

## KIRKOWAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL OPEN MEETING

Minutes of meeting Kirkcowan Community Council Open Meeting held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 at 7pm in St Couan's Hall.

1. Mr Paterson welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced to Mr McNab Laurie - Dumfries and Galloway Council and Mr Willie McCartney who brought the sound system.

2. **APOLOGIES:** Mr Jak Kane and Mr Charles McNeil

### 3. OVERVIEW:

Mr John Paterson informed everybody that the reason for the meeting was to get suggestions from the Community on how to improve the village. All suggestions to be written on a piece of paper with contact details of the proposer and put in the suggestions box. The box will be in the village store and post office until 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

Mr J Paterson explained that money from Windfarm companies had started to be deposited into Kirkcowan Community Trust's bank account. Some of the money has already been spent on the new generator and container, which are situated in the school playground. This generator will provide heat, lighting and cooking facilities at the school for the benefit of the Kirkcowan Community in the event of an emergency. An agreement with the Windfarm Company to spend £12,000 on the Autumn Club upgrading the heating system, insulation and new furniture has also been carried out.

Starting this month is the installation of 96 wind turbines at Kilgallioch so ideas for improvements are required for the money to be drawn down and invested in the village. The money will be split between Barhill, New Luce, Glenluce and Kirkcowan.

Mr McNabb Laurie informed the meeting that the Council has no control over the decision making of any project they are there to advise and support the Community Council. Money cannot be spent on any projects that are religious, political, anti windfarms or statutory requirements of the Council. Money can be used for capital or revenue projects, employment training, tourism community transport and non-statutory requirements of the council such as planting areas in the village and running a village hall.

### 4. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

**Q1** - Can you borrow from this money? *Answer* The money is a voluntary contribution from the windfarm companies and at this moment borrowing is ahead. You would not be able to go to a bank and borrow against this voluntary contribution.

**Q2** – What is the maximum amount of money per year that Kirkcowan will get? *Answer* This is an unknown quantity but at the moment it is anticipated that Kirkcowan will get £360,000 which will be split – 50% for investing back into the village on community projects, 10% held in a legacy fund for future maintenance and running of community projects after the 25 years, and 40% to a project that involves Barhill, New Luce and Glenluce who would be putting in their 40% of the money too.

**Q3** – Is this a guaranteed amount for the next 25 years? *Answer* No if the windfarm company goes bankrupt or decides it is no longer viable to run the windmills then the contributions stop.

**Q4** – Who reinstates the area if the windmill company no longer trades? *Answer* They are big companies that we are dealing with and it is unlikely that they will go bankrupt. One of the planning conditions is a bond is put in place to reinstate the area back to its original condition should a company go bankrupt.

**Q5** – Who has the final say on which project is chosen? *Answer* Kirkcowan Community Council will make the final decision on which project is chosen. Directors of the Kirkcowan Community Benefit Fund will also be involved. As this is a long-term investment if your project is not chosen in the first instance it may be chosen later on.

**Q6** – What happens after the 25 years? *Answer* This is the current windmills lifespan 25 years, after that who knows – Technology progresses and new energy designs may come in to force in the time.

**Q7**- Is the criteria obvious? *Answer* Yes once your project is chosen, you fill out an application form and ensure the project costs are included.

**Q8** - If a child's project is chosen who runs the project, as they would be too young? *Answer* A project team would be set up.

**Q9** – Can children be involved in the decision process? *Answer* Anyone can come to a Community Council Meeting where they can discuss any concerns or ideas they have. They are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Lesser St Couan's Hall. Kirkcowan Youth Group are represented at every community council meeting by all the adult members of the group.

**Q10** – What happens to the money if its not spent? *Answer* The money would get put aside in the legacy fund, however the intension is to draw on it not save it.

**Q11** – Can the money be spent on road improvements? *Answer* This is the responsibility of the Council's Roads Department, however the money could be used on road calming measures.

**Q12** – How will people know what projects have been chosen? *Answer* Kirkcowan Community Council's minutes of every meeting are put up in the post office and on the Kirkcowan Website.

Mr J Paterson thanked Mr McNab Laurie for his time and Mr Willie McCartney for bringing the sound system, and then thanked everyone for coming to the meeting

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

The next meeting of Kirkcowan Community Council will be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7.30pm in the Lesser St Couan's Hall

**Jackie Mortiboy (Minutes secretary)**