

**Thornhill Community Council
Minutes of Meeting
held at Thornhill
on
Monday, 23/01/2012**

Present: David Kerr, Davie Sharpe, Lorraine Murdoch, Jeannette Kerr, Scott Jardine, Robert McGarva

In attendance: Cllrs Gill Dykes, Andrew Wood & John Syme; Dr Tom Park, Greg Parker, Sara Bain

Apologies: Douglas Watters, Jason Davies, Jane Marchbank, Willie Lenza, Cllr Jim Dempster, D&G Police

1.	<p>Welcome: David Kerr, chairing the Meeting in the absence of DW due to illness, welcomed everyone and apologised for the postponement of the Meeting from last week; this was done in the hope that DW would have recovered, but it was decided to go ahead this week without him. Members send best wishes to DW for a speedy recovery.</p>	
2.	<p>Police Report: Police had submitted their apologies; unable to attend due to a 'major incident'.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved as an accurate record. Proposed: DS, Seconded SJ.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xmas Shopping Night considered successful; positive feedback; various shops reported very positive trading. A little quieter at southern end, which had been better last year; attracted by Taste of Galloway stall outside Marchbanks (not there this year). All accounts settled. • SJ tendered his thanks to Robert & Fraser McGarva, who had helped with the construction of Santa's sleigh; also to Neil Hiddleston for lending the trailer. • Tattoo: arrangements progressing well: Date now 22/09/2012. Next meeting tomorrow evening. • Drain/bollard in East Morton Street still hazardous. Cllr JD thought to have reported this, but nothing happened so far. Cllr JS offered to chase this again. • Windfarms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mike Steele reminds us that Blackwood WF application getting closer. ○ DW & SJ had attended meeting redistribution of Community Benefit from Clyde Windfarm. There will be some £110,000 annually from this, shared between about 12 communities. Need for a simple application process (cp. Solway Heritage) had been emphasised; also 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">Cllr JS</div>

