC members on the Liaison Group, AC, DR, AS, and CS as to why this had not been mentioned in the update report given to the CC at its January meeting. The AWCLG update had been given by AS as usual and the CC minutes regarding this update were then read out. It was noted there was no mention of shared ownership, presumably because there was nothing to report.</p> <p>On reflection DR stated that the subject had been brought up previously by the Liaison Group and not by Brookfield representatives, which was the impression JT had been given by the AWCLG minutes. The response had been non-committal and DR said it should be noted that these final minutes had only been received by the Liaison Group that day.</p> <p><i>(NB: It should be noted that on checking with the 14th December AWCLG minutes, these quite clearly state that DR had requested that information be sought on the subject and this was to</i></p>	

	<i>be actioned by Brookfield's Project Manager (CC). No information on shared ownership of turbines, therefore, was available to give to the January meeting of the CC.)</i>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016</b>	
	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved; proposed by JD, seconded AC.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b>	
	<p><b>Item 5: Matters Arising from the Minutes</b>  <b>Hall Repairs:</b> ACk had enquired about the Hall and read out a reply received from Tom Burns, SAC's Asset Manager. The condition survey had been carried out and would be validated by 31<sup>st</sup> March. Additional information had also been received from BMHCA to be considered in conjunction with the condition survey. A recent visit by SAC to the Hall is unlikely to result in any significant changes during the validation process. The Hall has been given a condition rating of 'C', meaning the building is in a poor condition with major defects identified. The cost to resolve all these is put at £105,000. This would only cover identified defects. The building has rising dampness and excess moisture. The ground to the rear of the property is very wet and likely to be causing problems to the brickwork. It is felt that a drainpipe should be installed at the rear of the property. SAC are moving on with the project. Ongoing</p> <p><b>SPEN Reinforcement Scheme:</b> DR has replied to this and awaits a response.</p> <p><b>Item 8: Consultee Response to Section 36 Application:</b> CS had emailed the CC's response as agreed and sent a copy to the Ayrshire Roads Alliance. ACk informed that SAC had noted Barrhill's objections to the possible use of Main Street as a transport route for the proposed Chirmorrie Windfarm.</p> <p><b>Item 13: AOB: SAC's Budget:</b> ACk informed that the crucial meeting would be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The £5.2 million gap is bound to result in cuts and a reduction in services.</p> <p><b>Stagecoach Bus Services:</b> ACk had made enquiries and reported that there are no plans to cut back the present bus service.</p> <p><b>Northern Activated Speed Sign:</b> This is still not operational – ACk will again pass this on.</p> <p><b>Pavements:</b> ACk had logged the defective pavement outside 9b Main Street and also the defective drainage near Eldrick. Ongoing</p> <p><b>A714 Drainage:</b> ACk had enquired into this and was informed that the new drainage system is working now that the second coat of tar has been laid.</p> <p><i>(All other items on the agenda)</i></p>	<p>ACK</p> <p>ACK</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	
	AR circulated her report and informed that the Barr Burns Club had now received their £100 grant. (CS reported she had received an emailed thank you from the Club Secretary). There is still the sum of £1,941.50 available in the account and requested that members ensure they submit any expenses claims for the next meeting in March prior to the end of the financial year. The second instalment for the CAP has also been paid DR then thanked AR for her report.	
<b>8</b>	<b>Updates</b>	
	<p>a) <b>BCIC</b> JT and DR reported on the last monthly BCIC meeting. JT informed that the company had agreed to grant £150 towards <b>driving lessons for new drivers.</b> <b>Newsletter:</b> The next copy of this will be available shortly. <b>Car Park/School Wall:</b> DR informed that the work for the new wall has commenced. <b>Car Park Lighting</b> Still waiting for the electricity to be connected – a contract has now been signed with NPower after repeated delays from Scottish Power. AS enquired if there would be a facility for electric cars. This is a possibility.</p> <p>b) <b>Carrick Futures (CF)</b> AC informed no meeting had been held lately.</p> <p>c) <b>CCCF</b> CS and AR had attended the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Due to the sad demise of Ailsa Horizons the AGM had not been held. ACk referred to the desire for the CCCF to continue and to move forward.</p> <p>d) <b>War Memorial:</b> AC had sent out 12 requests for estimates. So far 4 replies had been received, though one has since withdrawn. Ongoing</p>	<p>AC</p>
<b>9</b>	<b>Small Grant Application Barrhill Angling Club</b>	
	The application, previously circulated to all, was unanimously approved. This was for £500 to restock two lochs with rainbow trout. CS to forward the cheque.	<p>CS</p>

