

Minutes

Dalry Community Development Hub (DCDH) Trustee - Business and Progress meeting

Venue: The Carriage House, Blair Estate: **Date:** 23rd September 2015: **Time:** 7.15pm start.

Invited Attendees:

James McCosh	Chair
Sheena Woodside	Treasurer
Alastair Adamson	Co-opted secretary
Lina Borwick	Trustee
Hilary Storm (apologies)	Trustee
Myra Sim	Trustee
Hamish Harkness (apologies)	Trustee
Heather Grossart	Trustee
Catherine McMillan	Trustee
Stephanie Ross (apologies)	Trustee
Audrey Hillis	NAC
Paul Nelis	SCDC
Caroline Cooper	
Ann Bell (apologies)	
Fiona Middler (apologies)	
Audrey Mason (apologies)	
Luke Borwick	

1. Welcome/Introduction - purpose of meeting

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all in attendance, thanked Luke and Lina for hosting the meeting and asked those attendees, not yet Trustees, to consider offering their services to the Hub.

2. Record apologies and agree the minutes of 12th August 2015 DCDH meeting.

Apologies for absence were recorded as above.

The minutes of the DCDH meeting of 12th August 2015 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Lina Borwick

Seconded: Heather Grossart

3. DCDH Outcomes – Discuss progress with Paul Nelis SCDC

Paul Nelis, referring to the February 2015 Outcomes schedule, discussed the range of initiatives and targets previously agreed by the Trustees.

Although some delays had been experienced, where a third party contribution to outcomes was required, he observed that the DCDH were recording good progress on most fronts, making efforts to manage the Dalry communities expectations and continually working towards meeting agreed targets. Paul congratulated the DCDH on the progress made to date, and wished the trustees every success in the future.

The Chairman thanked Paul and his organisation (SCDC) for the help and support provided over the past year. Paul then left the meeting.

4. Presentations, Progress reports and Plans.

- **Dalry Station – progress report.**

Great progress has been achieved over the past year.

Since the Dalry Station sub-group was established, significant progress has been witnessed by the station users, and further initiatives are now planned over the next 2 years.

Reference was made to the recent Dalry Station papers provided by Anne and Fiona.

It was reported that the 18th September “Conversation on the Station” had been a success and the feedback and support received for the travelling public was very positive.

Members of the Dalry Station sub-group will again be invited to attend the next DCDH meeting with a view to encouraging them to be represented on the board of trustees.

The DCDH again offered, as a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), to assist the Dalry Station Sub-group with their funding applications, if and when required.

- **Lynn Glen - progress report.**

J McCosh indicated that a lot of effort had been made to progress this issue.

The survey has been completed and consideration given to how best to secure the necessary agreements from the 5 landowners for the initial access required to undertake the significant remedial works already identified, and the longer term maintenance upkeep of the walk.

Louise Kirk – NAC Access officer is currently attempting to establish how much it will cost to undertake the work, and Lesley McVeigh Planning Officer (Strategic Planning & Infrastructure) has provided information about potential funding. Both have been in contact with Martin Gorman regarding costs. Unfortunately, the cost for the identified work has still to be obtained.

Concern about the DCDH trustees becoming legally responsible for works and maintenance was also discussed. James suggested that this could be resolved if the Hub could convince NAC to agree to a joint partnership for the Lynn Glen walk restoration initiative, and its longer term maintenance.

NAC could be responsible for any liabilities, surveys and any other assistance that could be offered by the Access Forum and the Hub would help with the securing of funds, sponsorship and volunteers. Regarding potential sources of funding, Audrey Hillis indicated that she had been attempting to put together an application for registering the DCDH as a business with **Ayrshire Leader**, but needed information such as -

- Who will act as the Responsible Person- their contact details and whether these details will also be the contact address of the business.

This was agreed as follows:-

Alastair Adamson

Secretary

Dalry Community Development Hub.

C/O Dalry Community Centre

St Margaret's Avenue

Dalry

North Ayrshire KA24 4BA

- The name, address, DOB and national insurance number of each Trustee.