	<p>proposal that the amount should be equally divided between communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Container: Should be on course to resite this at Hayfield; just awaiting John Maxwell's confirmation that he can receive it. • Winter Resilience update: there is a small (about 10) team of volunteers, slowly building. We have submitted an application for equipment from D&GC, based on the volunteers we have at present. Steven Wylie promises this is under active consideration. Once we know what equipment we'll be given, CC can see what other equipment we might buy, and volunteers can meet to discuss deployment etc. Emphasised that we are not offering a clearance service as such. 	
5.	<p>Planning Applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Cllrs withdrew during this discussion) Greg Parker addressed Meeting about the latest development application for Nithsdale View: for 3x 1¾ storey houses towards station end of Auction Mart site, though a little to the north (away from station) of previous application. Essentially the same application as before, but the 'faux' corrugated iron cladding had been replaced by timber cladding. Objections remain the same: out of keeping with the existing buildings, road access, already inadequate surface and foul drainage. Also fears that this would be the 'thin end of the wedge', clearing the way for more houses later on the more northerly end of the site. Planning Dept had not notified Nithsdale View residents of resubmission of plans. GP circulated a draft of his objection letter; asked that CC support Nithsdale View residents' objection and write to Planning Dept in similar terms. Approved, <u>nem con</u> (and with previously intimated support of DW). DS suggested involving SEPA, as they may have a view on this which has not been canvassed. • Rumour apparently circulating that Virginhall Church is to be turned into a Nightclub. Present application (see Annexe) is to change to dwellinghouse; no-one knew anything else. • Other Planning Applications: see annexe. 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">DK/DW</div>
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Update: • SJ advised that the group had met with Judith Proctor, Head of the Joint Enterprise between NHS and D&GC. Frank exchange of views but felt a fairly positive meeting. Representatives from Thornhill and from Moffat had been there. Moffat Mortuary has had a stay of execution, Xmas → end March (see previous Minutes). 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Tucker, an independent expert on Health Provision (previously involved in reconfiguration of hospitals in and about Nairn; also N Cumbria -latter now seen as an exemplar of excellence) has been asked to prepare a report. She will be attending Moffat on 31/01/2012, and Thornhill, where there will be a Public Meeting in the Community Centre, at 7.30pm on 01/02/2012, from both of which she expects to gather information and evidence. Langholm not involved as they have chosen, apparently somewhat controversially within their community, to engage more directly with the NHS. SJ has produced a detailed submission (previously seen and commended by DW) and a poster, publicising the event. Poster is on CC Noticeboard and SJ is to forward both to Neil Allardyce for posting on Website. There will be a cost involved in all of this. At the moment, it has been privately underwritten, but interested communities are being invited to contribute: approx £3,000 each. DW had already recommended we do this, but Members present wished to postpone a decision on this until all, or at least more, Members were present. Meantime, witnesses with direct experience of NHS provision in the area are being sought. SJ or Allis Balance will chair. • SJ also cautioned that Helen Tucker is independent, so we will not be able to influence the outcome. It might show up weaknesses in our argument, but it would at least be objective. NHS D&G, now effectively under the Chief Executive Elect, Jeff Ace (Mr Burns moving to Ayrshire & Arran in March), somewhat more accepting of the principle of the commissioning of the Report than heretofore. • SJ had also raised question of public mistrust of NHS Board with Jeff Ace. Some of this appeared to take him by surprise, but SJ felt his attitude slightly more receptive and helpful than that of Mr Burns. • Proposals for new DGRI discussed. Seems pretty likely this will go ahead. Several sites being considered, incl. existing site (prob worst possible option, owing to existing access problems, also the fact that new building would be put on existing car park, making for parking chaos during construction period); sites on the A75, opposite Pines Driving Range (prob best option) or next to ICI/Dupont (also not bad); and sites by old Heathhall Tech (bad access) or at back of Locharbriggs/Catherinefield Road (bad access). A75/Pines also seems to be NHS preferred option, but engagement with 	<div data-bbox="1203 719 1353 797" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">SJ</div>
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	<p>consultation process needed. Consultation evenings 5-7pm 07/03/2012 at Thornhill Hospital; 21/03/2012 at Sanquhar Town Hall. SJ also to forward notice of this to Website. (CC Digest will also carry it and appear on Website shortly)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital would be provided under the new PPP/NPD model, where by the amount of profit the developers can take will be capped. • Cllr JS reminded us of the need for a full Rural Provision Review – which needs to be factored in to this major new piece of provision. 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">SJ</div>
7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playpark Provision: • LM reported that Jane Bailey has completed draft of application, using the old form (all that was available at the time). Information to be mapped on to newly available 2012/13 form and submitted [by early Feb, on Cllr JS' advice]. This is for Comm Centre area only at present. 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">LM/Jane Bailey</div>
8.	<p>Treasurer's Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legacy Account: £258,901.06 • Investment Account: £3,362.72 • Current Account: £7,139.05 – owing to large back payment of Windfarm monies DW managed to 'dislodge' from Solway Heritage. • All Xmas Shopping Night bills settled. • £35 cheque needed, payable to The Information Commissioner to renew Data Protection Registration. 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">RMcG</div>
	<p>Mrs Adam's Bequest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There had been meeting between representatives of CC, Cllrs and D&GC re possibilities of Duke William Building. • Planning etc., had not raised any insurmountable objections; even to do with access and car parking, which we had thought likely. • Possibility of acquiring building for nominal sum, subject to approval of a business case. • Question remains: do we want the house as well, and what would we do with it? Member of the public had suggested preparing it for adoption by the Youth Hostels' Association, which would make the house sustainable and might also (in the form of a YHA warden) provide someone on site who might be able to put in a few hours a week as caretaker for the Duke Wm building. Some suggestion that the Planners were less keen on this, though Cllr GD said there shouldn't be a problem if a coherent case were put together – having particular regard to its not prejudicing existing accommodation providers in the village. 	

