



Directors/Trustees Meeting Thursday 19 August 2021

Present

Jill Patrick, Douglas Johnston, Gavin Fleming, Stuart Ogg, Barbara Linklater, Mari Jackson (via video), Gill Bell, Jon Park, Geoff Peart.

Apologies

Nicola Stewart, Paul James, David King.

In Dave's absence Jon agreed to chair meeting.

1. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 24 June 2021 were proposed by Douglas and seconded by Gill 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. (This will be an agenda item at a future meeting).
- 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. Gavin to see whether he can help open documents in Dropbox as Stuart and Gill have had difficulty opening files.
- 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. Unless Foundation Scotland requires anything further this action will be deleted.

Action: Gavin to follow up with Foundation Scotland as next payment from Windfarm was due in April/May.

- d. Geoff contacted Force9 Energy, who supplied an information bulletin which had been prepared for Stirling Council. There is an opportunity for submitting additional comments and there is an update on the use of local roads and night time visualisation as well as the impact on peat on the site.
- 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.
- Lottery licence to be renewed in December so names can then be changed.

4. *Company Secretary's Report*

Gill reported that she had circulated various emails she had received and had received photos for the next Bugle from Arthur Webster.

There had been no further communication with Coach my Sport and it was not certain whether it had gone ahead.

5. *Treasurers Report*

Gavin explained the financial table was in a similar format to that used by Douglas previously. He reported that there had been little movement in any of the accounts since the previous meeting other than the money for the Playgroup equipment.

Douglas reported that in looking at recent financial performance against the business plan assumptions there had been an improvement. There had been a drop in income of around 52% in 2020 compared with the anticipated 60% decrease. Equally it was assumed there would be a 40% reduction in 2021, however given the rental of the third office the expected outcome is likely to be more positive. He also noted that the resilience grant had helped, especially as it had allowed many of the improvements and fire safety issues to be addressed.

Discussion focused on whether the Trust should consider developing the Drop In Centre as additional offices as there appeared to be a demand. It was agreed to consider this at a future meeting including looking at access to the side of the building alongside the adjoining Council owned land.

6. *Community Centre*

Douglas explained the project to make the Centre zero carbon is now underway. He had already applied for a CARES grant, as a result an advisor had been appointed by Zero Waste Scotland. Once they have reviewed the Centre and the feasibility of potential works then we will go back to CARES for possible funding. Possible projects might include new windows and re-slating the roof.

7. *Windfarm Panel Membership (Youth member)*

No further progress although Jon noted he had spoken to Alison and suggested names. Stuart to contact Alison.

Action: Stuart to contact Alison.

8. *Projects update*

Gargunnoch to Stirling path

Gavin indicated that there had been no update from the Touch Estate, however, a preferred route had

been identified by Gargunnoch Estate which follows the back road. To help make this work an option considered by SWECO had been to turn Station Road and Manse Brae into a one way system although this had been rejected partly due to the bus route.

The Kings Highway project of which the Gargunnoch Stirling link would be an integral part had gathered some momentum. Killlearn Community is now consulting their community; Kippen and Balfron were working on plans. Dave's series of letters to political representatives have engendered a pretty positive response. There was a further call planned to a Green MSP who had initially been engaged by Balfron.

So far there had been no positive response from the Council other than the project might be moved higher up the priority list. However, this did not mean much in terms of delivering the link between Gargunnoch and Stirling. Having said that they recognise it as a strategic project and that it makes sense to in deliver it through individual sections with each element being progressed by individual communities.

It was noted that under the new regulations Stirling is no longer eligible for the Shared Prosperity Fund as the 'sparsity' criteria has been dropped from the criteria. Therefore this may not now be a source of funding.

There is a proposed meeting in September to bring the four communities together with Sustrans and Cycling UK to discuss the next steps for the Kings Highway project.

Beeches Path

Geoff indicated that he did not expect to hear anything further about possible funding of this path until at least December.

Charlies Loan

It was noted that Peter Rowell had taken over from Jeremy on this project.

Hill paths

Gavin noted that while he had secured funding for a feasibility study the work had not yet been carried out by the consultant due to illness.

Glebe Park

Overall the project had been a great success particularly with the introduction of the bees, from which some 60 jars of honey have now been produced and sold.

Gavin noted there had not been a recent meeting of the Paths group but this would be rectified soon.

Bite and Blether

The reintroduction of Bite and Blether was being discussed however it was felt that more help would be needed to get it off the ground again. Also there was uncertainty whether its main audience was ready to start attending 'public' events again post Covid restrictions. It was agreed to review the situation in the next month or so.

9. Administrator role

Stuart intimated that three of the four roles were now filled –Jackie Campbell supporting the Windfarm Fund Panel, Carol MacGregor managing the Website and Debbie Masson managing Community Centre bookings. We still need to attract interest in the Bugle role.

It was agreed to set up a sub group of Trustees to work on the next edition including Jon, Stuart, Jill, Barbara and Mairi.

Action: Jon to set up a Zoom meeting.

10. DTAS

Jon reported that he had had no further communication but would follow up.

Action: Jon to contact DTAS.

11. AGM

The AGM will be held on 21 October (Stuart to check room availability). There will be two elements to the presentation. The first will focus on progress over last year and the accounts. The second will provide an overview of Local Place Plans and the opportunity for the village to work together to develop a plan for the community which reflects as many views/ideas as possible.

Action: Dave and Jon to prepare presentations with input from others.

Following Dave's suggestion at the previous meeting regarding the possible appointment of a Vice Chair there was a wider discussion regarding roles and responsibilities, initiated by Gavin having now realised how much Douglas had absorbed in his role as the previous Treasurer. It was agreed that Stuart would draft up a list of responsibilities using the template Gavin had prepared so that it is possible to see the breath of each role. This may be useful with the recruitment of new Trustees/Directors.

In particular, having reviewed all the tasks Gavin and Douglas proposed that a trustee/director is appointed as the Community Centre manager so that the Caretaker and Centre Booking Administrator have someone to refer to if decisions, like the recent wedding one, have to be resolved quickly and efficiently.

On behalf of the Trust and the local community, the trustees/directors wanted to formally recognise and thank Douglas for the tremendous amount of work he had done previously as the Trust's treasurer.

Action: Stuart to draft responsibilities attached to each role.

12. AOB

The current position of the shop was noted. After discussion, it was agreed that if there was a need to consider any interim measure such as a survey then this should be taken forward by the Community Council.

There was further discussion on the future potential of the area to the west of the Drop In Centre, currently owned by the Council. Geoff agreed to find out who the right person in the Council might be to discuss this area as well as possibly contacting the local Councillor.

Action: Geoff to see if he can find out who best to talk to in the Council regarding the land to the west of the Drop In Centre.

Key dates proposed all seem reasonable.

As this will be the last meeting which Barbara will attend as she will be resigning at the AGM the other directors/trustees thanked her for her very valuable contribution to the work of the Trust.

13. Date of next Meeting

AGM 21 October 2021 (will require the Chair, Treasurer and one or two others to meet beforehand to agree format/presentation content etc. date to be agreed.)

Planned Trust meetings for 2021

9 December 2021

Windfarm Fund Panel meeting

4 October 2021

14. Items for future agenda

Marketing of Community Centre

Future dates for meetings for 2022 for Trust and Windfarm Fund Panel.