



Minutes Wednesday 19th February 2014

Present: Jamie Pearson (Chair); Ken Young (Vice Chair/Treasurer); Meg Duckworth (Planning/Licensing); Penny Roberts (Secretary); Dawn Roberts (Rural Forum Rep); Penny Crawford (Minutes); Ken Smith (Communications); Cicely Roy (Waste Water System Rep); Cllr Ian Muirhead; PC Ailsa Brough; 3 members from Force 9 Energy; 8 members of the public

Apologies: Bert Comrie (Transport Advisor); Ron Garvie (LDP/Roads);

2. Approval of Minutes	Action
Previous minutes were approved	
3. Craigton & Spittalhill Windfarm Developer's Presentation	Action
<p>Force 9 Energy are a small wind farm development company based in Glasgow and do onshore wind farms only. Andrew and Nick from the company spoke to the group about Force 9. Once permission is gained, EDF Energy take on the sites, as they will with this one. Euan, from PPS communications company, spoke to the group. They help Force 9 manage the consultation process. Back in September 2012, they put in a proposal for the wind farm. They held three public exhibitions, one at Howietoun Fishery, Kippen and Fintry. Following that, they held a meeting on 14th November 2012 with FCC and had several other meetings with FDT. The planning application was submitted at the end of 2013. They plan to have 7 turbines measuring 125m blade to tip. They would use the same access route as Earlsburn Wind Farm. Planning also includes the control building and substation. Stirling Council has now started formal consultation on the planning application. FCC has raised an objection as well as SEPA regarding the studies done on the site. Force 9 have since submitted a response to this objection. National Air Traffic Service (NATS) have submitted an objection regarding Lowther Hill Radar Station. Aside from that, there have been several members of the public who have raised objections.</p> <p>Nick went on to discuss the 'Community Benefit Fund'. This is paid annually to the community and amounts have risen. The amounts used to be £1000 per MW but since then, this has risen to £5000 per MW. Nick estimated the minimum amount will be £70k per annum, which would be Index linked for the lifetime of the turbines, split between the three communities of Fintry, Denny and Carron Valley. Although a lump sum would be considered.</p>	

There is then also the possibility for these communities to invest (communities, not individuals) into this wind farm with community funds. A member of the public asked to what extent are Force 9 looking for communities to invest.

The amount of investment would be equivalent to one turbine, so 1/7th. Only at the point of completion of the wind farm, would they be able to work out how much has been spent and how much 1/7th would be. There would also be a minimum investment.

If the plans are successful, Force 9 would give each community three months to decide whether they would like to invest, then a further three months to pay the agreed amount.

J Pearson asked what would happen in the event of Fintry being willing to invest, but the other communities reluctant to invest.

Andrew stated that all three communities would benefit from the annual payment regardless, but it would be up to the communities as to whether they would like to invest or not.

K Young asked whether it would be an equal split between the three communities as they are all different in sizes

Andrew said this is what communities will be consulted on at a later date.

J Pearson stated that one question that was raised was that the plan did not fit into Stirling Council guidelines and asked how they would overcome it.

Force 9 stated they had submitted a plan based on what they thought Stirling Council planning policy was. They believe the planning policies may be dated compared with national policies. The area is of great landscape value (AGLV) and is an area that is not unwelcome to development. It only considers turbines up to a certain height and not higher ones. It all filters into the planning statement, which is available. The wind farm will not be visible within 10km – it only becomes apparent from 10 – 12 km. It sits cheek to jowl with another wind farm. Force 9 say they do not breach any Stirling Council planning policies.

A member of the public asked about the grid connectivity.

Force 9 representative stated it would be to the 33kw line past Kippen.

When an application is made to connect to the grid, the cost is largely determined by the distance.

The member of the public asked whether there was a ceiling as to what can go down the line.

The representative stated work can be done at sub stations and that they can double up the circuit. They are looking at connecting to the 33kw line.

Any application for the grid would be taken up by the grid operator.

One member of the public said they were under the impression EDF or EON were looking to provide residents with reduced tariffs and asked whether that was a possibility.

Force 9 representatives were not aware EDF or EON providing this, although they were aware of an independent company offering this reduced tariff, but was not something on offer from Force 9 at present.

M Duckworth told the room that when Earlsburn Wind Farm went in, there was a discussion about providing villagers with vouchers, however Inland Revenue advised this would be seen as 'benefit in kind' so went no further.

