

## **Minutes of Crookfur, Greenfarm & Mearns Village Community Council Meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7pm in Fairweather Hall**

**Present:** A Flynn (Chair); A Saleem (Secretary); R Hussain (Treasurer); N Hussain; D Pearson; R MacSwan; M McDaid; B McNeil; L Poon

**Ex-officio Members:** Councillors T Buchanan and C Gilbert

**Attending:** E Grogan and D McMahon (ERC)

**Apologies:** C Panpher, J Panpher, T Butler (ERC) and Councillors E Green and P O'Kane

**Meeting invite was extended to:** KOswald (MP), J Carlaw (MSP), S Maxwell (MSP), K McIntosh (MSP). Apologies received from all MP/MSP due to Parliament sitting until 6pm that evening. Mary Stevenson kindly attended on behalf of Mr Maxwell.

### **Introduction & Welcome**

Chair welcomed everyone & advised that a Sign in Sheet has been provided for members of the public to provide contact details to enable minutes to be posted or emailed if required, community councillors & guests introduced themselves.

### **Minutes of meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

Approved.

### **Matters arising from last Minutes**

Discussion regarding appointment of Minute Secretary, it was agreed this would be carried out on a rota basis; the minute takers for the next few months are as follows:

April: M McDaid

May: R MacSwan

June: D Pearson

August: B McNeil

The community council will update for the rest of the year in subsequent meetings.

## Police Report

Representation was made by Police Scotland for this meeting, future meetings have been agreed with Police Scotland, where Police have capacity to attend. The police provided an up to date report to all community council members and public, nothing major was reported.

## Presentation by Greenhags Biogas – New Biogas Plant Development Proposal

John Fenwick (Director of Greenhags Energy Company), Alan Coupar (Planning Consultant and Hector Munro (Grossart Associates – Engineering Consultants).

A presentation was provided by Greenhags Biogas who advised the site was advertised on the market by ERC and they had submitted an application. Presentation attached below for your perusal.

There was a fair amount of objection from the public and the main points raised by the public gallery were:

1. Why Newton Mearns? A: The site was marketed by ERC and Greenhags applied for consent
2. Are there funds available to build the plant and where has this come from? A: Yes
3. Other than grass and beets, will maize be used A: No
4. Where does grass and beets come from? A: From fields within a 12/13 mile radius and will not be sourced internationally. Local farmers have been given 10 year contracts (in principle) to provide the source materials, this is financially viable with the farmers and agreement has been sought
5. Why use a German system A: Germans have been using this technology since WW2 and were amongst the first to create it so it made sense
6. How will the gas produced by the plant fed back into the grid and is there a risk of explosions? A: Gas will be transported via a pipeline adjacent to the M77 by Scottish Gas; the pipeline is under the strict control of Scottish Gas and is no different to other pipelines laid by the company so the risk of explosion is minimal. Pipes are within the council grounds and impact should be minimal, if any.
7. Is the gas being put back into the grid the same as the Calorific Value of the gas in the mains? A: Yes, however, there will be 2 Propane tanks onsite which may be used for top-up purposes
8. Increase in road traffic A: A traffic assessment is being delivered to the Council and within the Councils remit as to whether this is shared with the public. There should be approx. 1 lorry every 20mins
9. Odour being released by the plant A: There should be no odour as the source organic material being used is in its prime and not rotten material. Greenhags confirmed there is no smell from grass / beets even if they are not rotten
10. What is being used to transport the silage and will the dropping off the silage cause a mess A: Articulated lorries will be used with little mess at drop off.

**Benefits:** Upgrade to roads network near site

**Next Steps:**

1. Greenhags suggested visit St Boswells to see what the plant looks like and get a feel for noise and smell.
2. Greenhags are happy to present the following reports, once they become available, to residents and provide assurance on the objections being raised, these are: 1. Air Quality 2. Noise and 3. Transport Statement
3. CGMV CC have agreed that full discussions will take place and will be taken further at April CC meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

**Presentation Material:** See attached PowerPoint from Greenhags Energy Company.



Copy CGMV  
Presentation 100316.

**Presentation by East Renfrewshire Licensing Department**

Dominic McMahon, Licensing Standards Officer from ERC addressed the community council & public gallery. **As a community council, the CGMV are a Statutory Consultee in the process and can make representation or objection (within 21 days).** He issued a handout on The Licensing System & Process, types of applications made, explained the main points & advised that all applications can be viewed online.

All applications are made in line with the Licensing Scotland Act 2005

Dominic also provided a pack to all community councillors for “Keeping the Vulnerable Safe” and to raise the profile of this pack and the benefits should anyone know a vulnerable member of the public or relative living with ERC boundaries.

**Correspondence**

1. Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday – currently no plans have been made by the council or community council members for any events to mark the Queens Birthday celebrations.
2. Community Council Development Programme – CGMV CC are keen to attend training sessions and these have now been scheduled.
3. Community & Renewable Energy Conference – to be held on 15/16<sup>th</sup> of March in Stirling. No CGMV CC is able to attend due to clash with Planning Forum on the 16<sup>th</sup> March.

## **Treasurer Report**

R Hussain confirmed a bank account had been established to receive monies for present and future council activities. E Grogan (ERC) handed over £125.52 and this was receipted by R Hussain. £40 was paid to C Flynn for previous minute taking duties. Elaine agreed to continue to support the Treasurer in his new role.

Many thanks to Elaine for her help in supporting this activity and seeing it through to completion.

## **Any Other Competent Business**

L Poon – Query from member of public regarding tubes around trees planted in Capelrig road. This was done a few years ago but tubes still evident – how/when will they be removed?

A: Planning confirmed that they put wrappers around trees to protect trees, they confirmed this is biodegradable and should disintegrate over time this monitored annually by ERC Planning.

## **Questions from the Floor**

1. Development at Capelrig by Cala Homes. Has the Right of Way been rescinded? **ACTION: This will need to be looked at.**

## **Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 in Fairweather Main Hall at 7pm. The AGM will take place on this date at 7pm and the normal meeting will resume at 7.15pm.