

Auchtertool Community Council

730pm, 11th December 2023

Attendees

Tom Lochhead (Chair)

Ross Mitchell

Gill Cura (Secretary)

Debbie Scollay

Andrea Cail (Treasurer)

CLlr Julie MacDougall

Kevin Carter

Apologies

Iain Martin

CLlr Kathleen Leslie

CLlr Lesley Backhouse

Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees to the final meeting of 2023 and thanks everyone for their contributions during the year.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held in November were circulated electronically in advance of the meeting. No adjustments or changes were required and the minutes were agreed by all attendees:

Proposed: Ross Mitchell

Seconded: Debbie Scollay

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer confirmed that there was £2,154 in the bank account. Expenditure for the Christmas Tree and Lights were £180 and £75 respectively with a cheque to be provided to the Chair for reimbursement of the tree once new signatories are set up. The gardener's bill remained outstanding from the summer months therefore there was another £1,000 in account that is over that expected for this point in the year.

The Treasurer explained that the Bank mandate is progressing; hoping by early January 2024 to have everything corrected and operation

The Treasurer confirmed that they had contacted previous auditor to audit the last 2 years' annual accounts.

It was noted that the Fife Community Councils annual grant is due to be applied for (email 1st Dec for Fife Council – deadline for submission and supporting docs is 31 December 2023). *Chair agreed to forward the email to the Treasurer for review/action.*

Police Report

Nothing to report

Planning Applications

DS had no updates on any new planning applications that would impact the ACC area.

Glenniston Solar Farm Project

A letter had been received from Fife Council re concerns raised over fraudulent signatures submitted as part of the Support/Objections raised to the planning application. FC admitted one signature was confirmed as being obtained fraudulently but that this had no impact on process. FC left matter open for ACC to raise to the Police if concerns continue

ACC are aware of more than one 'supporter' who was told those canvassing for support/signatures were council or community council members

It was noted that this point, already raised in relation to 2 females knocking on doors claiming to be CC members, was not addressed in FC's reply.

Suggestion from letter was anything that didn't use the right language i.e. just said yes I support it, would be discounted. Only 6 material objections are required for the application to be taken to next review stage. The Planning Committee review would be a closed-door meeting

CJM confirmed that, if ACC were not happy with the reply, we can write to the Chief Executive of Fife Council, then the Ombudsman, as points of further escalation. *Chair to draft a response, ACC members to review/feedback and reply to Fife Council*

CJM explained that the process can also be challenged.

Flaring – Mossmorran

Flaring for 4 days. Poor communication from Exxon Mobil; seems to have tailed off since ground flaring was introduced. SEPA confirmed they were aware, no concerns.

Process is EM should notify SEPA of planned ground flaring however this requirement for flaring was not a planned session, with Exxon being caught off guard.

CJM a member of the Mossmorran & Braefoot Committee. *CJM took an action to notify Exxon Mobil/M&B Committee that we have a new Facebook Billboard that they could post updates on in the case of unplanned flaring events.*

Four Winds Trust

Outgoing-Chair contacted ACC to advise them to contact 4WT with a view to understanding what the charitable aims of the Trust were and how that could benefit those in the ACC area. The 4WT Annual Report identified that Auchtertool made no applications to 4WT during 2023.

In the last 5 years £25.5k was awarded across 7 groups. Successful applications need to demonstrate that there is community involvement, the project is sustainable and that it has longevity in it. 4WT encouraging ACC and local groups to apply.

The 4WT also support Lochgelly, Lumphinans & Cowdenbeath Community Council areas.

The next grant applications due on 19 February – ACC members to consider what applications could be made.

There was discussion around the need for some oversight across the village/community organisations to review applications/grants made. ACC to instigate regular cross-committee meetings to review. *ACC Chair to get in touch with Chairs of all local organisations to engage and align on local projects*

Village Issues

The loss of water across ACC area on 10 & 11 Dec was discussed however the issue had already been resolved.

Battery Storage – Chair went in to speak to site manager; site in chaos. Could not identify site manager; vague response from those on site. *Chair will continue to pursue a dialogue.*

Hedge at footpath beside road to Clentrie Farm are obstructing safe views. Previously ACC paid Mr Scobie however not an ongoing option – refer back to Fife Council (*CJM took an action to raise with FC*)

Dog Bin at Park – overflowing for several weeks; *TL to contact council*

ACC to host a Saturday Coffee Morning from 10-12noon on the first Saturday of the month – *TL & CJM to attend (and others).*

It was noted that Claire Williams has been elected as the new Chair of Auchtertool Village Hall Committee and is planning to meet with ACC to provide an update on Hall plans

Hall booking system now up and running – The Secretary had utilised the system to book the hall for the meeting and found it straightforward and user-friendly.

Core Path – no update since last meeting. Hedges and shrubbery along the Path is being cut back as a temporary measure

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was proposed as Monday 22nd January 2024.