

**Thornhill Community Council  
Minutes of Meeting  
held at Thornhill  
on Monday, 16/04/2012**

**Present:** David Kerr, Scott Jardine, Douglas Watters, Jane Bailey, Jane Marchbank, Jeannette Kerr, Robert McGarva, Lorraine Murdoch, Wille Lenza, Davie Sharpe

**Apologies:** Jason Davies, Cllrs Gill Dykes and John Syme

**In attendance:** Sgt Graeme Stitt, Cllrs Jim Dempster and Andrew Wood

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Police Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1x Minor Vandalism, 3x Breach of the Peace; all detected.</li> <li>• 1x Assault; 3x Theft; strimmer, boy's bike, tools; enquiries ongoing.</li> <li>• 7x RTA FPNs: 1x seatbelt, 1x using mobile, 5 minor lighting</li> <li>• 3x ASB</li> <li>• Farmwatch campaign still ongoing; still to get round to some farms</li> <li>• National Seatbelt Campaign coming up 5-8 May</li> <li>• Dog Fouling; still ongoing; still a problem in some areas.</li> <li>• Litter problem reported in layby on W side of A76, just south of Thornhill. Lack of bin where there used to be one. Maybe something for Amey to address. Sgt GS will contact them.</li> </ul>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Previous Minutes</b> Accepted. Proposed: SJ; Seconded: DS.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree pruning: trees now in bud; postponed till June and intimated on Website and Notice Board.</li> <li>• Windfarm/mast applications at High Auldgrith: letters of representation submitted, as previously agreed.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>NHS:</b> Nothing of significance at present; next Keep Watch meeting at Moffat on Wednesday, 18/04/2012</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Mrs Adam's Legacy:</b> Private Meeting to be held after main meeting, as some information sensitive at present.</p>	SJ
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Windfarms:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clyde: DW attending meeting at Moffat next Wednesday</li> <li>• Harestanes: we have signed up, as agreed, to potential Trust arrangement; Money to be equally distributed amongst participating CCs meantime; may move to <u>per capita</u> arrangement after 2015.</li> </ul>	DW
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Treasurer:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legacy: £259,491.82</li> <li>• Investment: £3,367.66</li> <li>• Current: £7,380.73</li> <li>• RMcG had met with Suzanne Kidger, D&amp;GC's new Windfarm Distributions Officer (replacing Solway Heritage). Generally positive, but, as she currently lives in Cumbria, it might be difficult, meantime, to invite her to a CC Meeting.</li> </ul>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DGHP/Wallace Hall Site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General concerns expressed at short notice of consultation event (Friday, 13 April); that much of it was during the day; not a huge</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<p>amount of publicity for it and held during school holidays when many people away. DK had already made representations about this to DGHP; may give us an opportunity to ask for a further such event at more suitable notice and time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ JB expressed concerns re traffic, access, quality of housing proposed and numbers of potential children, given that schools already nearly full. Also that DGHP don't have money for the proposed Manse Rd bungalows yet, which may leave potentially unfinished site. SJ added a concern re lack of a pavement in Manse Road.</li> <li>○ DW offered to resubmit our observations (along these lines) made in regard to the previous application for this site. Some surprise expressed that, either, the application had not gone to Planning Committee, or that Committee had approved it.</li> <li>○ Cllr JD advised that this was part of new Sc Govt rules on planning: if it's not contrary to general policy, there's a presumption in favour of sustainable development and it doesn't go to Committee. He also advised that there are some 300 pupils in the existing Thornhill schools who come from outwith the catchment area and, in the event of more Thornhill-based pupils needing to be accommodated than there are currently spaces for, pupils from outwith the are would be required to return to their 'own' schools, or, at least, to go elsewhere. He also cautioned against putting too many obstacles in the way of the proposed development and being left with the current derelict and dangerous uncleared site – whilst also acknowledging that the points already made were perfectly legitimate.</li> <li>○ DW will, therefore, write to DGHP, passing on our comments re the consultation, asking for another presentation that more people could get to, and will also write to Planning Dept, outlining JB's points.