

Thornhill Community Council Meeting Minutes – 27th October 2014

In Attendance: Douglas Watters, Jim Renicks, Robert McGarva, John Holroyd, Jane Marchbank, Cllr Jim Dempster, David Sharpe, Wullie Lenza, 3 local residents

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies noted from and Cllr Jill Dykes and Cllr John Syme

2. POLICE REPORT

No police present, no report given

3. Gallamair Housing Development Update

DW pointed out that he'd seen an article in the press describing the development as "homes for agricultural workers" and asked for some clarification from Loreburn on allocation policy, noting that the community council had not requested the units be exclusively for retired estate workers.

FP said they had not been approached by Buccleuch Estate in relation to housing allocation and that making the units exclusive to a single group would be contrary to local housing policy.

Fiona Pennington Loreburn Housing provided an update on the Gallamair development. Conditional planning permission has been granted subject to a Section 75 agreement. Loreburn will now need to apply for Scottish Government funding to build the development. Subject to government funding being available, Loreburn expect to acquire the site in January 2015, commence site works by February 2015 and complete the project by end of 2015.

FP pointed out that the development will be classed as 'amenity housing' which will mean it is primarily allocated to tenants over 50 or with qualifying medical needs. FP advised that a Local Lettings Initiative could be implemented subject to approval under the D&G common housing policy; this could mean additional points to local residents or applicants with a strong link to the area. FP asked members of TCC to suggest ways to encourage applications from local residents.

DW asked about parking provision; FP advised 145% was proposed i.e. 16 spaces for 11 properties.

Cllr Dempster asked about arrangements for a "commuted sum" of £1,500 per property; FP advised that no such condition had been placed on the development as it is 'amenity housing' making it exempt.

A local resident enquired about the existing boundary hedge and how that would be retained; FP advised that the hedge would be retained and that any gaps caused as a result of the construction would be reinstated.

FP advised that an open day would be held near to completion to allow members of the community to view the housing.

FP confirmed that the 'amenity housing' classification will be maintained in future even when tenants change but that any additional points awarded under a local letting initiative will only apply to the initial let.

FP explained that the common housing register means all registered social landlords in D&G share the same list of potential tenants.

RM asked about the vetting policy for new tenants; FP explained that Loreburn vets all new applicants to ensure the information they provide is accurate and correct.

4. Appeal for New Members

A poster has been drafted by DW and circulated encouraging potential new members to contact the community council; KM said she had seen it in the Spar.

Jill Osborne was in attendance with a view to becoming a full member. JM requested that Jill be co-opted in the meantime. This was proposed by DW and seconded by WL.

5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Proposed by JM, seconded by WL

6. MATTERS ARISING

Item 2 – pothole repairs are planned during period 31/10/14 to 07/11/14

Scottish Water have completed repairs on West Morton Street

D&G Council have confirmed they will be attending to repairs on East Morton Street by end of November

Cllr Dempster advised that discussions were ongoing with the council about WHA sports fields causing flooding on East Morton Street

7. MRS ADAM'S BEQUEST

DW confirmed posters asking the public for new project ideas have been distributed; to date no responses have been received. It was agreed to leave this open until after the New Year to see what ideas do come forward before another public meeting is held.

8. WINDFARMS AND WINDFARM MONIES UPDATE

DW asked if the money for TCC general fund (£3,823) from Dalswinton WF had been paid into TCC bank account. RM advised he only has account statement up to 29/09/14 and the money may have arrived after that date.

DW advised that the next panel meeting for Dalswinton WF is in Johnstone Bridge on 04/11/14 and he would like someone to attend in his place. The panel meeting will consider two applications from Thornhill:

- Thornhill Music Festival 2015
- Community Mini-Bus

DW advised that Harestanes WF require 2 representatives from TCC for their Community Benefit company. It should only require attendance at company AGM.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT

Investment account balance:	£3,445.22
Legacy account:	£268,778.98
Current account balance:	£7,109.04

DW requested full details of payments and recipients for 2014 Tattoo; RM to provide

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- Station Yard, Thornhill. Certificate of lawfulness as yard for storage and distribution of fuel oil.
- DGHP. Installation of air source heat pump at 7 Walltrees Road and 4 St Cuthberts Walk. Retrospective.
- Installation of Telecommunications cabinet. (Co-op Corner, New Street)

11. CORRESPONDENCE

- Various correspondence from Loreburn Housing Assoc, ref Gallamair development (allocation of properties.)

- Funding applications for Dumfries and Galloway Regional Arts Fund - www.dumgal.gov.uk/artsfund
- Rotary request for donation (Fireworks night 08.11.14)
- Correspondence and phone calls ref, water running down West Morton Street.
- E-mail to request appointment of two Thornhill Representatives ref. Harestanes Windfarm development fund.
- Scottish Uplands Partnership News 09.10.14
- Correspondence ref forthcoming road closures/delays in Thornhill (ref. road repairs.) 31.10.14 to 06.11.14
- Correspondence from DGC ref. new CC Constitution (Deadline 30.01.15)
- E-mail of thanks from Colin Bell ref hanging baskets.
- Local Development plan approval; available at www.dumgal.gov.uk/LDP or £30 for a hard copy
- Copy of entertainment licence application for fireworks display (Rotary), 08.11.14
- Approval of annual Dalswinton Windfarm payment (£3,823.26.)
- Minutes of Thornhill Community Centre Management Committee meeting 12.05.14
- Correspondence ref Youth Democracy, Youth Parliament, etc.
- Playdale Direct (Funding for playgrounds) - www.playdale.co.uk
- Cancellation of Community Resilience meeting. 23.09.14
- Note of Scottish Power Emergency numbers 0800 0929290 and 0330 1010222

12. 2014 TATTOO

DW asked for a note of thanks to be recorded to JM for all her efforts in organising a successful event.

JM said she was disappointed with the photos of the event and asked if anyone has good photos to please share with her so she can try to get them into the G&G Standard.

13. CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENT 2014

It was agreed that due to recent member resignations it would be unfeasible to organize an event this year. Cllr Dempster agreed to advise relevant department within D&G council to simply install and switch on the village Christmas lights in accordance with their own schedule.

14. AOCB

JM asked who would be collecting the hanging baskets from local shops. JR and JH agreed to collect; JR has already asked businesses to dispose of contents and retain baskets for collection.

JM expressed some concern about a tree blocking the pavement at the North end of Drumlanrig Street.

DW advised he has received an email from Corinna Harkness of 17 Waugh Road regarding storage of parts of the TCC gazebos and requesting that these be collected from her property.

JR expressed concern over the workload required of DW in his dual role of Chair and Secretary, particularly given his deteriorating health condition. It was agreed that DW would consider his position after a forthcoming health report and advise TCC accordingly of any impact on his role within TCC.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 17th November