

WANLOCKHEAD VILLAGE COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 4TH MARCH 2019

Present:

Lynda Findlay, Chair, Anne Arrigoni, Treasurer, Androulla Richford, Secretary, William Findlay, Jennie Harvey, Neil Tollick, Isobel Gibb, Steven Morrison, P. Scott, Mac Blewer.

Apologies: Anjo Abelaira, Harvey Paterson.

Minutes of last meeting read, corrected, proposed by Anne and second by William. Corrections were: it was Neil who applied for a grant to purchase Christmas tree and not Jennie. And Clyde wind farm large grants decision day will be on the 26<sup>th</sup> March and not the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Lynda and Anne will be attending.

Matters Arising:

Sink Holes at Townhead. Chair to send a reminder to the Estate.

Pot Holes – Verges - Chair contacted D&G and is waiting for someone to come to the village for a walk around to identify what needs to be done.

A new resident in the village wishes to gift something for the village. The chair suggested a Bench for the top end of the village on Millennium path.

Steven Morrison reported on his preliminary enquiries regarding obtaining a galvanised structure to surround the newly planted village Christmas tree. It will be in sections for ease of erection and dismantling, 12-14 feet tall. He hopes to obtain a quote by next meeting.

Correspondence:

The chair received a letter from the BBC programme More or Less. They have been in the village and noticed the sign about Wanlockhead being the highest village. They may be doing a programme on High Places and wanted information as to when, how and when the claim of highest village occurred. We understand an official survey 10 years ago concluded Wanlockhead highest village in Scotland. (if anyone has other information please let us know).

Clyde Wind Farm Grant Application:

Mac Blewer, on behalf of WCT, and Lowther Heritage applied for a grant of £238 to purchase tree guards and stakes.

400 trees have been made available to Lowther Heritage courtesy of Lowther Hills Ski Club, for use in the village. (more information on this to follow on our Spring Update flyer out soon).

The grant was approved by 6 votes 3 abstentions due to conflict of interest.

Finance:

Treasurer's Report attached.

Secretary reminded the meeting that she is still waiting for D&G to bill the VC for Christmas Lights services.

The chair, apologised and informed the meeting that she has become aware of having overlooked completion of the paperwork regarding the September draw down from Clyde wind farm funding.

Leadhills and Wanlockhead Railway:

Harvey Paterson supplied the VC with maps and plans that the Railway will be seeking planning permission for. The maps will be displayed in the Community Centre. The Centre is open every Friday morning between 10-12 for the Fareshare and those wishing to see the plans can do so then.

Harryburn Wind Farm Inquiry:

The VC was represented at the above inquiry by Androulla and Isobel. The proposal is for 16 wind turbines near Leadhills. SNH Scottish Natural Heritage and South Lanarkshire Council gave a robust account of their objection to this proposal.

The following quotes should give us all hope.

**" wrong place, Cumulative effect on a landscape that makes a significant contribution to the distinctiveness and identity of Scotland's landscape. Noting that the Leadhills and Wanlockhead villages, and the neighbouring Lowther hills which help provide their setting, contribute to the regional identity and distinctiveness of Scotland's landscape".**

**Also " However in this case it was the combination of unique conservation villages and the particular qualities of the Lowther Hills, most clearly expressed in this location, which led to the decision to object.**

**To the Applicant's suggestion that our landscape is 'unexceptional, the response was " it cannot be said for example, that it is unexceptional, let alone commonplace. That adds weight to the objection and demonstrates that this development is in the wrong place".**

**The meeting discussed a village Spring Update flyer.**

**AOB.**

**We will be looking into the possibilities of organising First Aid classes for villagers.**

**Lowther Hills Ski Club sent the VC an update on the building of the Ski Hut.**

**On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March a bus will be made available to take villagers up the hill for the Inauguration of the Hut.**

**Lowther Hills Ski Club will be leafleting the village giving details of the event.**

**Community Centre SCIO**

**Isobel informed the meeting that D&G council are doing repairs on the building. There will be a separate update from the SCIO.**

**NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON 1ST APRIL, 2019**