

**APPROVED minutes Carron Valley & District Community Council
Wednesday 3 February 2021 meeting, via Zoom @ 7.30pm**

Margaret Porter, Councillor, MP
Dorothy Breckenridge, Sec, DB
Nicolas Sinclair, Treasurer, NS
Rose Thomson, resident, RT
Helen Bang, clerk, HB

Peter Hayward, Chair PH
David Petch, Councillor, DP
Sara Smith, Councillor, SS
Krzysz Kubosz, resident, KK

- 1 **1.1 Introductions and welcome.** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 - 1.2- Apologies – police, Pam Campbell, Councillors.
 - 1.3- Declarations of interest for items on agenda - none
 - 1.4- items raised by members of the public for inclusion in agenda – none.

2. **Shelloc Windfarm 20/00840/FUL (PH)**

Height, illumination and impact on landscape 125 metres original now 180 metres are highest in new application. Challenges Council guidelines on skylines and visual impact. "In lowland hills landscape type any further windfarm development should relate to the hill typography..... inferior in scale to the hills, avoid creating new skyline features."

Can such tall towers be inferior to the scale of the hills. Height necessitates lights removing current Dark Skies status of the Valley.

CC objects to placement of tall turbines in this landscape. Want 150 metres or less to remove necessity for aviation illumination.

'Effects on 8 properties assessed will not make this an unattractive place to live' as statements rather than facts.

DB – Access from the north during construction. Up farm track, route is regulated way between Carron Valley and Kippen. Presumably will have to be closed during construction. Needs consultation at Government level.

Can't just divert a right of way.

IM – must emphasize Dark Skies initiative.

Vote – agreement with draft by PH.

- 2.1 **ACTION DB** to send sentence to PH to add to document. DP at Access Forum meeting in a fortnight will raise this.

See Appendix I

3 Community Police report

PC Pam King and PC Ross Barclay can't be present but will take note of comments.
Attached as Appendix II

One case of careless driving 7 January breach of the peace, communications – driving with a mobile phone.

4 Minutes of previous meeting on 6 January 2021

Actions - Shovels NS

Proposed David Petch, Seconded Sara Smith **ACTION HB** to DB for Stirling Council.

5 Matters arising

5.1 Actions

3.1 Approved December minutes to DB for Stirling Council HB

11.3 Scottish Water to be contacted PH

Contacted, appears to be Council issue. Have sent someone to look at it
Waiting to contact landowner. Along New Line Road. Water trough thing near the trotting track.

11.4 Purchase shovels for grit bins NS

13.2 Carron Valley Connections Facebook - winter weather reminder HB

13.3 Covid support meeting NS

5.2 Grit bins – 2 or 3 to replace damaged bins. **ACTION NS**

Post Box is going to be moved if possible. Post Office trying to get planning permission.

6 Chair's report PH

6.1 Thank gritting department for gritting C10. Better this year. More proactive than in the past.

6.2 North Third Bridge – repaired by Stirling Council, did a good job. However , boardwalks are a safety issue when wet. Looking into putting chicken wire to make them safer. Concern about doing work when unsure of landowner. Is it Tillhill land or Scottish Water? MP, Libi Newell and Susan Young having meeting shortly, this will be discussed. Angela Simpson involved with bridge renovation.

DB has sent letter thanking SC for their efforts.

7 Roads report PH

7.1 PH has been trying to get response about the junction NS concerned about. Hillfoot development people responsible for this. John Steele is Roads contact saying getting no response for this junction.

Gary Howden has never got in touch about attending Communities committee Stirling Council.

ACTION NS do 5 bullet point on road concerns.

IM nearly had an accident here 2-3 years ago. Scandalous that this has not been dealt with.

DB going to be accident at Carronbridge Hotel, road markings gone.

8 Secretary's report

- 8.1 Bridge at North Third – covered in point
- 8.2 Also going to do letter regarding Roads.

9 Treasurer's report.

£400 expenditure will be coming. Balance is £2317.36

10 Stirling Councillor report

- 10.1 No report received

11 Valley Renewables Group report

- 11.1 Report attached as Appendix III
- 11.2 Requires copy for Newsletter in next couple of weeks.
- 11.3 Defibrillators – will order once have installation costs. Woodland Cabin and Osprey Hideaways in first instance. Training will be provided.
- 11.4 Joint VRG/CVDCC meeting - getting to know you session – discussion of VRG subgroups, CC – responsibilities, current issues etc, Q & A. Wednesday 17 February 7:30pm. No minutes required.

