

**Thornhill Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held at Thornhill**  
**On**  
**Monday, 17/10/2011**

**Present:** Scott Jardine, Douglas Watters, David Kerr, Willie Lenza, Lorraine Murdoch, Jeannette Kerr

**Apologies:** Cllr John Syme, Robert McGarva, Cllr Andrew Wood (arriving later), Jason Davies

**In attendance:** Cllrs Gill Dykes, Jim Dempster & Andrew Wood, PC Scott McDowall, Mrs Pam Clifford, Mr Mike Steele

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Police Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 3x Thefts</li> <li>● 3x RT offences</li> <li>● 1x minor RT collision</li> <li>● 5x ASB incidents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ (the above incidents all detected and considered 'in-house')</li> </ul> </li> <li>● 1x theft of ladders from Kirkland of Morton Farm (ladders belonged to contractors working there)</li> <li>● Fairly major theft from Porterstown Farm; also of scrap metal the other side of Moniaive and thefts from contractors at Lakehead Farm, Closeburn – all of these outwith our area but worth bearing in mind.</li> <li>● Old WHA site: Police remain concerned re this site. Cllr JD clarified that Buccleuch are expected, in terms of missives with D&amp;GC, to enter and begin work on site by end <b>November</b>, not <b>October</b>, as previously recorded and that the sum in question is <b>£70k</b>, not <b>£100k</b>. Last Meeting's Minutes (see <i>infra</i>) held as corrected in these particulars. Cllr JD also advised that the Scottish Government have granted extra money to D&amp;GC to grant to DGHP for development of the site as housing. Original plan was for Buccleuch Estates to do this development; concern expressed that this extra money may merely enable Buccleuch to inflate the price of the site and sell it on to DGHP. New Planning legislation makes this more difficult to control, but Cllrs have sought assurances from Planning Dept that any material change in the Planning Application (already granted to Buccleuch), such as a change of ownership to DGHP would cause the Application to be called in for review. But it will want watching.</li> <li>● PC SMcD has heard nothing about possible addition of Disabled Parking Space outside Boots, but it is believed that Police RT expert is looking into it; not an easy location physically and in terms of how busy the site is. Some concern expressed that the provision of a disabled site there would merely exacerbate things.</li> <li>● Police report (and Pam Clifford confirms) little or no damage in vicinity of Community Centre at present. A few problem individuals no longer in the area.</li> <li>● [PC SMcD left here]</li> </ul>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Approved, subject to correction of details re WHA missives (<i>supra</i>) and the fact that Cllr GD's apologies had not been recorded. Proposed: WL; Seconded: JK.</li> </ul>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cllr JD reported that relocation of the Ambulance Station to the Police/One Stop Shop Building had been successfully blocked. Cllrs are to attend a SNAPi Consultation re provision of public facilities in Thornhill. The first of a Region-wide review This will take place on 07/11/2011. Cllr JD is hopeful of persuading Authorities that Ambulance Station would be better located at Fire Station, despite Ambulance Service's objections. He says, in addition to £750k improvements made available by D&amp;GC for upgrading Fire Station, Ambulance Service also have money from their HQ, originally intended to spend on upgrading Police building – so that could be put towards making Fire Station more suitable, too.</li> <li>● DW confirmed having written to Planning Dept, objecting to Nithsdale View</li> </ul>	

