

Sandford and Upper Avondale Community Council

Meeting held at Sandford Village Hall 7.30pm on Monday 10th November 2014

1. Welcome / Apologies

Present - Chris Cassels, Lenny McKague, Agnes Callan, Sarah Mateer, Joanne Motion, Tom Dykes

Apologies - Trish Munro, Kathryn Cain

2. Matter Arising from previous Minutes

Under item 5, it was clarified that the letter of objection about the planning application for the 12 new houses on School road was based on a number of concerns including the proposed design, size, infrastructure and fit with the rest of the houses in the village.

3. Police Report

No police present at the meeting. SM had agreed to attend the Police meeting in East Kilbride on 26 November at 7pm as the earlier meeting had been postponed. It was suggested that she raise the following concerns:-

- Reported thefts of quad bikes & tyres from the school run minibus outside the village hall
- Reports of children being followed by a man in a car in the village
- Future police presence at meetings and community liaison contact.

4. Treasurer's Report

Statement circulated at meeting – current balance £252.37.

Anticipated expenditure - £24 for web updates following AGM & new documents
LM agreed to write and thank Helen Whitelaw as the Council would now be auditing of all Community Council accounts.

5. Upper Avondale Report

No update on Gilmourton P.S. rebuild. AC said she would try and find new link with school parent council. Street lighting fault was reported and fixed. Quiz night did not go ahead. Christmas tree lighting planned for 14 Dec at 5.30pm

6. Sandford Report

New housing on School road – planning acknowledgement of SUACC letter. No written confirmation had been received but it was understood that a conditional consent had been issued. Charlie Leleux had asked SUACC to see if there was any planning gain if this development went ahead in terms of improvements to village facilities or paths within the woodland areas for example.

Community Cinema – an application to BFI Neighbourhood Cinema had been submitted for the provision of film equipment in the hall and a decision is expected by Christmas. The Sandford Community film club was proving successful with recent showings of Chef and a double bill of the Hunger Games.

A price list for some community noticeboards had been obtained with a number of different styles from Whitehill Direct Limited. It was agreed we should check the location of each noticeboard, size required, wall mounted or freestanding and any permissions required. Alternative prices also need to be investigated by next meeting.

7. Windfarm Update / Kypemuir extension

Dungavel – Forestry Commission were handing over the site to Macleod's. Awaiting follow up meeting on proposed start date.

Kypemuir – Banks Renewables had submitted a S.36 Application for an Extension to their site at Kypemuir for 18 additional turbines. 2 Volumes detailing the proposed scheme had been delivered to SUACC. Closing date for comments was 14 November. Banks Renewables had requested a meeting with SUACC to discuss their proposals and provide an update on the Community Partnering Fund. (see below). After Banks had left the meeting, it was agreed that CC should draft a letter to planning expressing broad support for the proposal on the basis it was further away than the main scheme that was already consented and seeking confirmation that the benefits to the community are realised and local jobs supported. Due to the deadline of 14 Nov for the statutory consultation, this would be circulated by email for comment and then submitted.

8. AOB

Playpark update – a meeting had been arranged by SCEG with Liz Dunlop on 14 Nov at 10.30am to discuss the proposals and next steps. CC suggested that we should look into any Commonwealth Games Legacy funding which might be able to match funds from REF.

Sandford Allotment idea – Rab Templeton had made some enquiries with Jardine Paterson about an area of open ground at the back of the community woodland behind School Road in Sandford. He asked if SUACC would be able to look into this further and see if there was any interest from local residents. It was suggested that we contact Geoff Frew in Lesmahagow CC about what they had done.

Roads – Concerns was raised over the windblown tree stump which is still causing a hazard on the edge of the road leading from Sandford to the crossroads at Crown house. Concern was also raised over the potholes on the road between Sandford and Stonehouse and in particular the repeated unsuccessful patching of the potholes by the gate down to the phone mast. It was agreed to write to the Roads department. Action – TM

Christmas Tree – All agreed to ask if the Council could put up a tree in Sandford this year.

Councillor attendance – it was disappointing to note that our local elected councillors had appeared at very few meetings during the year.

Website link – LM suggested that a member of SUACC meet with the website manager at the next meeting.

Road survey – TD asked if anyone knew why the road from Strathaven to the Patersons Quarry was being surveyed.

9. Arrangements for future meetings

12 January 2015 – Sandford Village hall, 7.30pm

16 March 2015 – Gilmourton WRI hall, 7.30pm

11 May 2015 – Sandford Village Hall, 7.30pm

7 September 2015 – Gilmourton WRI hall, 7.30pm

9 November 2015 – AGM at Sandford Village Hall, 7pm

10. Banks meeting/discussion

Colin Anderson and Rachel McLeod from Bank Renewables joined the meeting at 8pm. They outlined the proposals submitted for the Kypemuir Extension and the

supporting documents together with the key benefits of the scheme. They had carried out some public drop-in events including Sandford and had overall positive feedback on the scheme. They were now looking to take an underground grid connection to Coalburn as this was likely to take less time. Access to the site would be using the main access for Kypemuir which was already consented.

Colin Anderson confirmed that he had begun speaking to each of the 4 CC's individually to confirm the verbal agreement of the 25% equal share of funding. Review of the process, it has been suggested, would be every 3 years as opposed to 5 with regards to matters associated with the community partnership. Next meeting to be confirmed.

Banks were launching the Connect2Renewables Charter jointly with SLC on Friday 28th November at 10am and an invitation had already been circulated to members by email. In response to questions about the use of local contractors, Banks confirmed that they were working with businesses, main contractors and sub- contractors to improve connections with local businesses and opportunities to benefit from some of the types of work available and tendering.