

Thornhill Community Council Meeting Minutes – 21st March 2016

In Attendance: John Holroyd, Jim Renicks, Robert McGarva, Christopher Craig, Annie Wild, Willie Lenza, Sheila Jones, Dave McGarva (local resident), Declan McGarva (local S3 student)

1. APOLOGIES

Jane Marchbank, Cllr Wood

2. POLICE REPORT – Sgt Scott

New Community Officer for Thornhill has been appointed and commenced duties on 21st March

An incident of bogus workmen targeting and elderly couple in the village has taken place. Investigations are ongoing and police have apprehended suspects and charged them with fraud. Sgt Scott asked all members to report any suspicious individuals seen in the area if suspected of this type of activity.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Proposed by JR, seconded by WL

4. MATTERS ARISING

A discussion was held about the topic of developing a local resilience plan. It was agreed that such a document may be useful in an emergency for improving speed of contact to individuals with local knowledge to assist emergency services.

It was agreed that volunteers/contacts named in the plan need not be community councillors but could be residents with knowledge and experience in responding such as ex. Police or ex. Fire service.

Members felt it would be useful to see examples of existing resilience plans already in place by other community councils to assist with development of Thornhill's plan. MB to ask council for copies and circulate to members for review.

Confirmed that Thornhill Tattoo won't be taking place this year due to non-availability of pipe band and dancers.

A discussion was had about the proposed digital community information screen; JR to progress with chosen supplier.

5. FRIENDSHIP ROOMS

JR recommended that the commercial arrangement for the hire of the venue for TCC meetings should be formalised. It was proposed by JH that we pay for the room hire 12 months in advance each April; unanimously agreed. RM to arrange to make payment.

JR highlighted that the Friendship Rooms were considering VAT registration in order to minimise costs for planned refurbishment. They have asked if TCC could provide a 'bridging loan' for the VAT expected on the project from Mrs Adam's Bequest. The money would be repaid after the project is completed and VAT has been reclaimed. A vote was taken and it was agreed by all to approve such an arrangement provided an appropriate legal agreement is in place with identified payment milestones.

6. UPDATE ON SPRING CLEAN

Wallace Hall Academy student Declan McGarva provided an update on his role in supporting the spring clean as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award. Declan has created posters and flyers for distribution in the village and plans to engage with local groups and the school to encourage participation.

JR advised that D&G Council have been contacted and agreed to provide equipment for litter picking although the number they can supply may be limited and it was agreed that TCC may need to purchase additional equipment depending on numbers taking part; JR to investigate options for purchase of items.

Small (¼ A4 size) flyers to be distributed to all households in the village 1 week ahead of the event; volunteers required to distribute flyers.

CC highlighted persistent problem of litter bin in lay-by on A76 immediately south of the village always being tipped over. MB to contact D&G Council requesting action.

7. MRS ADAM'S BEQUEST

Agreed that TCC need to supply a plaque with appropriate wording for each of the facilities receiving funding from the bequest to be installed as acknowledgement of that support. Design and installation of plaque to be overseen by TCC.

8. WINDFARMS AND WINDFARM MONIES UPDATE

No significant updates on wind farm funds since last meeting.

JR advised that TCC had made a contribution of £360 from the Clyde Windfarm funding as part of a coordinated action amongst several community councils to support Moffat Mountain Rescue, particularly appropriate due to the recent incident near Durisdeer.

JR also highlighted a growing trend of smaller community councils offering to other communities due to their size and inability to generate projects sufficient to utilize all the funding they receive. The thinking is that their residents will benefit from projects being delivered in nearby larger communities any way.