	<p>development. Plan has now been withdrawn, but another is expected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Gala Report: nothing further at present.</li> <li>● Trees: Information coming in: no objections so far from those consulted.</li> <li>● Hanging Baskets: businesses have been circulated, advising that we will collect baskets in this week. DK &amp; LM to do this on Thursday morning. Intending to draw their attention to Xmas Shopping Night meeting scheduled for next Monday and invite their involvement.</li> <li>● CC container at Drumcork. James Hewson had indicated, before leaving Drumcork, that he would ask Buccleuch if container could remain where it was. Nothing further heard, so DK had contacted Mark Coombs. Mr Coombs advises Drumcork to be relet from February, 2012 and they would like container removed before then. LM had agreement from John Maxwell that it could probably be stored at Hayfield if necessary. LM to contact Mr Maxwell again to firm this up. Mr Coombs also mentioned some benches etc at Drumcork but not in the container, which may belong to CC. No-one particularly aware of this, but DK to pursue with Buccleuch.</li> </ul>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">DK, LM</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">DK</div>
4.	<p><b>Health Board update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SJ reported that the Community Hospitals Watch Group intend to commission a report by Dr Helen Tucker of Warwick University to see about turning these hospitals into hubs of Community Care. Cost (£5k) of this is presently underwritten by an individual, but intention is to approach Community Councils to see what funding can be obtained. Dr Tucker has been involved in consultancy in various similar cases, is widely respected, and was involved in setting up the present, well-regarded, system in N Cumbria.</li> <li>● A Freedom of Information request had been made to Health Board for copies of all correspondence between Messrs. Burns, Ace et al with regard to the Pilot schemes etc. After 30 days, the response was that there was <u>no</u> such correspondence. When asked why there was nothing in writing about such a major policy drive, some 9 or 10 largely irrelevant documents, mostly already in the Public Domain appeared.</li> <li>● Despite this, it is known that there is new Management in Allanbank (a private facility); work with geriatrics there has been streamlined and speeded up and Allanbank is being touted as a 'potential Community Hospital for Nithsdale...taking pressure off DGRI' – in other words, undermining our own, and similar, hospitals.</li> <li>● Mr Burns is moving to Ayrshire &amp; Arran HB in April, 2012. It is hoped that his replacement may be easier to deal with.</li> <li>● [Cllr AW and Mr Mike Steele arrived here]</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● [All Cllrs pointed out, at this point, that they were not allowed to comment on Planning matters; this was clearly understood.]</li> <li>● Mr Mike Steele reported that there is an application in by a Spanish Multinational, Acciona, to put up 16 turbines in the area behind Closeburn Church. This will effectively fill the gap between the windfarm that's already there and the one at Ae that is not built yet. The development will dominate the Valley. Buccleuch Estates, amongst others, are concerned as to the effect on Tourism. The sum of £3m in lost tourism to the area has been mentioned. He has already written to Planning Dept, seeking a delay in the consideration of the application, pending the putting together of detailed objections. He requests we, and others, do likewise. The CC agreed we should support this. D&amp;GC have a new strategy for dealing with Wind Farm applications, not yet quite finalised, which should limit them in the future; but there was some doubt expressed as to whether this would help with the current application, which fall to be considered under the existing rules. Mike will check this with D&amp;GC.</li> <li>● Still problems with obtaining Windfarm money from Solway Heritage: many CCs (though not, for some reason, Penpont) experiencing this. DW &amp; RMcG looking into this further. DW had requested Solway Heritage to attend this evening's Meeting, but they had refused. Cllr JD suggested that a group of CCs should band together, cut out Solway Heritage altogether and deal direct with Generators.</li> <li>● Closeburn Quarry: seems to have gone away – or, at least, back to Biggar. There is, however, a suggestion of re-opening Barburgh Mill Quarry (between Closeburn &amp; Auldgirth); might not be too bad, if it were possible to tie in improvements to A76 at that point.</li> </ul>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">DW, RMcG</div>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [Mike Steele left at this point]</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>Playpark Equipment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LM reported that Jane Bailey (who had raised the matter) had met with Cllr JD and Fraser Marshall. The Play Area (near Community Centre) is going to be refurbished. £15k or so of new equipment (one item for, say, under-5s and one for over-5s) might be available. Equipment suppliers could design and build. But Application needs to be submitted first. Taking present applications into account, there's only £28k still in this year's pot. Won't be in time for this November's deadline but we'd be at front of queue for next year. Mrs Bailey to be invited to next Meeting.</li> <li>• CCTV protection of this site discussed, but use of private CCTV on a public area thought to be problematic. Mobile CCTV still heavily used in Kelloholm, which may be an argument for Kelloholm getting its own, to release the 'general Nithsdale' set. Or we might, if Police agreed, purchase one (maybe shared with Moniaive or somewhere) to be operated by Police where we want it.</li> </ul>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">LM</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">DW, DK</div>
7.	<p><b>Website:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DK reported discussions with Neil Allardyce re Website. Annual Fee of £150, due to Wordpress, who host the Site, due in November. Difficult for Neil to say, at present, what costs of his maintaining the Site, dealing with postings etc might be until traffic builds up a bit, but he thinks maybe £20/mth/£240/yr. CC agreed both the £150 and the £240 would be paid, and we would review payments to Sensor again in 6 months, to see if the £240 figure needs to be revised.</li> <li>• Meantime, Neil advises he needs as much notice as possible (ideally a fortnight) for material to go on the Site; part of this is to give him time to put it on, but also it can take Google about a fortnight to pick up on things.</li> <li>• Some concern about local lack of awareness of Site. DK reports that Community Transport bus shortly going for some exterior refurbishment and a graphic, 'visit us at www.visithornhill.co.uk' will be added to it. He also suggested stickers, of the sort used by car dealers, to be supplied to shops etc. Cllr GD suggested that Nithsdale Embroidery in Sanguhar might be able to supply these.</li> </ul>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">DK</div>
8.	<p><b>Tattoo:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DW and JM had held initial Meeting re this.</li> <li>• Sanguhar Silver Band booked; JM approaching B&amp;Q Pipe Band, also Annan Pipe Band.</li> <li>• Meeting again tomorrow.</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>Xmas Shopping Night:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial Meeting about this to be held in FS Club next Monday, 24 October.</li> <li>• Intimation to go on Website and DK &amp; LM to publicise when collecting Hanging Baskets on Thursday.</li> </ul>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">DK, LM</div>
10.	<p><b>Mrs Adam's Legacy/"DG Three":</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still no word from Braidwoods re assignation of Scout's Lease.</li> <li>• Meantime, Buccleuch seem to have abandoned their plans to redevelop the Duke William Building (old P1-3) and D&amp;GC have it for sale. SJ to look into whether this might not be a better, and simpler, alternative to redeveloping the Scout Hut Site..</li> <li>• DW reiterated that, once this settled, a sub-committee needs urgently to be formed to take this project forward.</li> </ul>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">SJ</div>
11.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report:</b> In RMcG's absence, DW reported:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Legacy Account: £257,701.19 Investment Account: £5,348.80 Current Account: £311.71</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still no money from Solway Heritage but (see supra), DW &amp; RMcG intending to get to the bottom of it. More later.</li> </ul>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">DW, RMcG</div>
11.	<p><b>AOCB:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some problems reported with parking outside Dentist's Practice. Seems likely that this is merely a resident, parking where he is entitled to park and nothing to be done. Theoretical possibility of suggesting a Disabled Space be put there, but see earlier warnings about exacerbating the parking situation as a whole.</li> <li>• Closeburn CC hosting a 'Welcome New Estate' event (50 new residents, approx) this</li> </ul>	

