

NORTH TOLSTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Note of meeting of the North Tolsta Community Council held at the Community Hall, North Tolsta, on Tuesday, 12 February 2019, at 7pm.

PRESENT: Angus Murray (AM); John A MacIver (JM); Fiona Black (FB); Cllr Calum MacLean; Cllr John A MacIver (JAM); Cllr Donald Crichton; Fiona MacLeod (FM); Donald MacIver (DMI) Stuart Thomson (ST)

APOLOGIES: Erica MacLeod (EM).

WELCOME: Alasdair Macleod, Forsa Energy
Mairi Smith, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (from 7.30pm)

CHAIR: Angus Murray (as ST had not attended the previous meeting)

Presentation

Alasdair Macleod, Director of Renewable Generation, Forsa Energy, gave a presentation on the current status of the Druim Leathann development at Glen Tolsta. Planning was currently subject to SNH's Ornithological Survey, the outcome of which should be known by September 2019. Thereafter, it was probable that the revised planning application would be heard by the Planning Board, possibly in November or December 2019.

In parallel, Tolsta Power was in talks with Forsa about the possibility of more community owned turbines, perhaps three, on the back of the Druim Leathann development. Alasdair confirmed that Forsa would be supportive of this in terms of exploring any future possibilities. This was yet another new strand to Druim Leathann and FM questioned the legitimacy and mandate for this as there had been no wider community consultation.

It was agreed that an independent and elected body such as the Community Council should have a major role in the dispensation of Community Benefit. The Community Council would also be consulted on the amended planning application.

Forsa would next be up in the summer of 2019.

The Chair thanked Alasdair for his presentation which would be circulated after the meeting along with Scottish Government's Best Practice guide to Community Benefit. It was noted that some local authorities took a very prescriptive approach to Community Benefit, whereas it was possibly better to take a more collaborative approach.

1. Note of the Last Meeting

The Note of the last meeting of 8 January 2019 was approved.

Matters arising

- Memorial Garden – Isabel MacRae (no 28) had shown an interest in taking care of the garden - DMI would follow up.
- Graffiti had appeared on the Garry Bridge. FB had been in touch with the Trust but no action had been taken. It was acknowledged that access and reparation would be difficult, with Health and Safety implications. AM would speak to the Comhairle's Environmental team to ascertain whether they could help. The bridge was thought to be listed.

2. Accounts/Bank Balance

The balance was £4,646 with some invoices outstanding.

3. Football Pitch/ PACT

Planning consent had been deferred until the floodlighting issues had been addressed. AM would follow up with the consultant to move this on.

The PACT AGM would follow the NTCC AGM on 30 April 2019. PACT needed new Trustees. PACT's accounts had been submitted to OSCR. Insurance was now in place.

4. Play Park

£4,666 was available for the play park. Mairi from the Comhairle's Community Learning and Development team and JM had worked on the application and this funding would now be made available before the end of financial year (April 2019). There was no rush to spend the funds at this stage.

Mairi outlined her own community role within the Comhairle and she had responsibility for the Loch a Tuath Ward area. She was looking to develop a Community Plan and was happy to work with the Community Council in identifying gaps in provision, capacity building, a mapping exercise, brokering meetings between various local groups, and applications for funding.

Mairi would circulate the Community Conversation, November 2018, for Loch a Tuath Ward.

The Chair thanked Mairi for her contribution and confirmed that the Community Council would appreciate any help she could offer. Preparing applications for funding for the all-weather development was an immediate priority.

5. AOCB

Challenge Fund

Applications were now open. The deadline would be 6 August 2019. We had missed the deadline the last time out so some thought should be given as to what we might progress through this Fund.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be the NTCC AGM on 30 April 2019, followed by the PACT AGM at 7pm.

The Minutes of meetings of the North Tolsta Community Council are published on the Comhairle's communities web site (e-Sgìre) as follows:

<https://e-sgìre.org/communities/ward8/community-associations/>