

## **Minutes of Working Group meeting 27th April 2016 in Arngask Church Hall**

### **Present**

S Whiting (Chair), K Armstrong (Secy), B Macpherson, A Johnston, B Harrison, C Fotheringham, J Armstrong, S Morton, D Aird, C Todd, M Ponton, S Clarke, G Smith, L Godsell

### **Apologies**

S Allan, S Mee, A Harrison, Cllr W Robertson

### **Minutes of last meeting**

Proposed by AJ, seconded BM

### **Matters arising from previous minutes**

All items will be covered in agenda

### **Local Review Body**

Many questions were raised on the decision making process, whether the panel failed to adhere to the Local Review Body procedures and whether all members of the panel had declared all interests in their Notice of Registerable Interests. KA, JA & MP reported on panelists' registers and communications with individual members of the panel.

It was agreed that the group instigate a Judicial Review, believed at this stage to be the only option available to the community. KA to contact Local Review Body Clerk and obtain full details of minutes of hearing, panel selection process and timeframe for community to act. SM to contact QC (Queen's Council) and obtain advice for Judicial Review procedure.

It was noted that individuals may contact Ombudsman. Likewise individuals may make representations to their MP, MSPs, Councillors etc.

### **Press**

Press coverage of the events so far have been extensive and since the Review Body meeting the secretary and chairman have been contacted by reporters. It was agreed that we continue to co-operate with the press and a sub group of SW, KA, JA & MP was formed to co-ordinate all information to be submitted by the group.

It was noted that individuals may contact the press at any time submitting personal statements.

### **Glenfarg Community Company**

The company Glenfarg Community Company has been registered with Companies House as a limited by guarantee company. SC 532483. At present there are 25 members. Any individual or group, e.g. a club, can be become a member. Details of the first AGM when members will elect the Board and agree membership fee (if any) will be advertised extensively. Anyone wishing to become a member may contact the company secretary direct.

### **Community Right to Buy**

Having registered the above company the community body were able to make application to the Scottish Government to register an interest in purchase of land under the conditions contained in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. This application is currently being

processed and landowner Arngask Hotels Ltd has been informed. Also informed are the heritable creditors, Jersey based New Life Investments Limited and Thincats Loan Syndicates Limited of Tamworth, Staffordshire.

It was noted that support for application already stands at over 40% and this has been noted by Scottish Government CRTB team who require only 15% to process the application.

### **Interim Social Hub**

Village Hall - E mail correspondence from the chairman of the village hall committee to Cllr Robertson was discussed and extract is quoted.

*“Following great deal of debate it was agreed that the "Action Group" be asked to provide more information about the Club and how it would operate. At a minimum the Committee would like to know:*

*the purpose and objects of the Club*

*the activities that would take place within the premises*

*the criteria for membership and the cost of membership*

*what organisation would be responsible, and what its structure would be (e.g., would it be incorporated or unincorporated, a charity etc.)*

*the hours of opening*

*how the premises would be managed*

*whether the premises would be available for use for activities beyond those of the Club itself*

*what would happen to any surpluses that might be made*

*what would happen to any assets on dissolution of the organisation.*

*Following receipt of this information the Committee has agreed to review it and, if it considers it appropriate thereafter, to convene a meeting of representatives of all hall user groups to discuss the proposal. Should this meeting be supportive of the proposal, the Committee would then need to seek the permission of the Hall Trustees prior to making any arrangements with the Action Group regarding terms and conditions relating to the use of the ground. As it is possible that legal costs would be incurred in seeking Trustees permission, could you let me know if the Action Group would be in a position to cover such costs.”*

The group’s response is to be agreed and possible other CRTB applications to be considered.

Bowling Club - SW contacted Arthur Jenkins of the Glenfarg Bowling Club outlining initial proposals for consideration by Glenfarg Bowling Club. Extracts from proposal (14th April) and response (22nd April) are quoted.

*Extract from proposal*

*“...outline the perceived benefits to the Bowling Club which might be as follows;*

*1. A weekly/monthly rental to the Bowling Club*

*2. Refurbishment of the Pavilion*

*3. Increased membership potential to Bowling Club – anyone wanting to ‘partake’ in the Pavilion would need to join the club – create social membership maybe.*

*4. Limited opening hours – we would be led by Club on which nights you would rather have Pavilion to yourselves, such as on match nights maybe.*

5. Any possible Council Tax increase (or similar?) would be paid by working group funds.
6. confirmation that this would be for a limited time frame until such time as the Hotel reopens ( maybe under community ownership) or a permanent replacement pub/village hub is found/built!"

*Extract from response*

*"it would appear that the majority of the membership are still unhappy with the proposal."*

It was agreed that KA write to secretary/contact for Bowling club Janet Ewart requesting detail of why members were unhappy and what concerns were raised in order that the working group can allay fears and/or address issues that may affect future plans of the group.

Site of Old Pavillion in Wallace Park - This option is to be examined with SW & MP to research and work with Stephens.

### **Funding**

KA has requested an application form for Micro Grant to cover ongoing room hire etc costs from Glenfarg Community Council. Under present arrangement expense claims are submitted to the Glenfarg Community Council Treasurer. Claim covering period 9th March to 17th April has been submitted to Treasurer but to date (27th April) has not been settled.

Application to Lochelbank Wind Farm is being pursued.

CF briefly reported on funding for Community purchase of land and hotel. CF has been making extensive enquiries and initial contacts with various funders. Full report at next meeting. CRTB team have also assisted in providing contacts for such funding.

Funding for Judicial Review, if required, will be raised from private or public sources.

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30pm**

**Date of next meeting - Wednesday 18th May**