

## Thornhill Community Council Meeting Minutes - November 18<sup>th</sup> 2013

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

Several members of the public were also in attendance

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies noted from Jeanette Kerr and David Sharpe

### 2. POLICE REPORT – PC Craig Murray

Reported incidents in past month:

- 1 shoplifting
- 1 assault
- 1 breach of the peace
- 9 anti-social behaviour orders
- 1 fatal road traffic accident – DW asked that a note be made to record the sadness of all members of the community council at the tragic loss of a young life in the village and to convey deepest sympathies to the family

A number of tool thefts have been reported in the surrounding area and some suspicious vehicles have been reported

A number of complaints have been received about heavy traffic passing through the village

Recruitment of special constables ongoing

### 3. PRESENTATION – Wallace Hall Academy pupils

Pupils were unable to attend due to recent tragedy in the village

### 4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

No volunteers forthcoming; position remains vacant

### 5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

### 6. MATTERS ARISING

Item 5 of previous minutes: Jayne Moore enquiry about street naming; **SJ** proposed it be incorporated into Christmas shopping event.

Item 9 of previous minutes: **JM** asked if funding applications had been made for next year's tattoo event; **DW** advised not yet done but aware of 6<sup>th</sup> December deadline.

### 7. MRS ADAM'S BEQUEST

**JB** reported on the public meeting which had been held at WHA on 12<sup>th</sup> November. It was pleasing to see so many attendees indicating significant community interest in the proposed development. A total of 26 feedback forms were completed with 14 indicating concerns about the proposed development and 12 in support of the plans.

**JB** recommended continued community engagement and expressed concern about the low level of younger members of the community so far engaged; it was suggested that a public meeting on a Saturday should be considered to allow wider participation and a presentation could be made to pupils at WHA. A daytime meeting at Buccleuch Arms Hotel was also suggested.

A letter received from Mr Pollock in his role as executor of the will of Mrs Adams was read out by **DW**; the letter expressed support for the approach being taken by the community council with the proposed development and indicated that other executors were happy with the proposal.

Cllr Dykes advised it needed to be made clear that Thornhill Community Council is responsible for the decisions around how to use the bequest money, not D&G Councillors.

Cllr Dempster reminded everyone that the outcome of the bequest fund spending decisions will impact on D&G Council plans for council facilities in Thornhill and that an early decisive outcome would be preferable; **JB** pointed out that the recent public meeting has helped inform thinking around the proposed project and the plan will continue to emerge as part of the project development process, taking account of any relevant deadlines associated with D&G council plans.

Cllr Wood expressed concern that the sustainability of any project should not be based solely on rental income from D&G Council; **JB** advised that the project feasibility study will help identify other potential income streams.

A member of the public expressed concern that there appears to have been a lot of negative press coverage regarding the proposed project and an apparent lack of input from the community.

A member of the public asked if a letter from the Community Centre had been shared with the community council regarding their project proposal; **DW** advised that the letter had been discussed in September and he had provided a response to the points raised.

Cllr Dempster advised that the council is continuing its review of community facilities and a decision will be needed soon on what project the bequest money will fund so that this can be considered as part of the council buildings review.

Cllr Wood indicated he thought the vision for the development of community facilities using the bequest money was good but expressed reservations about the location.

Cllr Dykes reinforced the need for a final decision to be made quickly on how the bequest money would be spent.

Community Council members agreed that a project feasibility study should be commissioned as soon as possible, including identifying potential funding sources to support the study.

## **8. WINDFARMS AND WINDFARM MONIES UPDATE**

**DW** is expecting to receive applications for current funding round from a number of community groups.

**DW** highlighted a letter from Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham Community Councils regarding Windfarm funding and it was agreed to support their request to send a letter to Dumfries and Galloway Council and First Minister, requesting a moratorium on all windfarm planning consents until adequate dialogue, impartial information sharing with potential host communities and thorough needs assessments of local communities have been undertaken.

## **9. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Current account balance:	£23,343.10
Investment account balance:	£3,416.97
Legacy account:	£265,383.86

## **10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Various air source heat pump installations (retrospective) on DGHP Property

## **11. CORRESPONDENCE**

- Letter of thanks from Rotary for £250 donation for Fireworks night.
- Letter and leaflets from "Empowering People Plus" ref gas and electricity tariffs.

- Info ref National PLANNING Framework and Scottish Planning Policy. (Website details provided for more information.)
- NCVS Annual General Meeting 20:11:13 at 6pm at HUB, 24-26 Friars Vennel, Dumfries
- Letter from War Memorials Trust, ref. condition of and responsibility for War Memorials.
- October 2013 Newsletter, Wallace Hall Academy.
- Scottish Government Empowerment Bill Consultation. Website details provided for more info.
- Revised Customer Services strategy for D and G Council. Website details provided.
- Request for local nominations for Queens Baton Relay. (Commonwealth Games.)
- Correspondence from Chair of Corsock and Kirkpatrick-Durham Community Council , asking for CC support for sending a letters to Dumfries and Galloway Council and First Minister, requesting a moratorium on all windfarm planning consents until adequate dialogue, impartial information sharing with potential host communities and thorough needs assessments of local communities have been undertaken.

## 12. AOCB

**MB** advised that there had been some comments by WHA janitorial staff about incorrect assumptions within the community that charges for hiring of facilities were excessive because of its PPP status; it was pointed out that venue hire charges for school facilities are set by D&G Council and are the same across all schools. It was agreed to post a copy of the list of hire charges on the community council website.

**WL** pointed out that sewage/flooding on East Morton Street had resulted in water running into Bowling Club and adjacent properties; Cllrs. agreed to take up the issue with Scottish Water. **SJ** and **JB** agreed to send photos to Cllrs. as an illustration of the problems for their correspondence with Scottish water.

## 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January