



**PLAINS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting held Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2012**  
**at 6.30 p.m. within Top Hall, Plains Community Centre**

**Present:** Mary Doris, Fay Kerr, Anne Marshall, Lilian Geurts, Elspeth Wright, Margaret Waddell, Bob Summerhill, Anne Summerhill

**Introduction:**

Newly appointed Chairperson, Mary Doris, opened the Meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for making themselves available, at such short notice, at an unscheduled meeting, in order to discuss primarily, the CC's response to the Greengairs' East Wind Farm Ltd Application, and also to discuss, as yet, unresolved issues before making a 'fresh start' at the first meeting of the next CC session in September 2012

**1. Apologies:** None

**2. Category of meeting:**

This was not a normal Business Meeting, but a necessary, extra one, given the, then understood, time constraints in which to respond adequately to the above application, which was accompanied by a massive amount of documentation to be read and collated before any informed response could be made.

**3. A.E.S. Documentation Distribution:**

**a. Distribution of Wind Farm Documentation**

MD talked about the difficulty encountered because of the error made at the last Meeting, of the CC (AGM) when the suite of integrated documentation, divided into volumes, was distributed in individual parts to Community Councillors. EW, previous Chair, was aware that the document should not have been split, but unfortunately was not present to advise us.

MD and FK stated that there were further problems in tackling any response to this application, particularly because of the fact that the explanatory covering letter, and an accompanying CD ROM, was not timeously made available to them. The covering letter, in fact, highlighted that documentation was missing. MD asked that every attempt should be made to avoid any such delay in future.

The original closing date for response to the Application was June 30<sup>th</sup> 2012. MD later learned from Colin Marshall ( NLC Planning ) that the original Planning Notice in the Advertiser was, in fact, wrong, and that it would therefore have to be re-advertised, and also that the closing dates advertised were, in fact, 'minimum' response times, and that CC would have up to four months in which to respond.

EW advised that the CC should make full use of this extra time as she thought more information might become available to inform our response. She also spoke of possible pending turbine applications to NLC. MD agreed to contact NLC Planning to request information on any pending wind farm development in the area, and also to request any other documentation that was pertinent to The Greengairs East Wind Farm Ltd Application. MD stated her intention to use the additional response time to inform and consult with the public on this application.

MD also stated her intention to inform and consult with the public on the application from the already consented Covanta Combined Heat and Power Plant, located at Darngavil Road, Drumshangie, Airdrie. This further application is for a permit from SEPA to operate an incinerator at this plant. It was noted that Covanta are also holding a pre-application public event in Plains Primary School in relation to the company's proposals to change some of the original planning conditions. Some CC members stated their intention of attending this event which will be on held Wednesday, 18th July in Plains Primary school.

**b. Discussion on Contents of Wind Farm Responses**

MD had compiled a summary of a large part of the Greegairs East Development Plan, and put forward, for discussion, some issues she had identified as important - flooding, instability if the land, access/traffic routes, possible job opportunities and community benefits.

MD informed Members that after reading, and compiling a summary of the documentation, she would issue a copy to each CC and requested that they read it and offer opinions, suggestions and/or amendments on what they felt should be included in the response.

#### **4. Consultation with Villagers:**

All agreed to an additional CC Meeting at the end of August/beginning of September to further discuss this development and the CC's response to it. The Public will be informed via The Advertiser. Once MD has finished with the AES documentation, it will be made available for public consultation in the Community Centre. The Public will also be informed of this in The Advertiser and through information leaflets located at strategic points in the village e.g. shops, pub etc.

#### **5. Transference of Community Council IT Equipment and all CC Business Papers/ Files to new Chairperson:**

MD has been assured by T. Gaffney of Corporate Services that these transfers should happen. However, EW and MW were of the belief that EW would be allowed to purchase the IT equipment if she so wished. A discussion was held, and it was agreed that if MD, as new Chair, wanted these items, she was entitled to have them. MD and EW will now liaise, regarding the physical transference of equipment and business files, once EW has had all personal material wiped from the pc.

CC also agreed that EW should be reimbursed for any expense incurred in removal of personal information from the pc.

#### **6. Plains Development Trust Fund of £500 donated by Infinis:**

Discussion was held regarding the sum of £500 held in PCC Bank Account. The opinion of the Auditor was that PCC may, if it so decided, utilise the monies for purposes other than for which it was originally provided. It was proposed that PCC may wish to consider if the monies could be utilised for Community Futures' Community Garden Project. Other Community Councillors did not agree with this proposal, mindful that this money was given to PCC by Infinis, for the sole purpose of setting up a 'Plains Development Trust'.

If PCC decided that a Plains Development Trust is to be set up, then it would be used as a repository for all possible, future, Community Benefits/Awards gained by PCC. Another suggestion was that the £500 be used for some of the suggested PCC projects previously discussed at a recent meeting on funding issues

Discussion was held regarding the feasibility of resurrecting the idea of establishing a Plains Community Development Fund or making use of the Scottish Community Foundation as an alternative, within which to lodge, any possible Community Benefits/ Monetary Awards from the various companies who are planning developments within Plains and its environs.

No decision was reached.

**7. Training Sessions on applications to Access Funding:**

Sessions will be delivered to PCC, by Elspeth Wright and Colin Bruce (CLD), after September, 2012.

**8. List of Generated Funds from Past Chair:**

EW advised she had placed an article in the latest Community Newsletter.

**9. Community Futures Minutes being copied to PCC Members:**

Bob Summerhill, Chair of Community Futures, stated that there is now a problem with delivering the above, as their Secretary has left. The group now consists of 4 members only, but minutes will be available in future.

FK queried possible access to back copies.

**10. Hard Copying to Margaret:**

EW agreed to resume copying of Minutes and delivery to MW. She will claim appropriate expenses. MD thanked her for offering to do this.

**11. Banking arrangements:**

MW advised MD as regards arrangements to enable her, as new Chairperson, to become one of the three required signatories for PCC Bank Account. MD stated that she would attend to this. The Chairperson closed the Meeting by thanking everyone for their input and by wishing them a happy, summer break.

**12. D.O.N.M: - 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2012**