

Thornhill Community Council Meeting Minutes - October 28th 2013

In Attendance: Douglas Watters, Cllr Jim Dempster, Murray Bainbridge, Willie Lenza, Jane Marchbank, Robert McGarva, Scott Jardine, Jane Bailey

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies noted from Jeanette Kerr, Cllr Wood, Cllr Syme and Cllr Dykes.

2. POLICE REPORT

No police in attendance

3. PRESENTATION – Bethany Wade, 1st Morton Guides

Bethany was invited to report to members on her recent trip to Switzerland as part of an international Guides convention, having received a donation from the Community Council towards the cost of the trip.

Bethany gave an informative and enjoyable account of the trip which included a range of activities and cultural engagements such as abseiling off a bridge and meeting girl guides from other parts of the world.

The Community Council thanked Bethany and her mother for attending and commended Bethany on being a credit to the community whilst representing the guiding movement in Nithsdale overseas.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

The recent resignation of Greg Parker from the community council has created a vacancy for the position of vice chair. **DW** asked for members to consider volunteering and a decision will be taken on appointing an individual at the next monthly meeting.

5. JAYNE MOORE of DGHP

Jayne asked for assistance with the naming of the new street off Station Road which will be created as part of the housing development proposed for the old Wallace Hall Academy site. Members were asked to consider how the street name could be chosen and ideas included selecting a short list and asking the community to choose during the Christmas shopping event on 30th November.

Jayne also advised members of a newly instigated Furniture Recycling project being led by DGHP in Kirkconnel. The scheme provides an uplift service for any unwanted items of furniture which will be taken to the project workshops in Kirkconnel for sale to the public at very affordable prices, reducing the need for unsustainable credit terms for vulnerable residents. A number of information flyers were circulated for distribution throughout the community.

6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

WL proposed this was a true minute of the meeting; **DW** seconded.

7. MATTERS ARISING

In relation to Item 3 of previous minutes, **DW** advised there had been no response to emails on the subject and he would continue trying to engage.

8. MRS ADAM'S BEQUEST- BALLOT RESULT AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Members noted that a letter had been printed in the D&G Standard raising concerns about the recent decision to proceed with the proposed project to develop the Duke William Building (DWB).

Public event to be held on 12th November providing the community with an overview of the proposed project and gather feedback from residents.

Cllr Dempster pointed out that D&G Council had already carried out a review of public facilities in Thornhill (as part of a whole region review) and options had been placed on hold to allow the development of plans related to the proposed project.

Members agreed that that development of the DWB provided a unique opportunity to provide a 21st Century facility for Thornhill by leveraging additional funding on the back of the legacy fund. It was noted that additional funding from external bodies such as the BIG Lottery would require demonstration of community support for the project.

Members were asked to encourage residents to attend the 12th November meeting to find out more about the project and share their ideas on how to deliver the best outcome for the village.

Cllr Dempster advised that in order to maximize chances of external funding, the community council should seek letters of support from other community groups within the area and that a project delivery board for the project should consist of representatives from those groups.

9. WINDFARMS AND WINDFARM MONIES UPDATE

- CLYDE Wind Farm

Call for applications currently open, closing date for submissions is 6th December. **JB** agreed to redesign poster and distribute to relevant groups.

An email message received from Mr I. Renicks regarding funding received for Thornhill Music Festival was circulated and the content noted.

JB pointed out that an application for funding towards the running of the Thornhill Tattoo event would need to be submitted in this round.

- HARESTANES Wind Farm

DW advised that the developer may require the setting up of a company limited by guarantee to distribute community funding.

- TEWNTYSHILLING HILL Wind Farm

Project not yet approved. Other community councils have expressed similar concerns to Thornhill over the complicated nature of draft agreement being proposed by the developer

10. TREASURER'S REPORT

Current account balance:	£17,519.96 (Additional £6,000 anticipated from WF funding)
Investment account balance:	£3,314.36
Legacy account:	£265,070.93

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 29 New Street - Extension to rear of house

12. CORRESPONDENCE

- E-mail from Annie Thompson, D and G Council-NOT copied to us!!- concerning Library and One Stop Shop arrangements.
- Resignation from Greg Parker, Vice Chair. (E-mail sent to thank Greg for his services.)
- Notification of local Road Closure- Thornhill Station. Max. one day week comm. 28th October. (Communication from Cllr Wood.)
- Southern Uplands Partnership Newsletter. October 2013
- Dumfries and Galloway Council response ref. Police Scotland consultation.

- Correspondence re above from Police Scotland. (Ref Traffic wardens and Police public counter services.)
- Wickstead Playscapes
- Letter of thanks from Thornhill Country Dancers
- Receipt of Dalswinton Windfarm monies
- New Application forms and Guidance for funding applications for 2014/2015. Deadline 6.12.13. Details on Council website.
- CONNECT for all Community Councillors in Dumfries and Galloway. Conference in Dumfries on Friday 8th November.
- Scottish Land Fund grant scheme
- Review of Polling Places (No change for our area.)
- E-mail from Andrew Wood re Tree pruning.
- Various e-mail correspondence ref sewage problem in East Morton Street earlier this month.
- Public Entertainment Licence for Fireworks night 2.11.13
- Building Stronger Communities Launch Event, Glasgow. 8.10.13 (!!!)
- Climate Change Event, Edinburgh .8.11.13
- Confirmation of 2 Senior WHA Academy pupils to attend November meeting, to give a short presentation.
- Request for a donation by local MacMillan group. (Fund raising for Alexandra Unit.)
- Letter of thanks from Loreburn, together with plans, ref. proposed Gallamair development. (Acknowledged by DW.)
- Community Council Enquiry Service

12. CHRISTMAS EVENT

DW thanked **JB** for the list of actions which had been circulated to members; this should be used as a guide for activity ahead of the event.

SJ confirmed that gazebos and a public address system were now in hand for use during the event. **JB** agreed to contact groups who have received funding from Wind Farms to request assistance with setting up and running the event.

13. AOCB

JM advised that hanging baskets need taking down and that large planter boxes also require attention.

Discussion was had around the possibility of contracting the supply and maintenance of hanging baskets and planters to a local business.

SJ advised he had attended a meeting about the new hospital in Moffat and had a lengthy discussion with Geoff Ace, head of NHS D&G. Mr Ace indicated that cottage hospitals were considered to be a vital part of the future for healthcare provision in the region; it was suggested that Mr Ace be invited to discuss plans for care provision in Thornhill.

DW raised concern that a letter received from D&G Council setting out plans for a reduction in opening hours of the one stop shop in Thornhill would also include reducing the hours of the library; Cllr Dempster advised he did not think this would be the case but that he would seek confirmation that library opening hours would not be affected.

WL asked Cllr Dempster to please remind D&G Council and Scottish Water about the sewage capacity issues affecting East Morton Street and seek reassurance that sewage capacity would be appropriately sized and sufficiently robust to avoid such problems when the proposed housing on the old WHA site have been occupied.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 18th November