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Queensberry Brae: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This had been recommended for refusal, but Planning Committee had granted it – largely, it appears, on the say-so of Cllrs from the Stewartry &amp; Wigtownshire, which is pretty annoying – though Cllr JD had been present and done his best on our behalf. Cllr JD also pointed out that, he having queried this, it had been confirmed that grant had been made in accordance with Sc Govt's new rules on simplification of the Planning Process. This site had been identified for development on the current Local Plan, so grant was not a major departure from Planning policy. Cllr AW also advised that D&amp;GC trying to go for a unified Planning approach across the whole Region and Cllr JD confirmed that the two Cllrs who had been instrumental in granting permission for the Queensberry site had, against their wishes, had permission granted for a site in Kirkcudbright shortly afterwards, so all were in the same boat and, had our other local Cllrs been present, it probably wouldn't have made any difference to the Queensberry site decision.</li> <li>○ The substantial development on this site can, therefore, go ahead, though Cllr JD felt that it should never have been identified as a development site in the first place. In any case, as Cllr JD pointed out, the economics of all of this have changed substantially, even in the last three years or so since this was last under discussion, so much of the development may not happen for many years to</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<div data-bbox="1353 1077 1474 1173" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">DW</div> <div data-bbox="1353 1473 1522 1570" style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Yellow area embargoed meantime.</div> <div data-bbox="1353 1715 1474 1812" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">DW</div>
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	<p>come.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other Planning Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ See Annexe.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>Correspondence:</b> See Annexe.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Gala 2012:</b> Arrangements proceeding satisfactorily. Reminder from WL that bowling Club still to be booked.</p>	DS
11.	<p><b>Tattoo 2012:</b> Also proceeding satisfactorily. Seeking sponsorship at present. Cllr JD reminded us that D&amp;GC could be applied to, even though an application had already been made in respect of the Gala.</p>	JM/ Sara Bain
12.	<p><b>Crichope Linn:</b> David Clyne, Countryside Access Officer for D&amp;GC had confirmed that there is no money available for this, but that he would be willing to look at it with us and give advice. DK had had some discussion with Mike Steele (Closeburn CC), who had confirmed that Closeburn, too, were interested. SJ had been to look at the route earlier today and was of the view that there are a number of very dangerous points on it, which would require major work to make safe. He felt it would not be viable to do so and that it was also a very different proposition from the Luss site DK had mentioned at the last Meeting. If the CC were to attempt to get Roy Weir's agreement to take it over themselves, we would need to be very sure it could be made safe and SJ thought it probably could not be so made. Next move might be to get David Clyne's advice but, quite possibly, nothing can be done about the route.</p>	DK
13.	<p><b>Tennis Courts:</b> There had been an approach from a member of the public, to do with putting the tennis courts beyond the bowling green back in order. In fact, this ground had been sold off by D&amp;GC to private owners some time ago, because of difficulty in sustaining interest in them, and because they are so difficult of access.</p>	
14	<p><b>Communications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some difficulties with existing Noticeboard; TT staff reporting some difficulty policing what can go on it and what not. It was acknowledged that this should not be something that TT staff have to do. This situation may be helped by...</li> <li>• Website: CC is doing a fair amount of posting on it, as are some others. Main difficulty is to get Website known about. We are trying to source publicity stickers, but it's proving a slow process.</li> <li>• CC is also now on Facebook (as 'Thornhill, Dumfriesshire') and seems to have picked up quite a few 'Friends', including a few somewhat surprising ones. There was some suggestion that we have the 'wrong kind' of FB page, but no-one present knew enough to know what that meant. DK will take advice from Neill Allardice shortly.</li> <li>• Electronic Display Board: JD had asked, on the last occasion, what one of these would do that a Plasma TV would not. Manufacturers consulted had advised that a domestic TV only designed to be on about 4 hours a day and that they couldn't do the scheduling etc., that a purpose-made EDB could. JB had been sceptical, but had been impressed by the EDBs in DGOne and both WL and DK's places of work have them. We need to identify a site that would accommodate one (DK&amp;SJ think they have done), but the problem with shops is that most of them need their window space for their own displays. SJ&amp;DK will research further, but proper (not</li> </ul>	DW  DK    DK, SJ