All trustees agreed to forward this information to Audrey Hillis:-

Luke Borwick offered to help facilitate any issues that the NAC access forum could help address.

It was agreed that AA / JMcC would raise this issue with Audrey Sutton at their 28th September meeting. If NAC agree to the proposed joint initiative, JMcC / LB would then arrange for a proposal to be tabled at the next NAC access forum meeting.

- **Brighten up Dalry Town Centre - progress report.**

AA suggested that, in addition to the work requested of NAC at the meeting of 6th August, the DCDH should apply to Dalry Parish Boundary Trust and BeGreen for some additional planters which could then be used to brighten up the town centre. Only difficulty could be – who will plant and maintain? Trees on Roche Way would also still be a desirable development.

Still no reply from NAC regarding outcome of 6th August meeting, and details of the associated budget funding required to undertake this work.

Sheena Woodside and Catherine McMillan both confirmed that they had contacted Ian Kinghorn NAC to secure a response.

It has been suggested that the hub could also apply for funding from the Scottish Governments TCCCF initiative.

Audrey Hillis indicated that the funding application required to be submitted by 29th September 2015.

It was agreed that Audrey Hillis should continue to prepare this application, and hope that budget figures will be secured in time.

AA/JMcC will raise this issue with Audrey Sutton at their meeting on Monday 28th September.

Further attempts will then be made to establish budget costs by close of play Monday 28th Sept 2015.

- **22 Sharon St. - update.**

AA reported that the DCDH had already held well attended public meetings, and secured a mandate from the community to attempt to secure 22 Sharon St for future Community Infrastructure needs.

The long term aim would be the enhancement of the current Dalry Campus to improve access and centralise the Town's youth activities at this site, with the exception of the proposed new outside facilities at the Park, initiated by the Dalry Sports Club.

Short term concept would be to tidy up the 22 Sharon St. site, make the area safe, some overflow parking for current School Campus and develop a secure play / meeting area for the community's youth as an alternative to the more focused sports activities being considered for the Park.

The meeting area would initially require to be no more than a Portacabin.

In support of this initiative a further letter was sent to NAC 18th August 2015.

It is hoped that NAC will now identify this as a potential solution to the current difficulties being experienced in Dalry, and use the synergies of "Neighbourhood Partnership" to assist with this DCDH project.

This will also be raised at the 28th September meeting with NAC.

Other suggestions were made regarding a meeting area for the community's youth:-

1. Scout Hall, Smith St. – the DCDH requires to establish timescales for completion.
2. Secure a lease for a town centre "empty premises". – report findings at next meeting
3. Meet in Kings Revolution – report findings at next meeting.
4. Any other suggestions? – to be reported at next meeting.

- **Dalry Boundary - progress report.**

The documents circulated in advance of the meeting were discussed.

AA reported that North Ayrshire Council has committed to implementing revised Community Council and "Locality" boundaries, which they hope to be able to confirm in timescales associated with the new community council scheme.

NAC met last week to consider the "new community council scheme" report.

Each town could still have its own CC. Public consultation to follow in the Autumn.

NAC also wish the Boundary Commission to agree to their proposals for a revised Ward 6.

Andrew Fraser of NAC has asked the DCDH for their views.

The DCDH trustees were asked to support of NAC's revised boundary proposals, and for their agreement to sanction an appropriate response to the Boundary Commission.

AA tabled the suggested response for approval.

The proposal was unanimously agreed, and AA was requested to forward the response to the Boundary Commission on behalf of the Dalry Community Development Hub.

- **Community Benefit - progress report.**

Alastair Adamson confirmed that NAC has now recommended revised community council boundaries. If and when the proposed boundaries are approved, it is very likely that all of the Kelburn Wind Farm Turbines will be located within the Dalry Community Council / Garnock Valley "locality". This is great news as **RES** has committed in writing to revise current community benefit arrangements to include the new identified "hosts" if the boundary definition ever changed. – watch this space!!!

