

Rigside & Douglas Water Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on 13th March 2025 - 19.00 in Rigside Community Hall, Rigside

1. Present;

Community Councillors – Jim Blair, John Lennox , Andy Wallace, Frances Wallace, and Teresa Dingle.

In attendance;

Joanne Townsley

2. Apologies;

Com Cllr Brian Dingle, Cllr Ross Lambie

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting;

Acceptance of the previous minutes were proposed by Cllr Andy Wallace and seconded by Cllr Frances Wallace

Actions from previous meeting.

All actions from previous meeting have been completed to the satisfaction of the Chair

4. Matters Arising

Previous to this meeting the councillors met informally to discuss the vacancies and to approach individuals who we considered to fit the requirements.

Joanne Townsley has accepted the invitation as she is a committee member on the Tenants and Residents assoc. She would be the sole representative residing in Douglas Water .thus giving the area representation on the Council

Joanne Townsley was formerly accepted on to the Community council and her documents are to be forwarded to the SLC by the Secretary.

Action Cllr J Lennox

The Chair advised that Lynn Murphy and Kirsty Thomson have started a Community Action Group called **Windy Wonders** which will be offering short courses on numerous subjects in the Rigside Hall which will be available to all residents.

Lynn Murphy is still determined to produce a quarterly Newsletter for the village. Funding for this has been made available via the Renewable Energy Fund.

5. Police Report

Unfortunately no body from the Police were available to attend the meeting.

6. Secretary's Report

The only direct correspondence to note was the resignation letters from both Cllr Betty Kerr and Cllr Kate Cowan.

Various other SLC communications had been received but these were deemed inappropriate to be discussed at the meeting.

7. Treasurer's Report

As the Community Council has yet to be given a bank account there is no method of receiving payments into our funds.

The Chair stated that he would chase the bank yet again to establish the reason for the holdup

Action Cllr Blair

8. Updates.

Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS)

The Chair advised that he had received communication from Alda Forbes of Bay-wa (the original owners of the Broken Cross wind farm) that the new company ERG/ RES have been in contact with the latest proposal regarding the registration and payments of the LEDS See the table below

Leaflets describing the LEDS are to be distributed to all local residents advising the process to be followed and the registration requirements.

It is noted by Bay-wa that this year's pay-out will be in the region of £250/ household

The Chair advised that he would contact Alda Forbes of Bay-wa to establish when the next payment was due. The Tenants and Residents Assoc. were originally advised that payment should have started last year.

Action Cllr Blair

Action	Timeframes
Leaflet Merge Approval with Printer (DH)	w/c 17 th March
Leaflet Printing and Posting	w/c 24 th March
Application submissions	w/c 24 th March – 5 th May
2025 Application deadline	6 th May 2025
Finalise processing applications	w/c 5 th May - w/c 12 th May
First Payment	w/c 19 th May – w/c 26 th May

Battery Electricity Storage System (BESS)

The Community Council have been advised that there is a proposal for a new BESS to be built at High Netherfauld Farm just north of the village on the East side of the M74.

There was a presentation regarding this matter which took place on the 6th March 2024 but it was poorly attended. The Company developing this proposal, ADITUS, have advised that a repeat presentation will take place on the 20th Mar in Rigside hall and they have asked the Community Council to assist in spreading the word.

Notices to be posted in Shop, Dr Surgery, School, Nursery and Hall including Windy Wonders FB page.

Action Cllr J Lennox

Coalburn, Douglas, Lesmahagow, Rigside (CDLR)

The chair advised the latest position regarding the formation of the group set up to manage the funds from Scottish Power / Windfarms.

There are 3 representatives from each of the 4 villages on the CDLR committee. The financial respects of the group will be managed by Point North who are well respected in the field. The CDLR group are in the process of obtaining SCIO status and have enrolled the services of a Solicitor.

It is expected to manage approx. £968K/yr for the life of the windfarms.

1st payment of £260K is expected in July this year.

There will be a major launch by Scottish Power in the near future. TBC

9. Any Other Business

Communications

There was a general discussion on how we should communicate as a group to disseminate information to the community.

As we are still awaiting a bank account to be set up we cannot apply for funding to pay for advertising or new notice boards etc.

The only option available at this time is to set up a Facebook page for the council and to use the pages of other groups in the location.

Andy Wallace discussed his ideas for the FB page and agreed to get one set up ASAP.

Action Cllr A Wallace.

Bodinglee Wind Farm

On Path (Formerly Banks Group) gave a presentation to the 6 Local councils which will be affected by the new Windfarm / BESS planned for the Bodinglee area. The company advised that there would be no direct financial payments made to those affected but proposed to make financial contributions to ensure no household was affected by fuel poverty. The company propose to survey the 6500 houses across the area and help out with any material uplift required whether the property is council or privately owned. Obviously if council grants are available these will be utilised with the company paying for the additional sums required. As it will be Approx. 2030 before any power is produced by this proposal things are likely to change so watch this space. It was noted that approx. £53million would be available over the lifespan of the windfarm

10. Date of Next Meeting;

Thursday 1st May at 1830 hrs in Rigside Community Hall , Rigside

11. Close of Meeting;

The chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20.20pm

Please Note : Any items members wish to have placed on the agenda must be with the Secretary at least 2 weeks in advance of the meeting.