

Thornhill Community Council Meeting Minutes - March 17th 2014

In Attendance: Cllr Wood, Cllr Dempster, Douglas Watters, Murray Bainbridge, Jane Marchbank, Jim Renicks, Robert McGarva, Jane Bailey, David Sharpe, Jeannette Kerr

Dr Park representing Thornhill Parish church was also in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies noted from Cllr Dykes and Willie Lenza

2. POLICE REPORT – WPC Kerry Smith

It was noted that there had been no more break-ins in the village since the last meeting. Similar incidents have taken place recently in other villages in the region such as Moffat, Beattock and Castle Douglas. Kerry advised that the CID were investigating the recent spate of such incidents and were following a lead they had uncovered.

A log had now been created with the local police to check known vacant/temporarily empty properties. Kerry recommended that residents should dial 101 or call into the Thornhill station to let the police know if they are going to be away for a period of time.

No other incidents to report.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Item 7(a) – was seconded by Robert McGarva

JR proposed this was a true minute of the meeting; **JM** seconded.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Wood agreed to get update from DG council on possibility of disabled parking space outside chemist shop on East Drumlanrig Street.

It was noted that potholes on East Morton Street outside Drumlanrig Café remain a problem; **Cllr Wood** advised that the DG Council programme of pothole repairs is ongoing but it does not include trunk roads. **DW** asked if **Cllr Wood** believed A702 to be a trunk road; he replied that he did not believe so.

All members agreed that there does appear to be a marked difference in the condition of the A702 between Carronbridge and Elvanfoot depending on which local authority has responsibility i.e. the D&G section appears to be in much worse condition than the South Lanarkshire section.

DW advised that he had not received any response from DG Council regarding reforming of MUNACC.

JM volunteered to place dates/times of TCC meetings in the community notice box.

DW noted that a cheque for £1,250 had been received from Clyde Wind Farm fund towards the cost of the Thornhill Tattoo.

5. MRS ADAM'S BEQUEST

JB advised that Karen Brownlie of DG Council has requested a breakdown of activity. **DW** circulated an email from Karen regarding a proposed way forward for review of Thornhill Community facilities; this contained a suggested deadline of 13/06/14 which members agreed seems too tight for the plans for the bequest money to be sufficiently advanced.

It was agreed that the feasibility study for the Duke William Building should proceed as early as possible and **JB/DW** agreed to contact Karen with a request for extension of deadline.

Cllr Wood advised that the time limit may be related to the period which the council is permitted to keep property earmarked for disposal off the open market.

Cllr Wood also confirmed that DG Council is prepared to work with TCC to achieve the best outcome for Thornhill.

JB highlighted that it may take a while to secure funding for the feasibility study; it was suggested by **JR** that the study could be paid for from TCC funds e.g. interest accrued in the Legacy Account? **DW** suggested that, depending on the cost of the study, it could be funded by Dalswinton Wind Farm monies.

A discussion was had about how much input DG Council could provide in relation to the study through their in-house capabilities; **MB** pointed out that having a professional study carried out by a qualified independent consultant is likely to improve the chances of securing capital grants from awarding bodies and indeed may be a minimum requirement in some cases.

6. WINDFARMS AND WINDFARM MONIES UPDATE

Clyde WF

Deadline for applications to be with TCC for current application round is 4th April

A Wind Farm sub-committee meeting will be held on 7th April to evaluate submissions. **DW** advised that additional members were needed since Scott Jardine and Lorraine Murdoch had left TCC leaving only two people on the sub-committee. **DS, JR** and **RM** agreed to attend the 7th April meeting.

DS to follow up with Gala committee to ensure they get application submitted in time.

DW advised that no applications had been received yet.

Harestanes WF

DW advised that Scottish Power Renewables are offering community payment of £2,500 per MW installed per year; the normal rate is £5,000 per MW installed per year.

Dalswinton WF

McNab Laurie, DG Council's WF Contributions Officer has been invited to the April meeting of TCC by **DW** to discuss the distribution of wind farm community funds.

DW noted that Dalswinton WF monies are generally used for routine items e.g. hanging baskets.

Twenty Shilling WF

DW noted that the developer, Element Energy have indicated their opposition to the DG Council practice of retaining 50% of wind farm community funds.

Planning determination expected in June 2014.

Scottish Community Foundation have done some calculations and suggested a split amongst affected communities as follows:

- 46.5% - Sanquhar & Kirkconnell
- 53.5% - Durisdeer/Closeburn/Penpont/Kier/Thornhill/Carronbridge

Community fund expected to be £5,000 per MW installed per year

7. MINI GRANTS

Thornhill Arts Club

Request for £250 towards cost of new equipment and putting on occasional small exhibitions. **DS** suggested they would be better off applying for larger grant of £1,000 from Clyde WF. **DW** advised that group feels the larger grant would be too ambitious and that the mini grant is sufficient for their needs.

DW recommended awarding the grant; vote taken, all agreed.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

Current account balance:	£4,575.77
Investment account balance:	£3,427.25
Legacy account:	£266,618.99

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- Information from Zurich insurance advertising their services to community councils
- Promotional leaflet from Wicksteed Playscapes
- Community Centre Management Committee – Minutes of 02/12/13 to 03/02/14 meetings
- Thornhill friendship Club – Letter of thanks for £250 mini grant award
- Email from DG Council re. area grant funding applications
- Email from DG Council re. Armed Forces Day Grant Scheme – www.armedforcesday.org.uk/holdanevent.aspx

11. 2014 TATTOO

It was noted that the Tattoo will take place on 12th July which is the same day as Thornhill Gala.

JM advised that work was ongoing and asked if the PA system would be available from TCC; **DW** confirmed this would be the case. **DS** pointed out that Gala committee will also require use of the PA system.

JM asked for contact details for Frontier Fireworks; **DW** to provide.

12. 2014 Gala

DS advised that everything is currently going to plan

13. AOCB

It was noted that some residents have expressed concern over consistency of GP provision at Thornhill Medical Practice and plan to attend the next TCC meeting to raise the issue; it was agreed that **DW** will invite Dr Ismail to attend also.

A discussion took place about quotations for installing and maintaining hanging baskets in the village. **Cllr Dempster** suggested it may be possible to enter into a Service Level Agreement with DG Council; **Cllr Dempster** agreed to send contact details of the relevant council staff member Fraser Marshall to **JB**.

JM advised the quantity of hanging baskets is around 28.

Cllr Dempster suggested that Community Payback may be able to carry out repairs/fixing/replacement of hanging baskets.

JB asked if it was ok for Wallace Hall Primary to receive unused picnic tables from TCC; all agreed and it was noted that Scott Jardine has the code for the lock up where the tables are stored.

Dr Park provided an update on works to repair the roof of Morton Church. He advised that the church had received a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a condition of that funding was to include publicity. Dr Park asked if it would be possible to use the TCC website to keep public informed and updated; all agreed.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 28th April