CWPL has at last replied to J McC and offered to meet with representatives of DCDH on Monday 2nd November. This will no doubt allow the DCDH to secure answers to the many questions raised about Dalry Community Wind Farm community benefits 2006 – 2015.

It is also intended to raise a number of questions with CWPL regarding Millour Hill community benefits from 01/04/2012 to 28 days after planning approval was given for the 2 turbine extension Millour Hill. However, as it would appear that the Dalry Parish Boundary Trust has only recently secured funding under the DPBT/CWPL community benefit agreement, (Section 75 referred to by LRB under the planning approvals process), it should be assumed that we can discuss the issue of Millour Hill community benefit with CWPL for the period 01/04/12 – 01/07/15.

This will also include the question; "Why in 2014 did CWPL half their reported community benefit for Dalry Community Wind Farm from £4,747.00 per MW installed to £2,500.00 per MW installed without any consultation with the community of Dalry?"

What was their justification for the reduction and why has CWPL attempted to imply that the reduction to £2,500.00 should be retrospectively applied to benefits from 2006 – 2014?

How much Dalry Community Wind Farm community benefit funding is now available annually from BeGreen, and what is the process for applications for this funding?

When this has been done the DCDH will then request a formal meeting with DPBT to better understand the agreement they have in place, as self appointed representatives of the Dalry Community, to secure, manage and distribute the annual community benefits received from CWPL (Millour Hill) since August 2015.

This is reported as being an annual index linked £5,000.00 per MW installed = £90,000.00 which the DPBT should already have received under their contracted agreement with CWPL.

When the 2 turbine extension is brought into service the total installed capacity of Millour Hill will be 18 (EXISTING) + 7 (NEW) = 25 MW.

The meeting was then asked to note that this should result in an index linked annual community benefit of **£125,000.00** from the Millour Hill development alone.

- **Funding opportunities, applications and initiatives – progress report.**

Audrey Hillis confirmed that she had attended the Funding Fayre earlier today, and had managed to secure details of a number of potential funding sources.

Note :- Anne Blacklock, Economic Development Team-the person Audrey Hillis spoke to a few months ago about DSMs Community Funding initiative, called Audrey to say that DSM is very interested in funding (We still don't know to what extent) and volunteering in the restoration of Lynn Glen Path. She would like an update on the project, following that she suggested that we meet representatives from DSM to discuss what is involved.

Discussion will take place with NAC on Monday 28th September to establish if a joint initiative NAC/DCDH can be agreed for the future development and maintenance of the Lynn Glen.

Details were tabled about Scotland's Towns Partnership - **West Towns Roadshow - 27th October** Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire.

The Chairman suggested that the success of Dalry Station sub-group should encourage the "Hub" to establish additional focus sub-groups to address and deliver the other DCDH initiatives currently on the project list.

AA stated that there was now an urgent need to establish a Sub-group to help support the funding activities currently being undertaken by Audrey Hillis on behalf of the DCDH.

After some discussion it was agreed that the following would form this new sub-group:

Audrey Hillis, Sheena Woodside, Heather Grossart and Caroline Cooper

- **Local Youth Action Plan – progress report.**

Sheena Woodside / Audrey Hillis reported that a number of initiatives had been implemented to encourage the “youth of the community” to support the development and delivery of enhanced youth facilities and activities in the Town.

It was noted that time, effort and funding had been provided by the DCDH Sub-group to secure engagement from the “youth of the community”. Unfortunately, due to little support from the “youth of the community” the initiative has stalled.

Audrey indicated that there was still dedicated funding, which had been allocated for this initiative, which needed to be spent by January 2016.

The Youth Action Sub-group agreed to investigate possibilities which would help “kick start” this initiative and report back at the next DCDH meeting.

- **Ayrshire 21 – progress report.**

Sheena Woodside / Audrey Hillis reported that the synergies of other DCDH initiatives were to some degree progressing a number of the actions identified in the Ayrshire 21 report.

The Ayrshire 21 report will continue to be used by the DCDH as supporting evidence for many of the projects being addressed by the “hub”.

