

Thornhill Community Council Meeting Minutes – 18th January 2016

In Attendance: John Holroyd, Jim Renicks, Robert McGarva, Jane Marchbank, Willie Lenza, Iain Morrison, Sheila Jones, Murray Bainbridge, Christopher Craig (Thornhill resident), Ian Millar (Thornhill & District Burns Club)

1. APOLOGIES

None received

2. POLICE REPORT – No-one in attendance

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Proposed by JR, seconded by IM

4. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising from previous minutes

5. MRS ADAM'S BEQUEST

Golf course progressing with plans for utilizing funding allocated from the bequest.

JH advised that he had received letters of thanks from the Friendship Club and Thornhill Squash Club for funding allocated from the bequest.

6. COMMUNITY FACILITIES REVIEW

JH advised that December meeting with DGC and elected members had gone well. It has been agreed that Thornhill Community Centre and the community council will go forward with common purpose; JH has offered to sit on the community centre management committee to improve integration with community council.

Options for future of community centre include community ownership or long lease agreement. DGC stated that support groups are available to advise community centre about adaptation of facilities.

7. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

JH enquired about using this as an opportunity to move forward with development of the former scout hut site. JR highlighted that there was an issue with Japanese knotweed which meant the site could not be developed for another 3-4 years.

Suggested that link to online consultation be posted on Thornhill website inviting residents to comment.

JR enquired if field to the North of Davie Gill Park was zoned for housing.

8. B&Q ESTATE WOODLAND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Kyle Hennon, Operations Manager from Buccleuch Woodlands circulated information on their proposed development of a new plantation within the existing Morton Wood. The proposal includes a good mix of species including softwood and hardwood trees. It is anticipated that the new planting will improve drainage of the area and a good proportion of Norway spruce has been included which are very beneficial for the preservation of red squirrel population. From illustrations circulated it was clear that the visual impact of the proposed development was insignificant.

9. WINDFARMS AND WINDFARM MONIES UPDATE

Dalswinton – Due to cancellation of event as a result of unforeseen circumstances, JR indicated that money allocated to Christmas shopping event could be reallocated to Thornhill Tattoo event.

Clyde – JR advised that a number of significant applications had been submitted including Durisdeer car park and Crichton Carbon Centre.

ANCBC – JR aware that a number of applications have been made; mixed success

Twentyshilling – No update to note

Two applications were presented seeking mini-grant awards

- Thornhill & District Burns Club to build cairn to commemorate poem by Burns set by the Nith Bridge – Agreed to provide £250 mini-grant towards construction costs (money will come from Clyde Windfarm mini-grant allocation)
- Thornhill WRI requested support towards events celebrating their 90th anniversary since incorporation - Agreed to provide £900 grant towards costs (money will come from ANCBC discretionary allocation)

10. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Investment account balance: £3,484.50
- Current account balance: £25,042.99
- Legacy account balance: £258,494.62

Verified annual accounts handed over

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No significant local planning applications lodged

12. CORRESPONDENCE

Date	Format	From	Subject
17/11/15	Email	Thornhill Friendship Club	Request for contribution towards running costs
23/11/15	Email	D&G Small Communities Housing Trust	Notice of AGM
24/11/15	Email	D&G Council – Health & Social Care	Integration Newsletter Nithsdale
25/11/15	Email	HM Inspectorate of Constabulary Scotland	Local policing public survey
26/11/15	Email	D&G Council	Local Development Plan consultation
26/11/15	Letter	D&G Council	Roles of Office Bearers
01/12/15	Email	Karen Brownlie – D&G Council	Confirmation of meeting regarding community centre
02/12/15	Email	D&G Council	Extended consultation on amendments to Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils
05/12/15	Letter	Thornhill & District Burns Club	Detailed costs for proposed installation
07/12/15	Email	Sensor Studios	Invoice for web hosting and site maintenance in 2016
08/12/15	Email	D&G Council	Community Facilities Review report
14/12/15	Email	D&G Council	D&G Leader Funding Roadshow (THORNHILL 28 th January)
14/12/15	Email	Marie Curie	Seeking volunteers in D&G area

16/12/15	Email	D&G Council – Health & Social Care	Integration Newsletter Nithsdale
16/12/15	Email	D&G Council	Answers to Q&A session at Fairer Scotland event
08/01/16	Email	D&G Council	Community Resilience Plan
11/01/16	Email	D&G Council	Information for Communities re Flooding Advice and Grants
11/01/16	Letter	D&G Council	Traffic Regulation Orders (Disabled Parking)
13/01/16	Email	D&G Council	The Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons

Two letters were presented to the meeting on the night:

- Mrs Ella Halliday raised concerns about reinstatement of post box on Manse Road after completion of new housing development, the speed limit on Manse Road and the condition of the public bench at the top of Hospital Brae.

On the subject of the post box, JR advised that Royal mail had been approached already and they had advised that the box would be reinstated after a period of time once all the homes in the new development had been occupied. There are still a number of units unoccupied including two on Manse Road so agreed that Royal Mail would be contacted again once all houses are occupied.

On the subject of the speed limit on Manse Road it was pointed out that there are 30mph signs at both ends of Manse Road.

On the subject of the condition of the public bench, it was pointed out that this is likely due to the trees overhanging the seat and it was suggested that B&Q Estate be approached with a request to clean the bench periodically as their trees are the cause.

- Mr Iain Renicks pointed out an issue with demarcation of parking spaces on the West side of Drumlanrig Street, outside the commercial premises there. He pointed out that the fading lines mean that individuals are causing parking congestion and obstruction and requested that the relevant authorities be contacted to remedy the situation.

It was agreed that this issue would be raised with Graeme Allison of the Roads Department at D&G Council.

It was agreed that D&G Council should be invited to the next meeting to discuss and update TCC on resilience plans for the village.

Mr Christopher Craig, a Thornhill resident was in attendance and requested a discussion around his correspondence regarding street cleaning and weeding in the village. He asked if the street sweeper could divert some of his time to weed spraying; JR pointed out that a special ticket is required to carry out this work and the street sweeper does not hold the appropriate certification.

JR advised that we had received a quotation from a private contractor to carry out weed spraying around the village and this was likely to take place in the spring.

Mr Craig asked if it was permissible for residents to organise street sweeping and weeding collectively. It was agreed that TCC would consider organising a "village clean up" event involving local groups such as scouts, guides, clubs, school, etc. JM advised that D&G Council normally provide bags and equipment for such community activities.

13. A.O.C.B.

It was agreed that the Thornhill Tattoo will be held in September, exact date to be finalised.

JM pointed out that the churchyard wall is in disrepair and some areas require repointing.

Mr Craig advised that some of the information on the Visit Thornhill website was out of date; MB to contact website hosting company to update.

JM requested that the issue of a disabled parking space outside Boots the chemist be raised with D&G Council

JH agreed to find out current situation regarding potential reopening of Thornhill train station and report back to next meeting

JH asked Mr Craig if he would consider joining the community council as a co-opted member; Mr Craig agreed and this will be formally ratified at the next official meeting in February.

JM pointed out that of the four spotlights which are supposed to highlight the Pegaus statue on the village cross, only one is currently working; MB to raise issue with D&G Council

Date of next meeting: Monday 15th February