Next funding round from Foundation Scotland due to open soon; likely to close to applications by mid-July.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Current account balance: £13,328.23 (circa £11k recently withdrawn for community bus bequest funding)
- Legacy account balance: £3,489.40
- Investment account balance: £259,056.03

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

• CHANGE OF USE OF SHOP TO LASER THERAPY/BEAUTY CLINIC

115 DRUMLANRIG STREET, THORNHILL

Ref. No: 16/P/3/0084 | Received: Mon 22 Feb 2016 | Validated: Mon 22 Feb 2016

11. CORRESPONDENCE

Date	Format	From	Subject
17/02/16	Letter	Still Birth & Neonatal Death Charity	Request for funding contribution towards Strictly Come Dancing charity fundraiser event
22/02/16	Email	Matt Halliday	Campaign to upgrade the A75
23/02/16	Email	D&G Council	Events and Training bulletin
23/02/16	Email	D&G Council	Community Council Training
24/02/16	Letter	Wallace Hall Academy	Partnership meeting
25/02/16	Email	D&G Council	Nithsdale Area Committee papers for meeting on 2 March 2016

26/02/16	Email	D&G Council	Nithsdale Area Committee Funding for Xmas Activities
29/02/16	Email	D&G Council	Community and Renewable Energy Conference
01/03/16	Email	D&G Council	Community Facilities Review report
01/03/16	Email	Nithsdale CVS	Notice of an EGM
02/03/16	Email	Nithsdale Third Sector D&G	Nithsdale Local Rural Partnership
02/03/16	Email	James G Findlay Ltd	Quotation for chemical spraying
03/03/16	Email	Nithsdale Third Sector D&G	Mental Health and Social Support seminar – 14th April
04/03/16	Email	D&G Council	Dumfries and Galloway Design Awards 2016
09/03/16	Email	D&G Council	Nithsdale Area Committee (Community) - 22 March 2016
10/03/16	Email	D&G Council	Janice Thom retirement
11/03/16	Email	D&G Council	Grass Cutting in Closed Cemeteries
14/03/16	Email	D&G Council	Notice of elections
14/03/16	Email	Royal Mail	Post box reinstatement – Manse Road
14/03/16	Email	D&G Council	Community Council Constitutions
18/03/16	Email	D&G Council	Community and Customer Services Committee - Tuesday 8 March 2016 - Community Facilities Review Report

Agreed to provide £40 voucher for Thomas Tosh to the SANDS charity for raffling at their Strictly Come Dancing fund raising event as requested by letter.

MB to instruct contractor JG Findlay to proceed with the weed killing work in the village as proposed in their quotation.

12. A.O.C.B.

JH advised that he is now on the management committee for Thornhill Community Centre as well as property subcommittee; this will ensure the community council is kept up to date with developments and can work most effectively to support the best outcomes for facilities in the village.

JH recently attended a meeting about Mid-Nithsdale Community Action Planning and circulated a copy of the minutes. There was agreement that a common action plan should be developed for communities within the A76 corridor including Thornhill, Closeburn and Carronbridge. It was highlighted that £10k of funding is available from Foundation Scotland to conduct feasibility studies to investigate needs of communities and inform the development of the action plan.

MB to contact Chris Woodness at D&G Council regarding street cleaning machine as per last month's minutes.

SJ pointed out that a fun fair is coming to Thornhill on 31st March and that the Gala Committee is organising a car boot sale on 17th April; it would be appreciated if members could spread the word and support the car boot sale.

JR has spoken with Buccleuch Estates about tress overhanging the bench at top of Hospital Brae; he was advised that residents are welcome to cut off any overhanging braches and throw them back into the wood.

JR raised the topic of hanging baskets for the village and suggested funding could come from the Annandale and Nithsdale wind farm fund. It is estimated the cost would be circa £600. CC suggested the use of a local supplier to supply and maintain the baskets and agreed to investigate options.

RM advised that the local chapter of the Royal British Legion is being disbanded in October and the expectation may be that the responsibility for Remembrance Day activities would fall to the community council. JH recommended investigating whether community council would be obligated or not and suggested it be added to the next meeting as an agenda item for discussion.

CC requested that hard copies of community council meeting minutes be placed at the library. WL noted that some residents have requested that minutes and agendas be posted on the community notice board; MB pointed out that there is little space for posting full minutes unless they are of a size which would be difficult for many to read.

Date of next meeting: Monday 18th April