

# KIRKCOWAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL AND KIRKCOWAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

## Minutes of Combined Meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021

### 1. Present

Mr Charlie McNeill, Mr Charles McEwan, Mr William Harkness, Mrs Mary Harkness, Mrs Carol Lochrie, Mrs Lynne Melville, Mrs Hazel McWhirter, Mr Kevin Dean, Mr Andrew Gladstone, Mrs Mary McKenzie, Mr John Drysdale, Mrs Hazel Johnston.

### 2. Apologies

Mr Richard Marsh, Mr Joe Wright

### 3. Welcome

Carol welcomed everyone to the meeting

### 4. Format and Frequency of meetings

It was agreed that the CC and Trust would take turns to Chair and Minute the meetings. It was agreed that Charlie would chair this meeting and Carol would take the minutes. It was agreed that the next two meetings would be held at the end of March and June of 2022.

### 5. Open Meetings

Charlie informed the group of the issues discussed at the recent Open Meetings. He reported a small turnout of residents at both meetings. Carol explained the difference between the grant awards granted by the Trust as opposed to the awards given directly by Kilgallioch to organisations. The grant given to Kirkcowan Church was queried. It was explained that this grant was simply to enhance the look of the building with painting, and not connected with any religious themes.

Discussion took place regarding the Village Hall renovations/extension. Charles suggested a new build at Teapot lane. It was felt the finances needed would be excessive.

Hazel Johnstone informed the meeting of the original plans for the Village Hall. Mary Harkness reported that the Hall Committee is now in the process of starting up again and that an asset transfer is needed before the plans can be revisited. This is likely to take some time as the council department is not meeting at the moment. Discussion took place regarding the shorter-term expectations for the Hall. Charles felt it was important that Dumfries and Galloway Council is informed of what work needs to be carried out to the Hall before an asset transfer takes place.

## **6. Fibre Optics**

Charles informed the meeting about the potential strategy for Fibre Optics within the village. It was agreed that there could be a problem with the provision of Fibre Optics to householders who live in outlying areas of the village. It was agreed that Fibre Optics needs to be made available to all of the Kirkcowan community. It was agreed that more research is needed with regard to provision of Fibre Optics.

## **7. Energy Efficiency**

Discussion took place regarding energy efficiency in conjunction with the current Winter Fuel allowance. It was reported that Katrina is currently working to engage with the Sustainable Renewable Energy Scheme to take this project forward. Charles suggested some form of energy subsidies; however, it was felt that not every resident would benefit from this because of the age and build of some houses in Kirkcowan area. Bill Harkness reminded the meeting that everything the Trust proposes must be fair to everyone including those who live in rented properties, and that the Trust must justify all expenditure. It was proposed that an event is organised in the new year for residents to talk to the Trust and Community Council regarding their energy needs.

## **8. MUGA**

Discussion took place regarding the original plans to place the MUGA within the school grounds. John Drysdale advised the meeting that a full size MUGA is not feasible. It was agreed that the MUGA would remain on the Community Action Plan but is not seen as a priority at this time.

## **9. Youth Group**

Discussion took place regarding the resurrection of the Youth Group. Lynne Melville advised that there are currently 2 people in the village who are qualified youth workers. It was felt that this was something the school council could advise on. Charlie agreed to talk to Jemma regarding this. Lynne agreed to contact the two qualified youth workers.

## **10. Survey of Skills**

It was agreed to include a Survey of Skills together with the next Newsletter. It is anticipated that this survey will determine Kirkcowan residents who have a certain range of skills and who are willing to assist with aspects of project work.

## **11. Match Funding**

It was recognised that not all funding for projects can come from the Trust. Discussion took place regarding other aspects of funding to include match funding. Carol agreed to forward the Grant Funding link to Charles.

## **12.Any other Business**

Andrew Gladstone suggested that it would be useful to develop contacts with other Community Trusts and to learn from them. It was also agreed to develop a Trusts' Association Forum. Carol agreed to take this forward.

It was agreed that Kirkcowan Community Trust should stake a claim to the benefits available from the additional Windfarm Mills which have been agreed by Kilgallioch.

It was agreed that The Community Council would take ownership and management of the Generator. It was generally felt that the current Resilience Plan is ineffective. The Resilience Team are to take stock of all vulnerable and elderly residents so they have a list of people to prioritise in the event of power cuts.

Carol agreed to ask Katrina to follow up on Data Protection Training for those who were not present at the first session

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next Combined Meeting will take place at the end of March 2022. Dates will be forwarded nearer the time.