

## **Auchtertool Community Council**

### **Minutes of meeting held via Zoom at 1900hrs on 15 August 2023**

#### **Attendees**

Tom Lochhead (Chair)	Debbie Scollay
Kevin Carter (Vice Chair)	Iain Martin
Gill Cura (Secretary)	CLlr Julie MacDougall
Andrea Cail (Treasurer)	CLlr Kathleen Leslie

#### **Apologies**

Mike Smart	Audrey Duncan(resignation)
Ross Mitchell	CLlr Lesley Backhouse

#### **Chair's Welcome & Introduction**

The Chair welcome everyone to the meeting. The Chair reported the resignation of CC member Audrey Duncan and acknowledged all the work done by Audrey in respect of Auchtertool Community Council, in particular all her efforts in relation to the Community gardener.

#### **Approval of the Last Meeting's Minutes**

The minutes were circulated by email prior to the meeting; there were no objections or corrections.

Proposed: Andrea Cail

Seconded: Debbie Scollay

#### **Treasurers Report**

Andrea Cail and Kevin Carter are now named on the RBS bank mandate; The previous treasurer, Freda Bidulph, still requires to be removed. This will be actioned shortly and is expected to take no more than 7-10 days to update.

Kevin Carter suggested a 4<sup>th</sup> person be added to the bank account. Once we move to digital banking we only need one person to make bank payments; proposing internal approval process by text/email before digital payment made.

Agreed that the 4<sup>th</sup> person would be the Secretary, Gill Cura

There was some discussion around adding a 5<sup>th</sup> person given CC elections are pending and the Chair will likely be removed as a signatory. Agreed that the 5<sup>th</sup> person would be the Iain Martin

The Chair explained that the Treasurer cannot confirm an exact bank figure due to current lack of access to banking however confirmed that £2,350 has been paid into the account from Aucthertool Community Trust (ACT) in respect of the gardener and that there had been approximately £1,000 in bank account prior to payment being received.

### **Police Report**

Cllr Leslie suggested following CC elections something that should be raised to the police in relation to the lack of Police Reports or police attendance at CC meetings. CKL to email community officers, copying CJM.

### **Planning Applications**

Nothing of note for ACC area.

A prior application for a Tree plantation by Akro Industries appears to have progressed and is now operating. Intended to plant 4 acres of trees on Quarrel Brae. Chair to follow up for an update.

### **Glenniston Solar Farm Project update**

Locogen have not been forthcoming with surveys ahead of Community Engagement event in village scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> August. The proposed site/area for the solar farm has not changed since that confirmed in May meeting. After the consultation, it is expected that the planning request will be submitted – late Aug/September.

ACC Solar Group has erected signage around the village signposting consultation phase. DS to attend consultation meeting to talk to community – feedback to be sought to understand how ACC takes forward their views. Size of area impacted being main concern.

Locogen not forthcoming on ideas on how community benefit can be utilized; despite being previously asked for suggestions. Disappointment shared across the CC in relation to the lack of feedback on this point.

Chair confirmed other impacted CCs have not raised any resistance to the project. Chair suggests that we have another short meeting after consultation meeting to decide how to survey the community to understand their views.

CJM now not on planning committee so can attend meeting and share views without restriction.

CKL also shared concerns in relation to size however confirmed she will continue to reserve judgement until we learn more from community.

There was further discussion on the Community benefit and it was agreed that it needs a longer-term focus to integrate into community

DS explained that because we haven't seen the surveys; we don't know who has conducted the surveys. Concerns that specific survey bodies haven't been contacted. The Chair raised with the Cllrs whether Fife Council provide funding to conduct surveys

There was some discussion relating to the objecting to the planning process. CJM confirmed that 6 individual objections would be required for the proposals to be put to the review board. CKL

reiterated that it was vitally important for the community to put forward individual objections, rather than one collective objective.

DS confirmed Locogen have no plans to do a collective Q&A; 8 staff attending to address all questions individually.

Cllrs confirmed their plans to attend; CKL aiming to attend at 530pm and CJM at 4pm.

DS shared that Locogen has maximized the capacity in substation which leaves nothing for anyone in and around the village this could not be achieved (i.e. small solar set-up on individual homes)

### **Community Council Elections**

Previously delayed due to covid but are now on track. From today until 31 August 2023; Community Councillors need to apply to become or remain as a community councillors. An email will be sent out to everyone with details on the process. Election process is also available online for review. Elections take place on 28<sup>th</sup> September. Before then, ACC members need to confirm the date of the meeting for the inaugural meeting for the new CC within 1 months of elections, therefore Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023 was agreed to miss school holidays. Election process is available online for review.

Kevin Carter agreed to add an article to website to outline process to community and explain the potential risk of not having a CC if numbers are not available.

The Chair confirmed again that he is looking to step down due to not being located in the village due to work for 7 months of the year, although confirmed he is happy to continue to support ACC should a replacement not be found.

The Chair proposed that the village groups should work more cohesively and attend joint meetings, which was noted by the attendees.

### **Community Council Structure**

The Chair thanked Audrey Duncan for all the work done in relation to keeping the village looking great. The Chair confirmed his intention to speak with Audrey regarding her resignation and follow up in writing.

Andrea Cail confirmed she take ownership of the relationship with the village gardener

The Chair explained that there is opportunity for two members to represent ACC as part of the Four Winds Trust – Andrea Cail and Debbie Scollay to pursue this.

### **Other Village Issues**

#### Core Path Funding

Path runs from Auchtertool to Kirkcaldy; having difficulty obtaining funding to maintain the path from Fife Coast & Countryside Trust ('FCCT'). Is there some form of funding we can apply for to maintain the path which is used every day. RM approached FC who quoted tend of thousand to maintain.

Path goes through various landowners' land but is a core path.

FCCT wont commit to maintaining. however they do maintain the coastal path

CJM confirmed she has a contact already as dealing with a similar project in Seafield and will email more detail to follow up.

Auchtertool Village Pub – Community Buy-back Project (ACT-led).

Kevin Carter provided an update on pub project. First report expected back on 17<sup>th</sup> August (feasibility study). ACT should align with community council and village hall committee following receipt.

Speed Reduction sign was confirmed as working well.

The Park Lights are working well

Extension of Path at Auchtertool House – CJM to get in touch with CLB for an update

**Date of next meeting**

7.30pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 was confirmed as the follow up meeting after Locogen community consultation

7.30pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023 will be the next meeting thereafter.