- **Dalry Bypass – update**

A letter dated 25th August was sent by DCDH to First Minister about concerns regarding delays in approving and funding the long awaited Dalry Bypass.

An acknowledgement was received on 27th August - Ref 2015/0028925

Still no reply.

NAC Labour councillors asked questions at the NAC meeting on Wednesday 9th September.

Kenneth Gibson letter dated 16th September states the report is under active consideration and “the Scottish Government remains committed to delivering this much needed infrastructure project.”

Kenneth Gibson is optimistic that the bypass will be announced after the Nov 2015 Spending Review and work will begin on site in late 2016, following tendering etc.,

A follow up letter was sent to Kenneth Gibson on 21st September requesting clarification of “the work going on in the background”.

No reply has yet been received

AA suggested that the DCDH may need to make the ministers realise that there will be consequences if funding is not found. The DCDH may now wish to encourage the ministers to secure the necessary funding for the commencement of the bypass construction, by organising one or two initiatives which should help bring this issue to the attention of the national media.

- **Dalry Scout Hall – update**

Mr John Hopkins is the architect dealing with the Scout Hall.

The drawings in the building warrant application do not appear to match the current planning permission. A further application for a non-material variation of the planning permission will now be required as a result of the revisions.

Apparently the project has had to be scaled down due to a reduction in funding from CWPL.

Details of how much funding CWPL has now proposed, requires further investigation.

Where is the “no strings attached”, other than approval of the 2 turbine extension at Millour Hill, funding of £190K promised by Mr Rod Wood of CWPL?

It has been reported that Mr Hopkins thinks that the revised scheme will be adequate for the Scouts, if indeed they re-launch the local troop. He also believes that the work will take place in the not too distant future.

If the Blackshaw decision goes against CWPL in October, will they pull the funding for the Scout Hall and BeGreen altogether?

The DCDH trustees agreed that this situation should continue to be closely monitored.

5. Co-opt additional trustees in accordance with constitution procedures.

Alastair Adamson agreed to become a trustee and offered his services as Secretary.

James asked Caroline Cooper if she would be willing to become a trustee.

After some discussion Caroline agreed.

In accordance with the DCDH constitution, the formal processes will now be completed for the election of Alastair Adamson and Caroline Copper as new trustees.

The Board agreed to continue with their efforts to encourage a member of the Dalry Station Sub-Group to become a trustee.

Heather Grossart indicated that Fiona Gibson, a committee member of Dalry Action Group, had indicated that she was willing to offer her services as a DCDH trustee.

Heather was asked to invite Fiona to the next Trustee meeting on 27th October.

6. Confirm arrangements and time line for first years financial reporting and audit.

As the DCDH constitution does not require an audit to be undertaken before February 2016, it was agreed that any decision could be deferred until later this year.

7. Confirm venue date and time for DCDH Public meeting, and consider other dates and times for future meetings planned between October 2015 and March 2016.

It was noted that the AGM of the DCDH would require to be arranged before May 2016.

It was agreed that a DCDH Public meeting should be held before December 2015.

This meeting will now be held:

Date: 24th November 2015

Time: From 19.00 hrs to 21.00 hrs

Venue: Rosearden, Courthill St. Dalry

A meeting of DCDH trustees in advance of the Public meeting was also suggested.

This meeting will now be held:

Date: 27th October 2015

Time: 19.15 hrs to 21.00 hrs.

Venue: To be confirmed.

8. Any other DCDH business?

Concern was raised that there was no longer a Dalry Community Council to provide the necessary statutory response to planning applications.

As there appears to be further applications for renewable energy developments in the Dalry Parish, it was agreed that further investigation would be undertaken by AA / JMcC and the issue would be raised at the 28th September meeting with NAC.

The Trustees agreed to consider filling the gap created by the recent disbanding of the Dalry Community Council until the ongoing consultation process associated with the Revision of Community Councils was completed.

This will be raised by AA / JMcC at the 28th September meeting with NAC.

9. The meeting closed at 9.15pm