	<p>DK will do likewise and report back to Parent Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Council Xmas/New Year meal. All present agreed on 7pm, Wednesday, 08/02/2012 at Thornhill Inn. DK to canvass absentees and SJ, following responses, to book. • Noted, from LM, that Jane Bailey interested in joining CC. Agreed she could be co-opted – as, indeed, could others interested, subject to a maximum of 15 in total. Jane to be invited (by LM) to attend next time and this will be attended to. Need acknowledged to attract more, younger, and female CC members. • Funding Request from Pat Kirby for Queensberry Initiative. No specific sum requested. DK to revert to her and ask for specific sum request. 	<div data-bbox="1203 271 1353 342" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 10px;">SJ, DK</div> <div data-bbox="1203 461 1353 533" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 10px;">LM</div> <div data-bbox="1203 696 1353 768" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">DK</div>
12.	Meeting Closed	

Annexe:

Planning Applications:

- FORMER AUCTION MART SITE: 3 1.75 STOREY HOUSES WITH DETACHED GARAGES.
- LAND ADJACENT TO LINNSIDE COTTAGE, GATELAWBRIDGE-NEW HOUSE AND ACCESS. (This may be just outwith our area.)
- 11 DRUMLANRIG ST. ERECTION OF DETACHED GARAGE
- VIRGINHALL, W.MORTON ST.-CHANGE OF USE AND ALTERATIONS TO FORM DWELLING HOUSE. (RENEWAL OF PERMISSION.)
- HOLMHILL, THORNHILL-CHANGE OF USE-ALTERATIONS TO STABLE BLOCK TO FORM HOLIDAY HOUSE.
- 145 DRUMLANRIG ST.-INSTALLATION OF 4 ROOFLIGHTS PLUS SITING OF FUEL TANK. (RETROSPECTIVE.)
- FIELD SOUTH OF HOLMHILL-INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC ARRAY(APPROX. 9 BY 3.1 METRES.)
- LETTER OF REPRESENTATION CONCERNING PROPOSED AUCHENCAIRN WINDFARM SUBMITTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER NOVEMBER MEETING.
- (Need to follow this up since no acknowledgement has been received.)
- LETTER RECEIVED FROM PLANNING DEPT. CONFIRMING APPROVAL OF 70 METRE MAST APPLICATION AT HIGH AULDGIRTH. (DESPITE OUR REPRESENTATIONS IN SUPPORT OF CLOSEBURN CC.)

Correspondence:

- LETTER FROM D & G COUNCIL REF. HMIE INSPECTION AT W.H.A. Involvement of local organisations e.g Community Council. Meeting at the school at 6.30pm on Monday 30th January.
- LETTER FROM D & G COUNCIL REF. NITHSDALE COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2012-APPLICATION PROCESS:DEADLINE 21.2.12.
- LETTER FROM D&G COUNCIL-DISABLED PARKING SPACES-NO CHANGE (AS FAR AS THORNHILL IS CONCERNED) TO PROPOSALS ORIGINALLY ADVISED.
- W.H.A. NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER 2011.
- LOREBURN HOUSING ASSOCIATION-DECEMBER NEWSLETTER
- N.C.V.S-DECEMBER NEWSLETTER
- FURTHER LETTER RE. 18.1.12 MEETING AT MOFFAT RE. CLYDE WIND FARM.
- DATA PROTECTION RENEWAL 28.1.12.
- Queensberry Initiative letter. Formal request for funding from Pat Kirby
- LETTER FROM SOLWAY HERITAGE SAYING THAT D&G COUNCIL HAVE APPOINTED A “DEVELOPERS’ CONTRIBUTIONS OFFICER” TO ADMINISTER COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUNDS, AND THAT IT IS FROM 31.12.11 THAT THE COUNCIL WILL BE TAKING OVER FROM SOLWAY HERITAGE.

- RURAL DIRECT NEWS BULLETIN: 21.11.11.
- LETTER FROM D&G COUNCIL-UPDATE RE INTERIM PLANNING POLICY:WIND ENERGY.
- LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN-POSTER PLACED ON NOTICEBOARD. DEADLINE OF 9.3.12 FOR REPRESENTATIONS. Meetings all start 18.30 and as follows:
 - 20/02/2012: CD High School, Castle Douglas
 - 22/02/2012: Town Hall, Lockerbie
 - 28/02/2012: County buildings, Wigtown
 - 29/02/2012: St George's Hall, George Street, Dumfries
- FOODTRAIN NEWS LETTER.