



**Directors/Trustees Meeting  
Thursday 24 June 2021  
Via video conferencing due to covid-19 'lockdown'**

***Present***

*Jill Patrick, Nicola Stewart, Douglas Johnston, David King, Gavin Fleming, Stuart Ogg, Barbara Linklater, Mari Jackson, Gill Bell, Jon Park, Geoff Peart, Paul James, Alison Younger (part of meeting)*

***Apologies***

There were no apologies

**1. *Declarations of interest***

Dave declared a potential conflict of interest as he was a member of the Community Council.

**2. *Minutes of Previous Meeting***

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 29 April 2021 were proposed by Douglas and seconded by Barbara and duly adopted as a true record of the meeting.

**3. *Follow up actions (Ongoing actions)***

All actions from previous meetings completed other than the following ones which are ongoing. Some actions have been updated following discussion at this meeting:

- a. Discussion to develop marketing of Community Centre, progress on this will be made once current Covid-19 situation improves and the Scottish Government allows community centers to be fully reopened.
- b. Code of Conduct, Privacy and Data Protection and Child Protection Policies to be finalised. Gill and Stuart to look at other policies and then circulate them.
- c. Alison, Helen, Stuart, Douglas and Gavin to meet to discuss monitoring process for Windfarm monies. Most recent Windfarm Annual Report completed using new format given by Foundation Scotland so some discussion required as to whether anything further needs to be done on this front.
- d. Geoff to follow up with facilitator of the Shelloch Windfarm development, no further communication received from Force Nine since last meeting. Geoff will send reminder to Martin Brown.

- Douglas had contacted Murray Cook regarding Keir Hill. He is supportive of what the Trust proposes. Proposal to clear vegetation off top of hill but focus of Trust activity will be on interpreting the history of the site.
- Gavin has secured funding from Windfarm Fund to cover cost of consultancy to design upland path requirements so this will now be taken forward.
- AGM to be moved to end of October due to holiday commitments.

#### **4. *Company Secretary's Report***

Gill reported that an email had been received from the Play Group which is clearing out old toys having secured funding to purchase new ones. The old ones will be stored outside Drop In Centre for disposal.

Tony Philips had been in touch about running Council supported summer camps. He has been in touch with the school but seeking help to promote it.

The Confirmation Statement has been accepted and paid for.

Gill noted the availability of community development monies

Litter picking: Gill had sent Gilly Bruce document to be signed and Stuart to follow up.

**Action: Stuart to contact Gilly and follow up.**

Lottery Licence still shows Jeremy's address which needs to be changed.

**Action: Douglas to follow up.**

Community Centre standard conditions of let on website, requires acknowledgement that they have been read.

#### **5. *Treasurers Report***

Douglas explained the Trust's current financial position and its various accounts. He highlighted the fact that advertising income at £290 was the highest it had been, the Sustrans monies had been paid to SWECO but he required the invoice for Vyv Woodgee so he could pay that. Gavin to supply invoice to Douglas. There had been no transactions on the Project Account. He explained that he would complete the year end and then hand over to Gavin who is taking on the Treasurer's role.

The Trust expressed its sincere thanks to Douglas for his contribution as the Treasurer which had been very significant.

***Alison Younger joined the meeting***

#### **6. *Windfarm Panel***

The recent Windfarm Fund Panel had considered two applications and recommended their approval.

- **Application 65.GWF 11-21** Callander Young Farmers Club - Purchase three pairs of Tug Of War Boots – Panel recommended approval of full amount of £240 which was endorsed by the Trust.
- **Application 66.GWF 12-21** Trust Footpaths Group had made an application to employ expert advice on improvements which could be made to upland footpaths – Panel recommended

approval of full amount of £1200 which was endorsed by the Trust.

Geoff noted that he was in the process of applying for Improving Public Access grant of possibly around £20,000 to help fund the Beeches path upgrade but anticipated that an application may have to be made to the Windfarm Fund to top this up to meet the full costs of this project.

Alison explained her thinking behind attracting a young person to the Windfarm Fund Panel with an advert on Facebook and in the Bugle. If these failed to attract any interest she would speak to one or two possible candidates. She also noted that Ewan Hunter had resigned from the Panel after his first meeting but Nathan Anderton, who had applied at the last recruitment round, had agreed to join so his first meeting would be in September.

Alison also noted that they had looked at a possible replacement for Dropbox as Panel members were finding it difficult to use, however it will be retained for the time being. She highlighted that the planned work on the monitoring of Windfarm Fund approvals, however given the Foundation Scotland had provided a template for this year's annual report it may not be necessary to take this any further.

**Action: Dave to consider timing of meetings to help spread workload.**

***Alison left the meeting***

## **7. Community Centre**

Douglas updated the meeting on the Playgroup proposals explaining that an MOU between the Trust and Group would manage the relationship giving the Playgroup responsibility of the maintenance of the new equipment and having it regularly inspected to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

The Trust would insure the equipment although this does not cover accidents; accidents would be covered by the Playgroup's own insurance while they are using it. The Play Group would be responsible for placing a notice on the equipment explaining that it should not be used by any children who are not being supervised by a responsible adult and they do so at their own risk.

Douglas noted that the proposed arrangements would save around £3000. The MOU had been sent to the Playgroup and after discussion it was agreed that the time limits should be removed.

