

**Present:** D Steel (Chair); P Addison; D Finlay; R Forster; S Harris; W McKie; K Smyth.

D Steel welcomed Bob Lee, Rachel Dunk and Gary White of the Crichton Carbon Centre to the meeting.

1. **Apologies:** F Bruno; I Burnie; D Cameron; W Finlay; A Johnson; D McIntyre; M McPherson; J Morton; H Oxley; .

2. **Minutes 28 January.** Accepted, but amend to include J Jameson who attended.

3. **Matters arising:** No matters arising.

#### 4. Finance

##### Bank account:

- A second GDI bank account to service the Cally Boundaries project is now open. Current balance of £16,500 results from receipt of the first tranche of the Lottery grant.

##### Financial report:

- Annual accounts for 2008 in draft form should be available shortly. Barring unforeseen delays it may be possible to table final accounts at an AGM on May 27th, failing this on July 29th.
- Cash balance on the main account stands at £9500.
- A payment of £1173 has been made to Cream o' Galloway as an adjustment to the 2008 electricity account.
- Total grant and trading funds held on behalf of the Kiosk have been reduced to £2470 as result of agreement with Visit Scotland on tenancy and GDI assuming responsibility for Kiosk running costs during 2008.
- The programme of charges to users of the Gatehouse Web-site is now complete and has produced over £1800. Only a very small minority of users have opted to cancel their presence on the web-site.
- A grant of £990 has been received from Dumfries & Galloway Council to replace or renew signs and street maps in Gatehouse.
- As yet no further advice has been received from Bell Ogilvy on possible deregistration from VAT.

##### Agreements:

- Agreement has been reached with Visit Scotland on a short-term rent-free tenancy of the Kiosk. Running costs including rates, and insurance will be met by the GDI.
- The outline terms for agreements between the GDI and Cream o' Galloway on electricity supply, and between the GDI and J Finlay & Son on the maintenance and rental for the wind-turbine site have been settled and the formal documents should be signed shortly.

#### 5. Crichton Carbon Centre Proposal

The remainder of the meeting was given over to a presentation and subsequent discussion by Bob Lee, Rachel Dunk and Gary White of the Crichton Carbon Centre who outlined a community based low carbon initiative project. The Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) helps communities to put their own solutions for significant reduction of carbon emissions into action. Operating across Scotland, the CCF gives priority to ideas that help strengthen local economies, are community led and generally make local communities a greener, happier place to live. In Dumfries and Galloway, the project will focus on six communities with local steering groups, and paid project worker. Gatehouse has been approached as a likely community partly as it already has a good track record in renewable energy. However the project goes beyond just renewable energy to look at all aspects of the community's carbon footprint, to identify and promote best environmental practice and sustainable development, and to develop and provide a practical infrastructure that supports and encourages communities in generating their own carbon reduction programmes including for example locally produced food, allotments, transport initiatives etc. The Kiosk project already in a small way provides an outlet for community produced surplus fruit and veg, and this may well be expanded this coming season. The CADISPA survey already indicates community support for environmental issues, but further canvassing of the views of the community could be pursued through workshops or the use of a relaunched community news sheet. David Steel agreed to put together a steering group with representatives of Community Council, GDI and the Mill on the Fleet - which is already involved with the Carbon Centre and could provide exhibition space to showcase the project. The Chairman thanked the Carbon Centre for coming to the meeting.

#### 6. Current Projects

No project reports were taken.

#### **7. Any other business**

Community News Sheet. The Secretary agreed to liase with Community Council to look at restarting this project.

Web Site. The community website is now about six years old. While the site is working well and is well received the underlying coding/structure of the site no longer conforms to current standards and good practice. It is the intention to address this in the near future and give the site a general refresh at the same time.

#### **8. Date of next meeting**

27 May, 7.30pm, Community Centre.