12 Woodland Group report

- 12.1 Part of VRG report. Christmas trees – family volunteer day, start to prune it getting tree ready for next year.
- 12.2 Mulching and replanting was carried out. Had to leave out some hectares as it was so wet. Trees surplus will be planted elsewhere.
- 12.3 Path work including wheelchair access and reinstating damage caused during mulching etc. will be done once it's drier.
- 12.4 Discussion about developing wood skills within community. Chainsaw training - health and safety and first aid requirements. Also available for residents for work in domestic setting.
- 12.5 PH confirmed that RT and KK were aware of location of community woodland.

13 Roads report

- 13. PH has been trying to get response about the junction NS concerned about. Hillfoot development people responsible for this. John Steele is Roads contact saying getting no response for this junction. Near Cauldbarns development.

- 13.1 **ACTION RT and KK** offered to speak to Hillfoot Homes regarding road concerns.

Ask to finish landscaping on junction at corner.
Not responding to invitations to meetings. Not responding to grit bin issues.

NS do 5 bullet point on road concerns.

IM nearly had an accident here 2-3 years ago. Scandalous that this has not been dealt with.

NS Kenny Sneddon did say certain things would be done, perhaps get this letter and point out that action was promised.

13.2 **ACTION PH** – will send in response form.

14 Planning report

14.1 Meikle Canglour to convert steading building. Resident in farmhouse objecting on access road issues. Personal issue.

14.2 IM Barr Wood – no feedback received from planning.

15 AOB

15.1 DP Concern about Stirling Council staff working from home e.g. time taken to get a Blue Badge. Very difficult to get response.

16 Date of next CC meeting – 3 March 2021 at 7:30pm.

17 ACTIONS

2.1	Shelloc windfarm	
4.1	Approved minutes to DB for Stirling Council	HB
5.1	Carried over from January Purchase shovels for grit bins	NS
5.2	Purchase grit bins	NS
7.1	Roads action points	NS
13.1	Contact Hillfoot Development	RT/KK
13.2	Roads response form	PH

Appendix I Shelloc Windfarm

The Planning Department

Ref to Planning Application 20/00840/FUL

Carron Valley Community Council commends Force 9 Energy on the thoroughness of their application for the Shelloc Wind Farm.

The central point that Carron Valley Community Council would like the Planning Department to examine is the height of the two largest turbines, their illumination, and subsequent impact on the landscape.

The original consent for the force 9 wind farm was for turbines of 125m in height. In the Craigengelt array (currently the highest in the valley) turbines are 125m and the 2 highest in the proposed farm are 180m, half as high again.

This additional height will mean the blades and in some cases the hubs being visible from a number of viewpoints and will challenge the Council's guidance on skylines and visual impact

SG 33 states

In the Lowland Hills landscape type, this includes recommendations that any further wind farm development should: • relate to the simplicity of the hill topography; • be simply organised and compact, avoiding 'sprawl'; • remain greatly inferior in scale to the hills; and • avoid creating new skyline features on the hill edges.

Can such tall towers be inferior to the scale of the hills, and can their impact on the landscape be justified? The CC is of the opinion that these two towers are beyond an acceptable height for their surroundings.

The height of 180m will necessitate lights at the top and along the masts and the current dark sky nature of the Valley will be removed. This will be a transformational change to the valley which is currently planning a dark sky initiative. A Dark sky designation would encourage visitors to the valley and this is a project underway and currently being pursued by a development officer.

In short the CC objects to the placing of two very tall turbines in an area of sensitive landscape and asks that the Council impose of limit of 150m or less on all the proposed 5 turbines. Such a reduction in height would mitigate the environmental impact and remove the necessity for aviation illumination.

The Community Council would also like to draw to the attention of the planners the track / path south from Ballochleum to Carron Valley both a Core Path and an historic Right of Way. This is acknowledged by the applicants. Should the application be approved, the Community Council wishes to ensure that access is maintained during and after construction without hindrance, with an obligation placed on the Constructor/Developer to ensure access.

It behoves the Council to ensure due process is followed if there were any attempt to divert the Core Path and the Right of Way.

Throughout the report judgements of the impact of the development by the applicants have been presented as facts, for example "Effects on the 8 properties assessed will not make these properties undesirable places to live". Surely this judgement and others made by the applicant must not be rubber stamped but examined in an objective way, particularly the impact on the environment.

Kind regards

Peter Hayward

Planning Representative Carron Valley and District Community council

Appendix
Police Report

Name of

Carron Valley Community Council meeting

**Community
Council**

03/02/2021

Our priorities in the Carron Valley area continue to be Anti-Social Behaviour, Drug misuse/Drug dealing, Road Safety and Community Engagement and Reassurance.