J Pearson read out a statement from FDT:

'As an organisation established to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, FDT is generally in favour of renewable energy developments. Of course, we are

<p><i>aware that there can be concerns about wind farm developments, and via Jamie (in his position as co-opted director of FDT), we will be informed of the opinions raised at this evening's meeting about this specific project. As a rule FDT believes that where wind farms are established there should be significant community benefit and FDT will be working to maximise those benefits for the village should this project goes ahead.'</i></p> <p>J Pearson summarised the discussion and said it would be unlikely for FCC to invest when Fintry has FDT, but FDT may invest. J Pearson thanked Force 9 for attending.</p>	
<p>4. Police Report</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>PC Ailsa Brough presented the report. There was a report of a theft of ladders at Craigton. There have been house breakins in Killearn, Strathblane and Mugdock. They tend to be rural properties, with the exception of Killearn, which was a residential street during a Saturday tea time.</p> <p>PC Brough urged everyone to be vigilant and if they spot anything suspicious, to contact them.</p> <p>Since the arrest of individuals in Dublane, they have had no more reports of devices on ATM's. There is a camera at ATM in Drymen, but not one at Balfron.</p> <p>A member of the public asked what should they be looking for. PC Brough explained they are 'skimming devices' to capture card details. She said there would be an extra bit of chunky plastic around the card slot. There could also be an iPod fixed above, recording the pin number input. PC Brough advised to look around, or feel around the ATM before using it.</p> <p>PC Brough advised there are likely to be changes in the way the areas are policed, but that it should not affect the Fintry community at all.</p>	
<p>5. Stirling Councillor's Report</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>Cllr Muirhead presented the report. He advised the council budget would be set on Thursday 20th February. There would still be a lot of cuts, however it is looking like Fintry Nursery will not be affected, although this cannot be confirmed until the budget is set. Cllr Muirhead went on to say there is due to be a review on the delivery of rural transport, for example possible fixed timetable DRT, but this should be something the community will be consulted on. Also the proposal for the reduced bin collections will not go ahead. Cllr Muirhead is going to put forward a one year plan, as a five year plan is difficult to do. They are going to put forward a budget, plus 2.5% inflation for the roads budget and are trying to get more grass cutting. They are also going to attempt to object to Primary support cuts.</p>	

6. DRT and Shopper's bus (PR)/(JP)	Action
<p>P Roberts has made an application for funding. She did approach the Big Lottery Fund but they could not fund Bert directly, however they said ladies from the group could form a committee and apply for a grant. This could be too problematic. The Big Lottery Fund said it could also go through the FCC. P Roberts went ahead and completed the relevant forms and sent them off to apply for the grant.</p> <p>P Roberts said there were other funding options, but is quietly confident this application will be accepted, as it fills several of the Big Lottery Funds criteria. This grant can be applied for each year and has considerable scope for expansion. In the meantime, the FDT will fund this in the short term until alternate funding comes through, although can only be short term so alternate funding must be found.</p> <p>Derek Parry, Public Transport Team Leader with Stirling Council has offered to come out to Fintry to offer help with funding, however it was agreed this be postponed until FCC hears back from the Big Lottery Fund.</p> <p>J Pearson advised there has been confusion with regard the DRT and contracted buses. A member of the public has approached David Brown at the Public Transport Unit, asking if First Scotland East Services 12 and/or 32 could be diverted via Fintry, this request has been forwarded to First Bus. If First, or any other bus operator, introduced a commercial bus service operating via Fintry, Stirling Council have made it clear that the DRT Service could not continue. It was agreed at the last meeting, and was minuted that a scheduled bus through Fintry was not wanted if this would risk the current provision DRT service. It was agreed that P Roberts write to First Bus to say at this stage there is no public support for a scheduled bus service through Fintry. Cllr Muirhead confirmed he too would speak with Les Goodfellow. J Pearson reiterated that its FCC's understanding that the vast majority of the DRT users are very happy with the current provision of the DRT service and have no desire to do anything that would put this vital service at risk.</p>	<p>P Roberts</p> <p>P Roberts / Cllr Muirhead</p>
7. Nursery	Action
<p>Cllr Berrill advised J Borland that Fintry Nursery was safe from closure. However they would have to wait for official confirmation once the budget is set on Thursday 20th February. D Roberts said the website had not been updated and that the closure of Fintry Nursery was still appearing on the report. Cllr Muirhead said on the report he had, the closure of the nursery had been removed.</p>	
8. Local Development Plan (RG)	Action
<p>R Garvie has been following things up. He had been in contact with Claire Milne who advised the objections made to Stirling Council are still being examined but the examination report from the Scottish Government should be ready around the 7th March. There is no opportunity for anyone to submit further information. The Reporter indicated they have enough information for them to form their conclusion.</p>	

