

ROYAL BURGH OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Royal Burgh of Kirkcudbright Community Council, Kirkcudbright on Wednesday 11th August at 5pm held via Zoom.

Present

Mrs L Garbutt Chair
Mr L Forbes Treasurer
Mr D McHale
Mr I Swan
Mr Collins
Cllr P Drysdale

Apologies

Cllr D Campbell
Cllr J Maitland
Mr B Thomson Vice Chair

In attendance

Ms D Craig

Mrs Garbutt welcome everyone to the August meeting and introduced Derek Mitchell, Tom Woof and Alistair Fell from Propros, who were giving a short presentation regarding a proposed solar panel farm at Borgue. It was explained that they would also be hosting webinars and a drop in session.

DMcH asked what size area the proposed development would cover and would the infrastructure mean that pylons would be needed.

DM of Propros replied that it would cover 48 hectares, involving 40-50,000 solar panels. 70% of that 48 hectares would remain grassland. SPEN were in the process of designing a scheme to transport the electricity to Tongland Power Station. AF also said at this point that it was unlikely to be pylons being used.

DM continued and explained that the development would be below the ridge lines and would not be seen from Kirkcudbright and the coastal side. Screening would also be planted. It was also established that, following a question from IS regarding the roads being one track, that access would be directly onto the A755, which was a dual track road then onto the A75.

LF then asked where the batteries were being manufactured. DM replied that they were mostly manufactured in Germany, USA and China and would probably be coming from China, although a final decision had not been made. LF then raised the point that surely, as an environmental matter, they should be sourced closer to home. LG raised the point that this was a major concern and TW of Propros thanked the CC for raising the issue and agreed it was a point that would be taken from the meeting.

DMcH then suggested that gravity storage was something that could be explored. DM replied that this was an emerging technology and something that was suited more to area where old

mineshafts etc were situated.

DC then raised the issue of safety following reports of a recent explosion. DM replied saying that the safety standards were incredibly high.

LG thanked Prospos for their time and they left the meeting.

Given that time was limited, there were the following discussions rather than the usual CC meeting format.

All reports and correspondence had been forwarded by email.

CG Fund – LF reported that he had still not received a reply regarding the CG Fund and he had contacted Audit Scotland as a result. He expected to hear back from them within 30 days and would report the reply to the next CC meeting.

Cllr Drysdale reported that there was to be a CG Fund meeting on 18th August for which she had just received the papers. After reading out the agenda, it was agreed that Cllr Drysdale report to the meeting that a resident of Kirkcudbright who was in fact a retired Chartered Accountant and Treasurer of the KBT CC he could see no reason or advantage of Brewin Dolphin attending the CG meeting.

AOB:

Parking: DC raised concerns over the matter of a van and catamaran being parked outside The Johnston that had been there some time. It was agreed that the owner of the vehicles be contacted and asked to move them.

Banners: Another banner had appeared on Tongland Bridge. It was agreed that the roads department be contacted to have the banner removed.

Potholes: Despite reporting them the potholes had still not been repaired. Cllr Drysdale advised DC to report them again.

Seagulls: Cllr Drysdale reported that there were continued concerns over the number of gulls and she was pursuing the matter.

D&G Health Board: LG reported that Friends of Kirkcudbright had held a meeting with Chief Exec Jeff Ace regarding concerns over cottage hospital in town. The renal unit had returned and there had been reassurances that there were no plans to close the hospital.

Covid testing: Cllr Drysdale reported that testing sites were now situated throughout the Stewartry, one of which was The Johnston.

Scotland Loves Local: Cllr Drysdale reported that a new fund had been announced and encouraged applications to be made.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6.15pm. The date of the next meeting was 8th September at 7pm in the council building.