**Action: Douglas to inform Playgroup of the Trust's decision to purchase the equipment on its behalf.**

## **8. Projects update**

### ***Gargunnoch to Stirling path***

Gavin noted that the plans for the Gargunnoch to Stirling path was to extend it to a campaign based approach to gain support for the Kings Highway route across central Scotland from Stirling to Dumbarton. Positive meeting held with the MP and positive soundings from some other politicians.

Vyv Woodgee has continued discussions with individual land owners/farmers however it was clear that not all were in alignment although no one had said a definite no.

The concept design for the path is all but complete at the Touch end of the path. Galbraiths, the agents for the Gargunnoch Estate is considering the outcome of a feasibility study although as yet no decision had been made about a preferred route.

Gavin feels strongly that the Council needs to step in to help progress the project although currently it is not one of their priorities. This would help with negotiations with the landowners/farmers, and they need to agree to own the final path and agree a design for a crossing of the A811. These are all key issues

which require the Council's support and input hence the need to raise political awareness of the whole route.

Actions taken so far to raise political awareness include letters, signed by the Chair have been sent to all local and national politicians, to Sustrans and directly to the Council. All three local councilors have responded positively as has the Conservative group of MSPs. Cycling Scotland's Campaign manager has agreed to get involved and to help raise the profile of the overall route nationally. Further meeting planned to discuss how a campaign might be taken forward.

The idea is to generate a campaign to raise interest and support for the complete King's Highway route. Kippen and Balfron groups are supportive of the idea and it may require a new entity to take it forward. It is possible that there is a role for the Carse of Stirling Partnership.

The Chair noted the significant effort and energy Geoff and Gavin had expended on this project so far and thanked them for their commitment. It was also noted the Community Council had been updated and Jon Sutherland, the Chair was very supportive.

The current status of the project is set out in an article in the Bugle.

### ***Charlies Loan***

This upgrade is waiting for further contact from the Council.

### ***Beeches***

Current status explained earlier in the meeting, grant being applied for from Scottish Rural payments Dept. SWECO has helped update grant application including what needs to be done in a general sense. Has to be submitted by 30 June.

Geoff drafted the case for the improvements and links to other path projects. Letter from owners was required and John Moore agreed. Letter also received from Cala Homes giving the Trust permission to arrange upgrade to the section of the path they own. Any liabilities will lie with the contractors.

**Action: All Geoff's proposals were approved so the application could be submitted.**

### ***Watson House***

Nothing can be done for the time being.

### ***Lady's Walk***

This is being pursued by Peter Rowell.

### ***Hill Paths***

Gavin reported that an application had been made to the Rural Transport Infrastructure Fund to carry out required work but this had been rejected on the basis it was too small. Another application was made to the Windfarm Fund and secured £1200 to fund the design phase which will be used to consult community. After consultation the designs will be modified if required and then go to tender. It is likely to require up to 15 new self-closing gates, steps, signs and a connection made to the east of Hill Head farm as well as benches at key locations. There are plans to clear access over Downies Loop week beginning 19 July

### ***Glebe Park***

The school is currently engaged with the bees; packaging for honey being designed by school pupils.

## 9. Administrator role

Jill noted that Debbie Masson had expressed an interest in the Community Centre bookings element of the administrator's role so follow up will be made to transfer email address.

**Action: arrangements to be made to hand over email addresses from Helen Hyland to Debbie and Gill who has agreed to look after the Bugle email address until a new person has been found.**

## 10. DTAS

Jon reported that the DTAS Board meeting due to consider all 80 applications for funding had been postponed until 28/29 June 2021 so we should hear fairly soon afterwards whether we had been successful or not.

## 11. AGM

The Chair intimated that he was struggling to keep on top of everything that was going on and proposed that the Trust give thought to the idea of appointing a co-Chair to help take on the new projects such as Keir Hill and local place plans and help longer term succession. Gavin noted that the chair does not need to be involved with every project and Jon noted he was happy to take forward the Local Place Plans and the DTAS funding if approved.

The discussion focused on a wider debate about roles and responsibilities with the acknowledgement that some roles are much wider and more involved than is perhaps evident superficially.

**Action: Stuart to draft outline of all roles.**

After discussion it was agreed that the AGM would be held on 21 October.

**Action: Arrangements to be made to hold AGM on 21 October.**

It was noted that there had been two new members appointed to the Community Council.

## 12. Resilience Planning

Dave explained that the Council was asking each location to produce some form of resilience plan; locally this would require the Trust to work with the Community Council and other bodies.

## 13. Local Place Plans

Local Place Plans were an important element of the Scottish Government's policy agenda. They should focus on consolidating and improving the quality of life of the place you live in. These plans will feature as part of the local development plan. It would be important to gain a community view of the desired outcomes and it would certainly be useful to align the views of the Trust, set out in its draft strategy, with the Local Place Plan. This would require the Trust strategy to be reframed using the 'correct official' language. Ultimately, the Local Place Plan will have to be developed alongside the Community Council and all other groups in the village.

It was agreed that we need some resource to help manage the consultation exercise, possibly from the Windfarm Fund.

**Action: Jon will pull together some ideas as to how the Local Place Plan can be developed which the Trust could then discuss with the Community Council to ensure we take a collaborative approach.**

#### **14. AOB**

Dave explained the plans for the visit by Robert Hillery in connection with the recently published book about the US group of golfers who crossed from East to West Scotland hitting a golf ball.

#### **15. Date of next Meeting**

##### **Planned Trust meetings for 2021**

19 August 2021  
21 October 2021 AGM  
9 December 2021

##### **Windfarm Fund Panel meetings**

4 October 2021