<p>Due to the recent stormy weather, R Garvie has reported a lot of potholes which need repairing. He has spoken with Cllr Lambie and will be having a meeting in the near future. Cllr Muirhead advised of an email address residents can email directly. RT&OS@stirling.gov.uk</p>	
<p>9. Planning (MD)</p>	<p>Action</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application for the installation of a Bio-Mass system at Balgair Castle Caravan Site. This is a prototype and will service 28 caravans. • Application from S McLean for a temporary workshop in four portacabins in land opposite Hillview Cottage, Kippen Road. • Approved application from J Lightbody, 103 Main Street, Fintry for a rear extension. • Application from N McNight for planning permission for a new detached house at land behind the Fintry Inn car park, Main Street. • Approved – change of use of open land to garden land at 27 Culcreuch Avenue despite FCC objection due to precedence being set and risk of the play park being reduced in size. Cllr Muirhead to investigate. • Refused application for the installation of a satellite dish, rear decking and garden landscaping at Clearic, Main Street. Reason for refusal was landscaping and raising the level of the garden and drainage. • Approved planning for No 6 turbine to be replaced 	<p>Cllr Muirhead</p>
<p>10. Ongoing matters – brief updates</p>	
<p><i>Earlsburn Extension Windfarm Construction Meeting:</i> There will be a Construction Liaison Group meeting on 5th March to discuss what they will be doing on road upto Carron Valley. They will be discussing the construction phase only. J Pearson to attend.</p> <p><i>Community Resilience Exercise:</i> There will be a Community Emergency Plan held on 29th March. The aim is to test the emergency plan. C Roy and P Crawford to attend.</p> <p><i>Goodwill fund application form:</i> K Young advised the forms are available online and at the sport centre. Any group of people who have an idea which would be of benefit to the community, can apply. The deadline for submission is the end of March, however it is hoped this fund will be available on a regular basis. The subgroup is made up of J Pearson, K Young and D Roberts.</p> <p><i>Request from N.McKnight to erect memorial tree:</i> N McKnight requested permission to plant a memorial tree in the ground at the cross. This will be considered once the type of tree is determined and after a visit to the site to ensure there is enough room for this type of tree.</p>	<p>J Pearson</p> <p>C Roy / P Crawford</p> <p>FCC</p>
<p>11. Finance (KY)</p>	

<p>K Young advised there are new signatories on bank accounts. He has asked Murray Macadam to continue to audit accounts. This was put to the FCC who unanimously voted for this move.</p>	
<p>12. Web site / Communications (KS)</p>	
<p>K Smith advised the hosting of the website had moved but more could now be done with the website. There was a call for more emails to be sent to FCC. A member of the public said she would email all her contacts within the village with a view to increase email addresses held.</p>	<p>H. Spence</p>
<p>13. AOCB</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p><i>Fox presence in village:</i> A member of the public advised a fox has been seen around Fintry and they and others are suffering terrible losses. It appears around 10am in the mornings. M Duckworth to take forward.</p> <p><i>SEPA and Scottish Water</i> C Roy is back in correspondence with SEPA and Scottish Water. Acknowledgement has been received from SEPA. Nothing received from Scottish Water as yet, but C Roy will chase them again. C Roy is awaiting some statistics but at yet they have not been sent. This was following on from Cllr Bruce Crawford's meeting with both bodies.</p> <p><i>Removal of Information Signage</i> C Roy raised two matters on behalf of N McKnight who was not present. There was a repeated request for the council information signs could be removed. It is believed Street Scape are the ones to contact. The information on these boards is out of date and not particularly informative. Cllr Muirhead agreed to take this forward.</p> <p><i>Riverside Walk Footpath Deterioration</i> Secondly there was concern raised about the poor condition of the riverside walk footpath. A request was made to see if the FCC could get help to help maintain these footpaths. J Pearson will raise again in spring. C Roy attended the Giant Footpaths meeting and Mr Bob Spark has agreed to come to Fintry with a view to upgrading with the possibility of working with the Sport Club to get supplies.</p> <p><i>Community Defibrillator</i> D Roberts asked whether the defibrillator had been ordered. G. Reid said money had been raised from the Christmas Card Fund, but they still require an expensive box to house the defibrillator, which will be located outside the Sports Club. They have now raised enough money to make the purchase. G Reid advised she will complete a Goodwill Fund Application as this will be of benefit to the whole village. She hopes training sessions will be held over a couple of days. The defibrillator has not been purchased as yet, but it is hoped to be ordered soon.</p> <p><i>Resignation of Cicely Roy</i> Cicely informed the room she will be standing down and will retire from the</p>	<p>M Duckworth</p> <p>Cllr Muirhead</p> <p>J Pearson</p> <p>G.Reid</p>

<p>FCC, but is willing to stay as an advisor on Scottish Water and SEPA issues. J Pearson thanked Cicely for all her hard work over the years and presented her with a gift from the FCC. Her resignation leaves a position on FCC for anyone who wishes to join as an associate member.</p>	
<p>14. Correspondence</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>C Roy had received a Carers leaflet which is received four times a year. C Roy will pass onto M Duckworth and inform them of the change of address.</p> <p>A card had been placed in the FCC box in the sport club from Land services, advising 'shrub beds and leaf raking done.'</p>	<p>C Roy</p>
<p>15. Date of next meeting</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>Date of next meeting – Wednesday 19th March 2014 at 7.30pm</p>	