



Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting

Monday 19th October 2026

Agenda Item 8.1: To consider the information and approval for installation of new electricity meter at the Ellendune Community Centre.

Background

Following the installation of solar panels at Ellendune Community Centre in October 2024, the centre has been generating its own electricity. However, we have been unable to complete the installation of a new smart meter that would allow us to export unused electricity back to the National Grid and receive income for the surplus energy generated.

The solar panel installation was inspected and certified by an SSEN engineer in February 2025, and E.ON took over the electricity supply on 31 May 2025.

Since June 2025, E.ON has attempted to arrange for a new smart meter to be installed. On two occasions, in June and July 2025, the meter installation could not proceed because the centre's existing electricity supply has a 200-amp fuse. We understand that the current meter is rated at 100 amps.

After several months of correspondence with Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN), we have now been advised that the existing supply fuses need to be downgraded before a suitable new meter can be installed.

As a result, although the solar panels are generating electricity, the centre has not been able to receive payment for any surplus electricity exported to the grid.

Summary of Requirements

SSEN has provided a quotation for the fuse downgrade. The proposed work is relatively straightforward and involves:

- Opening the existing fuse cut-out.
- Removing the existing fuses.
- Replacing them with 100-amp fuses.

This is intended to bring the fuse rating into line with the requirements for the new meter.

SSEN has confirmed that the alternative option of installing a new CT chamber would be considerably more disruptive and expensive. This would involve excavation, replacing the existing supply cable and replacing the existing unit, as SSEN believes the current cable is not large enough to carry 200 amps per phase.

The current proposal is therefore to proceed with the fuse downgrade only, rather than pursue the more extensive CT chamber option.

Once the fuses have been changed to 100 amps, E.ON should be able to arrange the installation of a suitable new meter. However, SSEN has advised that this ultimately depends on the electricity supplier, so confirmation from E.ON will still be needed.

Questions raised with SSEN and the answers received

Question	Answer from SSEN
1. How soon could the work take place if the cost is approved?	SSEN's standard timescale is 6–8 weeks from acceptance of the quotation. As this work is relatively minor, it may be possible to complete it sooner, depending on the availability of resources.
2. What work will actually take place?	SSEN will open the existing fuse cut-out, remove the existing fuses and replace them with 100-amp fuses. This is a fuse replacement rather than the installation of a new CT chamber.
3. How long will the work take?	SSEN expects the work to take approximately half a day.
4. Will this allow a new meter to be installed?	SSEN advises that, once the fuses are rated at 100 amps, the supplier should be able to install a suitable meter within that rating. E.ON will need to confirm and arrange the installation.
5. Why are there two different prices?	The £1,179.05 figure is the cost before VAT. The £1,414.86 figure includes 20% VAT.
6. How long will the centre be without electricity?	SSEN advises that the interruption could last up to half a day. Activities and bookings at the community centre will therefore need to be planned around the work.

Recommendations

The proposed fuse downgrade appears to be the most straightforward route towards resolving the issue preventing the new meter installation.

Consider: Approval of the **£1,414.86 total cost, including VAT**, would allow us to proceed with the quotation acceptance process with SSEN.

The next steps if quote approved would be to:

1. Obtain the Parish Council's agreement to the expenditure.
2. Accept the SSEN quotation and arrange a date for the fuse replacement.
3. Coordinate with the community centre to minimise disruption while the electricity supply is interrupted.
4. Contact E.ON to confirm its requirements and arrange the new smart meter installation as soon as the fuse downgrade has been completed.

The aim is to resolve the outstanding meter issue as quickly as possible so that the centre can make full use of its solar installation and, subject to the supplier's arrangements and export tariff, begin receiving income for surplus electricity exported to the grid.