10	<b>Planning Applications</b>	
	AR informed of one application for Barrhill, that of Altercannoch Wind Farm. On the January decisions list Mr & Mrs McCarthy received permission for the erection of a house at Laigh Altercannoch. AR was then thanked for her report.	
11	<b>Correspondence Incl. Girvan Traditional Folk Festival (Rural Transport)</b>	
	<p><i>In addition to other items previously circulated.</i></p> <p><b>Girvan Traditional Folk Festival:</b> DR had received an e-letter (circulated) from the Festival Chair concerning the transport difficulties for residents of rural communities wishing to attend the festival in Girvan over the May Day Holiday weekend and asking for ideas and suggestions to address the problems for the 2016 festival. AS explained that the festival had applied to CF for a grant and had been requested to obtain more transport for rural areas. It is unfortunate the Barrhill Community Bus is not available but DR suggested taxis or a mini-bus could be used. He asked all to think about ideas and then forward these to CS.</p> <p><b>Wicksteed Playgrounds:</b> Equipment leaflet.</p> <p><b>Energy Agency: Home Energy Fair:</b> To be held in Ayr on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 10am to 3.30pm. Noted</p> <p><b>SAC: Strengthening our Communities Workshops:</b> Various venues/dates. Circulated.</p>	ALL
12	<b>AOB Council Members/Members of the Public</b>	
	<p><b>A714</b> A member of the public raised the subject of the <b>appalling road surfaces south of Blair Farm</b>. It was noted that this section had been scheduled for repair during the current financial year but this had not occurred due to resources being directed elsewhere due to landslips. ACk informed that he had raised this at a recent SAC meeting and DR had also contacted Kevin Braidwood about the same section of road a few days ago. A response is awaited.</p> <p>A member of the public informed that the <b>dredging of the Cross Water Burn</b> was now due. ACk will investigate this.</p> <p><b>Chirmorrie Road</b> There were several complaints re-large potholes on the hill road. These had been previously reported but AS stressed the importance of reporting defects on the ARA website online. The more complaints logged the better.</p> <p><b>A77 Road Closures</b> CS reminded of the planned closures and of objections raised by Ballantrae and other communities. ACk informed that he and Councillor Oattes had already raised this matter and instead of one continuous closure the work will now be carried out over three weekends. The first closure is already scheduled.</p> <p><b>Martyrs' Tomb Walk</b> A member of the public raised the poor state of the inscription on the Martyrs' Tomb itself and the unsafe condition of parts of the walk. CS, who declared an interest, informed that she had tried various sources, to no avail, to find a solution to the state of the memorial. She will make further enquiries. It was also noted with regret that the BCIC, who previously maintained the path, no longer do so other than grass-cutting during the summer.</p> <p><b>Litter at Mark Hill roadend:</b> CS had been horrified at the large amount of litter left at the entrance to Mark Hill Windfarm after completion of the roadworks on the A714. She had reported this to Kevin Braidwood and was pleasantly surprised when this was removed quickly.</p> <p><b>Road Sweeper</b> AC queried if a road sweeper could be provided to clean the extremely dirty conditions on the Knowe Road due to heavy vehicles. AS reported that he had already requested one from ARA.</p> <p><b>Retirement from CC</b> MB informed that he was not applying to be returned to the CC at the forthcoming elections due to pressure of work. DR expressed regrets but thanked him for his time and input during his term on the CC.</p> <p><b>SCCL</b> ACk informed that while the austere SAC budget is still awaited work has finally commenced on the site of the new swimming pool – the 'Quay Zone'. He also reminded of the new <b>Locality Planning Boards</b> and stressed the importance of these regarding Health &amp; Social Care in the area. A meeting is to be held shortly in Girvan.</p> <p><b>Kilgallioch Windfarm Sign</b> CS reported that while a sign has finally been erected by Farrans at the Wheeb Bridge entrance to the construction site, it is unfortunately only visible to traffic approaching from the north and not from the south, this direction being the one where drivers tend to miss the entrance turn off! DR will raise this with Farrans.</p> <p><i>The meeting closed at 9.40pm.</i></p>	<p>DR</p> <p>ACk</p> <p>CS</p> <p>DR</p>

<p><b>Date &amp; Time of next meeting</b> <b><u>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.30pm</u></b></p> <p><b>Other meetings in 2016</b> <b>27<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>25<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>29<sup>th</sup> June</b> <b>31<sup>st</sup> August</b> <b>26<sup>th</sup> October</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> November</b></p> <p><b><i>Please note there are no meetings in July, September &amp; December,</i></b></p>	
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