

# Saline and Steelend Community Council

## Minute of Meetings of 27.11.12 in Saline Community Centre

### AGM

#### 1. Present

Jim Hensman, John Crane, Marie Crane, Dave Quinney, Irene Wardell, Donald Murdoch, Helga Corp, Isobel Menzies, Muriel Phillips, Jean Alexander, David Chisholm, Till Kroeber, Ken Fraser, Jim Currie, Roddey Jones, Gareth Turner, Peter Ball, John Lyon,

#### 2. Apologies

Cllr Bobby Clelland, Cllr Kate Stewart, Cllr Alice Callaghan, Bill Walker MSP, Kay Jackson, Joan Featherstone

#### 3. Election of Office Bearers

JC advised that all councilors were unavoidably unable to attend to chair election of office bearers and suggested that Gareth Turner take the chair. This was agreed. Gareth indicated that only community councillors were eligible to vote and asked for nominations. The following were appointed

Chair: John Crane; nominated by Jim Hensman, seconded by Dave Quinney

Vice Chair: Jim Hensman; nominated by John crane, seconded by Marie Crane

Treasurer: Marie Crane; nominated by Dave Quinney, seconded by Donald Murdoch

Secretary: Dave Quinney; nominated by Marie Crane, seconded by Irene Wardell

Minute Secretary: Donald Murdoch; nominated by Marie Crane, seconded by Jim Hensman

Planning Representative: John Crane and Donald Murdoch agreed to share this duty

### Ordinary Meeting

#### 1. Present

As above

#### 2. Apologies

As above

#### 3. Chair's Opening Remarks

JC thanked GT for his assistance

JC praised JH for his outstanding contributions to the community over a long time and thanked him on behalf of the community council. Apart from his activity on the community council, Jim has been active in most groups and will hopefully continue for some time

#### 4. Minutes of Meeting of 30.10.12

Approved. Proposed by DQ, seconded by MP

#### 4. Matters Arising

DC asked for an update on the application for a generator at the Scottish Water station. JC advised that he had not yet received answers to letters that he had written. In the

meantime, Scottish power seem to be installing an electrical connection from Upper Kinneddar

JC

## **5. Councillors' Report**

Nothing to report

## **6. Till Kroeber: Presentation on Community Energy Scotland Annual Conference 6-7<sup>th</sup> November and Joint Venture Conference 8<sup>th</sup> November**

Till advised that the conference was particularly relevant given the number of wind turbines proposed around this area; 8 being planned at Outh Muir, 14 being planned in Blairadam Forest, 4 being planned at Thornyhill and one to be built at Lockshaw Moss in 2013.

The Scottish Government's aim is to achieve 100% of electricity generated by renewables by 2020 with 3% owned by communities or landowners.

Till suggested that there were three ways that communities could potentially benefit

- Community Benefit Scheme: The Government has recommended that at least £5000 per megawatt should be paid into a community fund but there are no rules on how this should be distributed. For example, the company building the single turbine at Lockshaw Moss has decided to distribute the mowhile most impact will be experienced in Saline. However, when the application was discussed at the Area Committee, councillors proposed that the money should be diverted to the West Fife Villages.
- Joint Ventures: Till gave examples of projects in Neilston and Fintry where communities actually own part of a wind farm or of the generated profit.
- Renewable projects developed on Forestry Commission land, like the Blairadam one, are generally required to offer a stake of up to 49% for community purchase. Communities need to secure funding for joint ventures, which is often possible but requires work and commitment.
- Complete Community Ownership; The example of Sunart was given.

Till concluded with his recommendations;

- Maximise benefits
- Minimise impacts
- High level of community consultation

It was felt that there is a need to carry out a full community consultation with the aims of minimising impact and maximising impact. It was noted that REG (developers at Outh Muir) were setting up a liaison committee consisting of representatives from around 8 communities. It was agreed that John Crane, Till Kroeber and Gareth Turner should attend the first meeting. Nevertheless, it was desirable to have a greater view of local opinion and it was agreed that a steering group be set up to start the process. As part of this, it was agreed that TK and GT be co-opted to the community council to advise on energy matters

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

MC advised that funds are ring-fenced for Community Bulletin printing, Development Trust, Bonfire Night and the West Fife Villages Community Planning Group donation towards carriage of the Barrowman Plough. This leaves a balance of £549.72

MC advised on delays with the Blair House Trust where it had been proposed that a meeting to determine applications be cancelled. Marie had opposed this and a meeting

had been held with some applications approve, some deferred and some rejected but that applications were still sought. She had also established that the site was mothballed rather than closed and that there was a bond of £3,167,000 should restoration by Fife council become necessary

### **8. Planning**

JC confirmed that he had written a letter to Development Services regarding the handling of the North Road/Glebe site and was discussing an objection to the current Glebe application with residents

DM indicated that an application to erect an anemometer mast at Thornyhill had been submitted

### **9. Secretary's Report**

See attached .

### **10. AOCB**

JH indicated that the Christmas tree would be delivered on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December and that a n evening carol service would be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. It was noted that Saline Environmental Group had agreed to contribute to funding but there was concern over costs. JH will agree a contribution with the treasurer. For 2013 it was felt that a growing tree would be more appropriate and sustainable, and that this should be discussed with the Church

### **9. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January2013 at 7.30 in Saline Community Centre