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SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2016 – WANLOCKHEAD VILLAGE COUNCIL  
MEETING

PRESENT:

Audrey Ridley, Chair, Androulla Richford, Secretary, Lynda Findlay, William Findlay, Mandy Bindley, Paul Cope, Rab Campbell, Karin Oostindjer.

Guest Speakers: Anjo Abelaira - Lowther Ski Club  
Mac Blewer - Wanlockhead Community Trust

Apologies: Anne Arrigoni, Marilyn and Harry Pickburn, Ian Marden, Alan Nisbet (Queensberry Estate Manager)

Minutes were read and approved.

Matters Arising:

Millenium Paths and Mennock. Lynda reported that Community Payback have cleared paths around the village refurbished one bench and two more to do. Also confirmed that the above group still clear the Mennock Pass rubbish which is left behind by campers. Lynda will write to George Moffat, to acknowledge the work already done.

Lynda also confirmed that she and William will be attending the SSE Clyde wind farm meeting being held on the 13<sup>th</sup> September.

The Chair invited Anjo Abelaira to update the meeting on the progress of Lowther Ski Club. Anjo spoke of a busy summer working on the ski lift and confirmed that the web cam is working again. Viewing is popular during the summer months as well as in winter. Web Cam had been disabled due to Radar changes causing interference to the signal.

Funding request of £100,000 will be made to build a ski lodge for families to visit. Will be asking MSP's for support. The Ski club has 400 members and membership fees are: Annual membership Adult £39 – under 18's £22 – Family £66. permanent residents in Wanlockhead and Leadhills get 50% off.

Question from Rab Campbell. Asked about previous grants given to 5 other ski centres in Scotland. Anjo replied that the above were granted

before Lowther ski was set up and had subsequently received disappointing feedback from the then Minister, Fergus Ewing). Will re engage with new Minister Aileen Campbell.

Question from William Findlay. How about an artificial ski slope for year round.? Anjo replied that it has not been possible yet due to lack of land availability but this may change in the future. Also that in the Buyout consultation there were many ideas and suggestions from the village regarding winter sport including a dry ski slope if land was available.

The chair invited Mac Blewer to update the meeting about WCT proposed buyout.

Mac Blewer reported on the progress made by WCT regarding the proposed Buyout so far. He outlined aspirations and progress on the route map being followed.

- . The Community Consultation Report which has taken 4 months to compile. Engaging with the village from which 93 ideas resulted of what may be possible.
- . Some of the recurring ideas include: Tourism, village amenities sustainable energy and forestry. Five to ten of the suggestions will be chosen to be included in the Feasibility Study that is required by the Scottish Government.

A map of the area under the proposal was handed out. About 14,000 acres of estate land in and around Wanlockhead. A discussion ensued of what may be possible. Mac told the meeting that at the first meeting between the Estate and WCT the Estate said they would provide WCT with a 'traffic light' map indicating what the Estate is willing to negotiate. The WCT is going ahead with registering an interest in the land.

Question from Paul Cope. Is the Estate likely to sell any land since they have a proposal for a wind farm?

Mac replied that the Scottish Government would have to decide whether they give their backing to a village buyout or to the wind farm.

Mac stated that he would like to work more with the Village Council in the future.

The chair thanked both of the visiting speakers.

Rab Campbell pleaded that both Leadhills and Wanlockhead work together to achieve mutual ambitions for improving the future of the villages.

Correspondence:

From Isobel Gibb: Regarding writing a letter to Kenneth McLean, regarding Social Housing in Wanlockhead. Although she had agreed to write the above letter at a previous meeting. She now felt it should be done by a member of the committee. Lynda Findlay agreed to do this.

Also from Isobel Gibb: feed back from village on the flyer circulated asking if anyone did not want any Christmas lights near their properties. Residents of Townhead Cottage would not wish for any.

Letter to the Chair from Alan Nesbit, Queensberry Estate Manager, sending his apologies that he would not be able to attend this meeting. But would it be possible to receive a copy of the minutes. This was discussed and it was decided that as he did not attend it would not be appropriate to send him the minutes.

Letter also received from the office of Claudia Beamish, regarding the Queensberry Tailings Pond. She informed the WVC that a meeting had taken place between D&G Council and Buccleuch Estates. It was her understanding that it was agreed that the tailing ponds will be fenced off. Also that there is a further testing of the due pond and she is awaiting to hear when this will take place. She sent her best wishes to the village regarding the Buyout and is interested in being kept informed of the progress.

A discussion followed regarding various aspects of the pollution. Also undesirable features around the village of rusting cars and oil spillages etc. SEPA have stated in the past that owners are responsible but D&G are looking into this. Whilst on the subject of contamination the meeting heard that as part of the Buyout Feasibility Study there will be a consultation on contamination.

Mandy Bindley suggested that a lot of information on contamination is already available.

The chair suggested that Stair Brown, a resident in the village could be applied to for information since he is involved in something to do with soil.

There was also the suggestion that a letter be sent to the Estate asking about their plans to reduce heavy metals in this area. X

Finance:

Treasurers Report:

Wanlockhead Village Council

2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2016

Wind Farm Account

Opening Balance £1,744.03

No Expenditure

Closing Balance £1,744.03

Village Council Account

2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2016

Opening Balance £723.76

No Expenditure

Closing Balance £723.76

AGM: To be held on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> September. Nominations handed in Mac Blewer will chair.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm