

CEDAR

GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 20th January 2026 7.15pm, Crawford Village Hall

MINUTES OF MEETING



	<p><u>Present</u></p> <table><tr><td><u>Trustees:</u> Daniel Jones Fiona Cameron Morag Ritchie Daniel Rowley Jane Quinn Valerie Witham</td><td><u>Members:</u> Steve Ritchie Bruce Fraser Jeremy Cooper</td><td><u>Non-Members:</u> Helen Ward Thalia White Astrid Cooper Andrew Grant Jim Munro Shannon Wilkinson</td><td><u>Apologies:</u> Joyce Gilmartin Helen Hally Anne Hume Fiona Greenhorn</td></tr></table>	<u>Trustees:</u> Daniel Jones Fiona Cameron Morag Ritchie Daniel Rowley Jane Quinn Valerie Witham	<u>Members:</u> Steve Ritchie Bruce Fraser Jeremy Cooper	<u>Non-Members:</u> Helen Ward Thalia White Astrid Cooper Andrew Grant Jim Munro Shannon Wilkinson	<u>Apologies:</u> Joyce Gilmartin Helen Hally Anne Hume Fiona Greenhorn
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1.	<p>Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>DJ welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave an introduction to the agenda items. We were joined by Siobhan Jarvie, Calum Mollison, John McGeehan and Calum Sydney from Muirhall Energy who were introduced and started off the meeting.</p>				
2.	<p>Muirhall Energy – Priestgill Wind Farm & Elvanfoot BESS Update</p> <p>The team presented a document which detailed the development, planning, community engagement, and benefits of the Elvanfoot BESS and Priestgill Wind Farm projects. They started with the Elvanfoot BESS 2 & 3 Timeline and Site Details which explained;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental assessments underway from June 2025 to inform design.• Finalized designs and planning applications scheduled between August 2025 and February/March 2026.• Planning process ongoing from March 2026 onwards.• Site includes two phases with designated site compounds and infrastructure, with a consented 9.8MW BESS.• The works for the Abington – Glengonnar will start in the first week of February.• Cabling in Abington will start in March and run until July/August. <p>JC spoke about the level of rock fill platform on low lying land and asked for information on the plans for this, also asking if information about this would be available on the application. He was advised that a drawing will be made available once submitted.</p> <p>The group were advised that a statutory consultation was being held with the Fire Services also, they were contacted in August 2025 and were told to refer to best practice guidance.</p> <p>JM asked more about the distance to the residential properties and the upgrading of Leadhills Road in Elvanfoot due to the heavy traffic damaging the roads. He also asked about reducing the speed limit with contractors for accessing the windfarm for construction. The Team spoke about carrying out a pre-condition survey of the road conditions and that the times for construction would be determined by planning that had been granted, but they believed that it would be</p>				

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	<p>inclusive of speed limits and no more than a 12-hour time for works, such as 7am to 7pm. There was also a discussion about issues with egress but this would be traffic-controlled.</p> <p>Then moved onto the Priestgill Wind Farm Construction. There was an explanation that the turbine bases would be formed and concreted on site. The infrastructural alterations to the road would happen around the services on approximately the 14th-16th April and this would lead to junction 13 being shut overnight. The blades will be transported off junction 13 from Glasgow and will entail traffic management, although there is not the same level of interruption for transporting the blades.</p> <p>SJ said that she was happy to work with the community to ensure communications were shared about the works including through Facebook, the community newsletter, posters and face to face meetings. There was also a suggestion of them attending a Tea on Tuesday event to allow people to come and speak with the team. SJ also shared that she is involved in planning meetings through the schools to speak with children about getting involved in renewable energy.</p> <p>SJ moved on to discuss the Community Funds. The information shared included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial investment fund of £35,000 during construction, with over £15,000 awarded to local groups. • Annual community investment fund of £218,000 (£5,000 per MW), shared equally with Duneaton CC. • Local supply chain initiatives include a 'Meet the Buyer' event and online contractor registration. • Community benefit schemes include apprenticeship, training grants, education support, and community project funding. • Energy discount scheme offers per household benefits, with options utilizing 50%, 75%, or 100% of available funds, affecting the amount allocated for community projects. • Funding varies based on household proximity to turbines, with discounts ranging from £108 to £430 per household depending on distance and funding utilization level. <p>SJ explained from her talks with DCC, they are thinking of using 100% of the available funds on the energy discount scheme, and it was agreed by all Trustees in attendance that this would also be our thinking as there is already money in a ringfenced account for the community to use on other projects so it was not of benefit to invest any more. There will be further meetings between CEDAR and DCC which are already being planned with the Office Bearers, and any information will be fed back to the group. SJ made all aware that the deadline for this is Spring 2027 to allow any decisions to be reached and due diligence to be carried out to ensure that households are claiming fairly.</p> <p>There were further discussions with the individuals from Elvanfoot in regards to how they are being impacted by the BESS and it was agreed with SJ that a separate meeting would be arranged to allow them to speak about this properly.</p> <p>Siobhan Jarvie, Calum Mollison, John McGeehan and Calum Sydney were thanked for their attendance tonight and left the meeting at this point. JC, AC, AG, TW and JM also left at this point.</p>
3.	<p>Approve Previous Minutes</p> <p>It was noted that there had not been any recorded agreement on previous meeting minutes approval, so this was carried out.</p>

	<p>The August meeting minutes were agreed as accurate with no amendments required.</p> <p>The September meeting minutes were agreed as accurate with no amendments required.</p> <p>The October meeting minutes were agreed as accurate with no amendments required.</p> <p>The December meeting minutes were agreed as accurate with no amendments required.</p>
4.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>MR went through the emails that had been received;</p> <p>There had been applications received for Ordinary Membership for Shannon Wilkinson, Steffani Broadfoot, and Beth Cameron. These were all agreed at the meeting and welcomed by the group. At the meeting Helen Ward and James Munro also completed application forms and were agreed as Members. DJ spoke about how positive it was to have new individuals interested in joining and hopes that with further advertising and engagement we will be able to welcome more members of the community over the following months.</p> <p>Following a discussion that DJ, FC and MR had previously had, MR emailed the Manager at the Abington Welcome Break asking if there was the possibility of a local community's discount scheme. Kim, the Abington Service Manager, responded and said that such a scheme currently doesn't exist, but she felt this was a really good idea and would take it further with Head Office to discuss the possibility of this being taken forward. MR will update the group if any further information is received. There was a suggestion about asking if it was possible to arrange passes for all day parking for a select number of vehicles to allow people to use the public transport links.</p> <p>An email had been received by DR regarding the Elvanfoot Church from someone who knows the owner of the Church. They wished to be a point of contact should anyone have any interest in discussing the future of the Church for the use of the community. This was shared with JC who said he would ask around and see if there was anyone interested in taking this further. There was a suggestion that the children's home might have interest as they are close to the building.</p> <p>Renewco Power shared information on the second consultation events that have been scheduled to discuss the 21 turbines, substation and the BESS. These events have been set for the Leadhills Village Hall on 10.02.2026 and Cawfordjohn Village Hall on 11.02.2026. Both events will take place from 3pm to 8pm if anyone is interested in attending. Information has also been shared via letters that they have sent out to households, and a post was shared on Facebook regarding this.</p>
5.	<p>Transport Initiative Update</p> <p>DJ presented a slide with an update on the Community Transport Initiative.</p> <p>The survey closed with 29 responses, and the door-to-door service was the most popular option, with trips to Biggar and Moffat being the most requested. In regards to payments, £2 was the most popular cost.</p> <p>The challenge raised was that there was a lack of volunteer drivers. 4 people volunteered but 3 of these people work full time. 6 people said maybe, and 12 said no. This will need to be revisited dependent on the times people wish to hire the vehicle or this could have a negative impact on the service being provided.</p>

	<p>For next steps, DJ will arrange a meeting with the transport subgroup so that a decision can be made based on the feedback received on the correct vehicle to purchase for the use of the community. Recommendations will then be pulled together and options will be presented for Trustee approval.</p>												
<p>6.</p>	<p>Feasibility Study Update</p> <p>DJ presented a slide with an update on the feasibility study.</p> <p>There had been a discussion to use of the ring-fenced funds to close the shortfall in the funding gap as the money applied for had not been fully received to pay for the works agreed with CES. This was agreed in principal and DJ advised that a meeting had been arranged with Lynda from CES, Colin and Kenny to agree the correct governance and process to unlock the funds. DJ will arrange this meeting to take place with the hall management subgroup and set the timeline for the works and scope.</p>												
<p>7.</p>	<p>Community Action Officer</p> <p>DJ went over the options for moving forward in getting a Community Action Officer in place. He confirmed that we have £20,396.30 in the pot currently, and 15% of this (£3,059.45) can be used for admin related costs in regards to recruitment for the post. The options discussed for this money included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consultancy, which would likely be at a cost of £350 a day giving us 49.5 days of consultancy with the budget available. • Employing someone part-time at 24.5 hours a week and offering £13.50 an hour, which would then allow us to employ someone for a year. To create these hours, the proposal for their time was; <table border="1" data-bbox="352 1176 1236 1406"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">HOURS PER WEEK</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>COMMUNITY TRANSPORT INITIATIVE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SUPPORT & ADVICE ON CAT LIGHT PROCESS</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ADMINISTRATION</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & NETWORKING</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">24.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Some of the thoughts around the table included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employing someone locally could potentially be a poisoned chalice. A local resident could be a point of negativity if there are concerns around prior friendships or alliances. However, a local resident could also be a positive liaison if the person is well known and approachable. • Queries were discussed around hiring a person directly and managing their benefits, including annual leave, sick leave, pension, tax and national insurance contributions. • Hiring a community education student was suggested as a way to get someone in the door at the rate of pay that could be offered. This would hopefully mean the person coming in would be enthusiastic, but also being so new to the role may need a lot of support to get them to the place they needed to be. 		HOURS PER WEEK	COMMUNITY TRANSPORT INITIATIVE	14	SUPPORT & ADVICE ON CAT LIGHT PROCESS	3.5	ADMINISTRATION	3.5	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & NETWORKING	3.5		24.5
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DJ asked the group to vote on what they felt was best, and the majority voted, with seven votes, for using consultancy. It was discussed that if the consultant was brought in part time this would give us longer with the support of them.

8. Community, Health & Wellbeing Update

DJ spoke about the recent VASLan application had been successful and the money being awarded is as follows;

Venue Hire	Weekly	12 Month Costs
Easy Movers	10	520
Carpet Bowls	20	520
Short Matt Bowls	20	520
Tea On Tuesday	40	2080
Citizens Advice Sessions	20	240
Book Fair	55	660
Adult Mindfulness	30	90
CEDAR Meetings	10	120
Newsletter		
Printing	125	1500
Distribution	25	300
Others		
Easy Movers Instructor		1500
Tea on Tuesday Ingredients		600
Gardening Club		800
Mindfulness Courses		295
		9,745

Well done to DJ for his efforts in completing and submitting the application.

SR has completed the first IT workshop/support group and felt that this had been well received. He plans to continue to run these monthly to allow people in the local community to drop in with any questions or issues they are facing with any IT equipment, and is also looking to run some IT classes if these will be of benefit.

SW was also welcomed to the group as she is willing to support the subgroup with the plans for gardening in the village.

9. Treasurers Report

FC advised the group that she had only just had a handover with JPG in regards to the Treasurer role so has not had the chance to compile a report for this meeting. However, she aims to have a report completed soon and this will be shared with the group for review.

FC advised that her aim is to send a report out monthly, mid-month to mid-month in keeping with the OSCR returns. These will be shared with DJ who will publish these on the website for full transparency. Due to the changeover period, FC has said that she will complete the October 2025 – January 2026 period as one report, then collate them monthly moving forward.

	FC has also advised that as part of looking at the reports and banking, she aims to look at the ongoing costs for the running of the hall and support the hall management subgroup with budgeting.
10.	<p>Previous Actions</p> <p>The actions from the previous meeting were discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FC spoke about the newsletter deliveries and explained that she had been in contact with the Royal Mail who had provided a quote for delivery at 8 pence per house, which will come to approximately £19 of the delivery budget. • In relation to the shed, it was agreed that the Hall Management group would meet to decide what should be stored there to make the best use of the space. This led onto a discussion in regards to the table tennis tables, as they are still not currently being used and there has been damage spotted to one of the tables. • DJ agreed to drop a paper round the Trustees to see what the options would be for the table tennis tables, and MR will collate the votes on this.
11.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Unfortunately, HH was unable to attend tonight’s meeting, but she has chosen to step down as a Trustee due to other commitments. Thanks to HH were passed on by all in attendance and an acknowledgment of her significant contributions to the group during her time as both Chair and Trustee.</p> <p>A mailing list was discussed for non-members as a possibility to include the sharing of information with other members of the community. DJ spoke about mail chimp as an option for this, but will need further thought and discussion with individuals to see if there is a need for this service.</p>
9.	<p>Confirmation of Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meetings for February and March will be sub-group meetings, with the next general meeting being held in April 2026. A date will be set for this closer to the time and shared with all.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.30pm.</p>

<u>Action Points</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with transport subgroup to be arranged to look at selecting the vehicle for purchase. 	DJ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with hall management subgroup to be arranged to look at governance for unlocking funds and managing timelines. 	DJ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FC to share the prior Treasurer’s reports with DJ to publish on the website, and with MR to share with the group via email. 	FC / DJ / MR
	FC

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FC to look at ongoing Hall costs and budgeting, to share with Hall Management group.• Royal mail to be explored further for the delivery of newsletters.• A paper regarding table tennis to be shared with Trustees and responses collated for a decision/outcome.	FC DJ / MR
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