

Inchmarlo, Brathens and Glassel Community Council
Online meeting
Wednesday 29th November 2023, 7.30pm
Approved Minutes

Present: Paul Herrington (Chair), Neil Bisset (Secretary), Regis Lechatellier (Treasurer), Andy Wilkins, Gail Ledingham, Andy Dickson.

Councillors: Cllr Ann Ross

Apologies: Cllr Yi Pei Chou Turvey,

Actions are highlighted in **Red**

1. **Welcome/Apologies:** The Chair (Paul), welcomed everyone to the meeting. Neil confirmed that Cllr Turvey had sent her apologies.
2. **Approve minutes of previous meeting:** Regis proposed, Paul seconded.
3. **Secretarys Report:** Neil informed the group, the midcill wind farm fundings were received and Neil proposed to go through the applications Monday 4th December 2023 at 7pm. Paul explained to Gail and Andy that there is a spreadsheet that we fill out and score each application and we compare our findings. **Neil also advised the zoom subscription was coming to an end and will discuss with Regis and Andy for switching to TEAMs.** Neil said that for storm Babet that the residents gave him notification that there were good responses to the emails that the council sent out which gave good information. There were also a concern around sandbags again but this was resolved into the second day of the storm.
4. **Treasurers Report:** Regis confirmed he had the last years account approved and sent this to Paul to sign and then this will be sent to Aberdeenshire council. Regis took us through the accounts, there was no midhill movements. Noted a couple of zoom payments have been made. This will be coming to an end shortly. £2,304 is remaining in the account, some of this is due to midhill funding.
5. **Councillors Report:** Cllr Ross took some time to discuss that the council are in budget reviews just now and that there is a £60m budget gap just now which will have a knock on effect to services. Aboyne bridge has been closed for approx 18 months. There were issues with the top deck of the bridge and other investigations are ongoing. Services have been affected quite considerably due to the detour, especially for schools. Cllr Ross noted there are 1800 bridges in Aberdeenshire and 60 are a priority for repair. Cllr Ross advised that the Police have requested residents to lock up sheds and keep car keys away from the front door.
6. **Resilience & Flooding:** Regis informed the group that he had a meeting on the 30th Nov in Inchmarlo hall to talk about storage for emergency equipment. This

is from working with Richard Clark in finding a place to store materials for any flooding or power outage. Equipment still to be defined as to what is required and a funding application may be proposed to midhill wind farm funding next round. Paul asked if there were any issues with recent rain, Regis advised all were ok but on edge due to what happened last time and the water level did not reach as high as the last storm. Walls have been built and solutions are being looked into to resolve this issue with the residents flooding. Regis has asked to be included in residents communication to see if he can help at all.

7. **Midhill windfarm updates** - Regis shared the spreadsheet that he has taken over from Chris Lowe, there are 2 payments from Fred Ollsen one in September and one in January which is also affected by the RPI factor which will increase the funding. In September we had a total £15,700 (in Fred Ollsens bank) once applications are discussed the funding will be divided accordingly. Andy clarified the email address which is now to go to the treasurer at IBG CC. Regis confirmed we have received all the closure reports for all the previous fundings.
8. **Retirement Village Speed limit** - Gail advised that she was planning to get together with Inchmarlo retirement village in March and send out a survey in Inchmarlo community asking them about various issues with health, near misses and manoeuvrability with their cars. Gail advised she was planning on sending through leaflets through the doors to gather some more information on issues with the area at the front of the retirement village. Cllr Ross advised that a survey would be a good idea but advised that the Police Scotland meeting recently stated that there are statistics with elderly drivers and accidents in the area. The team discussed we will require to take a different approach which would primarily be around concentrating on the smaller section of road out the front of the retirement village rather than the full stretch. Andy suggested that the entrance area could have work done to make it safer as another addition. Neil advised that he put in the last minutes Cllr Ross' suggestions from the last meeting to help us take the correct approach on this, again Neil advised the length of the road is one factor. Cllr Ross also mentioned initiatives to cut back bushes, and also some signage to be changed to appropriate warnings. Paul added that the Aberdeenshire road policy document was referred to quite a lot and he has not had this shared. This stipulated a lot of the issues the council had to reject the previous application which is why we should look at the 'rules of the game' so we can have a better approach.
9. **Hill of Fare Windfarm** - Paul advised us RES have put in their application recently and he was going to take us through some of the things we need to be doing. We have 4 weeks to respond which is estimated as 12th of January, RES have made material available and sent to IBG CC Secretary and attached a copy of the newsletter. Paul advised ECU website has more information which is openly accessible. On 28th Nov there was a meeting with all 6 CC's to go over the information to date and how to approach the due date of 12th January 2024. Paul went through some of the issues raised by residents and CC's this information can be found in application websites and comment pages for the Hill of Fare Windfarm (for the purposes of these minutes - overview that Paul showed the landscape artists representation of the wind farms on the hill both

from RES and HOFWiG, also the percentages of For/ Against/ Neutrals and the challenges Paul described are all available on HOFW information from the residents comments and CC comments - See appendices in these minutes). Paul is available for any questions or information if required.

10. **Any other Business (AOB)** - Cllr Ross mentioned that she is the honorary member of the Banchory singers and would encourage people to go along and join in, with many members from Inchmarlo, Glassel and Brathens area.
11. **Date of next two meetings:** The next meeting will be Wednesday January 31st 2024 and 27th March 2024. Meeting will continue via Zoom/ TEAMS.