	coming Sunday, 23 October, afternoon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Problems noted with flooding (blocked rainwater drains) in East Morton St. and one or two other locations. Cllr JD to report this.</li> </ul>	Cllr JD
12.	<b>DONM:</b> Monday, 21/11/2011, in FS Club.	
13.	<b>Meeting Closed</b>	

### Paper Apart:

#### Correspondence:

- Notification of Nithsdale Area Community Meeting: Tuesday, 25 October, 6pm, St George's Hall, George St., Dumfries.
- E-mail from LEADER – "Capacity for Change" (not relevant to us as for communities < 500 residents)
- Dumfries & Galloway Local Transport Strategy 2011-2016 Consultation
- WHA Newsletter: October, 2011-10-19 Letter of thanks from Cample K9s
- Intimation Copy Application for Entertainment Licence (Rotary Fireworks Night 05/11/2011)
- Minutes of Community Centre Management Committee Meeting 25/07/2011
- Review of Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies.

#### Planning Applications:

- Auction Mart Site: Application withdrawn – but another to be submitted.
- Application for Mast at Auldgirth – delayed for Site Visit.
- Auchencairn Windfarm – 16 turbines; 2 permanent masts; 2 temporary masts & ancillary infrastructure. (See Mike Steele's input, *supra*)
- Slurry Lagoon, Hayfield Farm
- Local Presentations recently held:
  - Auchencairn Windfarm
  - Auldgirth Windfarm