Our activity over the last month has been focussed towards these priorities.

**Crime
reports**

**Crime Reports for Carron Valley from
06/01/2021-03/02/2021**

Detected cases: Nil

Undetected cases: 2

**07/01/2021 – Careless driving/breach of the
peace (enquiries on-going)**

**01/02/2021 – Communications offence
(enquiries on-going)**

Total Crime Reports: 2

There were 11 calls made to Police for the Carron Valley area over the stated period. The calls relate to vulnerable persons, anti-social behaviour, planned shoots and road traffic matters.

<p>Other Incidents of note/relevant Community Council information</p>	<p>Nothing of note.</p>
<p>Feedback from meeting</p>	<p>Please contact PC's King and/or Barclay with any community issues at the email address noted below or alternatively by calling Tel no. 101.</p> <p>StirlingWestCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk</p>

Appendix VRG report

Report on VRG activity for CVDCC Feb 3rd meeting

- **Grants** – Changes to Young Person's one – Age range change to - birth to 26yo. Bursary scheme now has no course length restriction.
- **Governance** – Reviewing and looking to amending the period of office of officers and the length of service of trustee / directors. Current suggestion is to apply a fixed term of 3 years for officers, renewable once. There is some concern about whether the numbers in community would support such a proposal. More evidence and advice is being sought before reaching a conclusion.
- **Communications** – Working on a new website plus making more use of Facebook and Carron Valley connections.
- **Newsletter** – The next one will come out late Feb / early March. Articles and ideas for such are being taken NOW.
- **C-19 Response** – Excellent package of Play and Learn materials for pre-school children to be distributed to 5 families, plus additional items of home-schooling devices to 5 locations.
- **Friends of North Third** – Working alongside this group to improve the surroundings of North Third. Looking at doing something to improve the board walks on the west side to make safer.

- **Defibs** – Once we get installation cost estimate, 2 defibs plus cabinets will be installed in the first instance at the Woodland Cabin and at Osprey Hideaways at N. Third.
- **Joint VRG / CC information exchange** - Date to be identified ?16th or 17th Feb. This would take the form of **short** explanations from each of the VRG sub-groups of what the do / plan to do, and info on roles of the various planning, roads, etc folk on the CC and their recent work and future challenges. There will be opportunities for Q&A.
- **Woodland Report** – in full overleaf.

Woodland Group report to VRG for Feb 2nd

- **Red Squirrel Project** - DB will take lead for this for the Woodland Group. To liaise with Libi and interested residents for a Red Squirrel subgroup.
- **Christmas trees** – realise we were late with the information but there was some uptake by residents. Agreement that we encourage residents to have their own ‘family Christmas tree volunteer work party’ to mark out their own wee family patch of Xmas trees and start to prune them into shape for future use. Infor for next VRG newsletter.
- **Mulching & replanting** – due to wet conditions only 1.92 hectares of the proposed 2.2H were mulched & replanted in autumn 2020. The remaining aspen and birch will be used in other parts of the site.
- **Paths** - There was some damage to small section of path which needs sorting. Agreed that this, together with some wet/soft patches at top end and the wheelchair access route would be all carried out together using the underspend from the mulching to cover most of the costs.
- **Pomona** – all quiet just now mainly due to Covid19 restrictions and weather.
- **Felling** - across from Muirmill area – would be after nesting season. PM in discussion with potential contractor and Scottish Water to take this forward. Isaac will be included in discussions on possible route of extraction.
- **Wood fuel event** – autumn 2021
- **SEPA** – Septic tank now registered with SEPA.
- **Finances** - As at 14 Jan 2021 cheques issued since last meeting total £16,796.08 for mulching/replanting, electricity, management fees.
- **Developing local wood management skills** – discussion about developing local wood management skills to for example use chainsaws for thinning / pruning around paths, etc. Acknowledge that serious work requires professional contractors. Such volunteers would have to be trained / assessed to an appropriate Forestry standard, including maintaining theses skills.
 - Identify local residents willing to be involved.
 - Identify the training requirements and how these can be best delivered locally on site. Eg use of chainsaw and appropriate first aid. Potential to include additional courses for other residents who use such tools domestically.
 - Purchase some group equipment.
 - Develop procedures and protocol for volunteers to carry out such activity on the site including Risk Assessments.If there is an interest, this would be developed into separate Community Wide Project, possibly lead by the group.

DB/RF Jan 29th '21