	<p>merely manufacturers’) advice will need to be taken before purchase – if, indeed, we do this. It would also need someone whose job it was to keep it up to date. Possibly this could be linked to maintenance of Website, but Neil A would need to be consulted. Such a device would, however, both ease the pressure on the existing Board and be more completely under CC control.</p>	
<p>15.</p>	<p><b>AOCB:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day of the Region: DK, Pam Clifford, Paul O’Keefe, Pat Kirby and Jack Meade had met and, to a very short deadline, had drafted and submitted a proposal to Leader for grant assistance for this. A surprising number of organisations had expressed some interest in taking part. First, Leader had come back and suggested we should apply for a bigger grant for more things – which we had done – and then had replied with an agreement in principle, but an enormous number of observations, queries and requirements, all to be satisfied by 19 April. DK had wondered at first if it was merely he who had felt swamped by this, but the existing group, together with a number of others both on the CC and off it, had felt that too much was being asked of people who were all volunteers and no-one was prepared to take on this job. DK accordingly proposed that the CC</li> <li>• abandon the proposal, subject to any comments the CC had to make. No-one objected. Cllr JD agreed that too much was being asked. Cllr AW suggested that Leader themselves might provide support for carrying out these tasks, but there was a general feeling that this would still have to be ‘driven’ by us. Given the interest shown by other organisations, perhaps such events might either be tacked on to a future Gala (present one to soon), or Tattoo, or might just go ahead on the scheduled Day of the Region. Latter not favoured as it was felt that those who might attend would be likely to be attending other D of R events elsewhere. DK meantime to contact Leader, withdrawing our proposal. Disappointing.</li> <li>• Hanging Baskets: Capenoch have agreed to supply new, filled, baskets @ £18, same as last year and will refill existing baskets, most of which we still have, @ £12. Businesses in Drumlanrig Street and E&amp;W Morton Streets have been approached, and offered a ‘free’ one, or additional ones @ £18. Replies coming in. Those who didn’t have them last year, if any, may need a bracket.</li> <li>• Planters at A76 entrances to village: LM looking in to this.</li> <li>• Winter Resilience: equipment has finally arrived, thanks to Cllr GD’s interventions. DK will meet with volunteers in due course and divvy up what goes where. Basically, one or two additional salt bins have been installed, and we have three quite substantial, but easy-to-push, pavement gritters and three or four sets of small shovels, hi-vis jackets and gloves to go with each one. JM will, in due course, have a mobile phone which people can use to contact us, and a system will be worked out for routine gritting and for allowing people to borrow equipment. Needs to be made clear that we are not offering a path clearing service for individuals.</li> <li>• Community Centre Playpark: JB reported a problem with broken glass on a recurring basis. Cllr JD explained that Grounds Maintenance would deal with this as part of the grass cutting schedule, but would not specifically attend to deal with this. Nor would roadsweepers/litterpickers who, in any event, are employed by Amey. Cllr JD suggested asking Police to place mobile CCTV there for a while. Since Kelloholm now has its own one, the mobile one should be more available. DW to contact Police.</li> </ul>	<p>DK</p> <p>DK</p> <p>LM</p> <p>DK</p> <p>DW</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It might, also, be worth approaching Amey to see if we could work something out to deal with locally based streetsweeping, as there is also a problem throughout the village with cigarette ends. Litter is generally picked up effectively and our local litterpicker, Craig, is considered to be much more conscientious than others operating elsewhere, but the cigarette butts remain a problem. Some discussion of whether the CC might buy a mechanical sweeper, but it would need trained volunteers to operate it.</li> <li>• JM also pointed out that there is a lot of weed growth etc., about the main streets of the village. WHA might be able to help with this, but perhaps not quite what we should be asking them to do, and probably best to approach Amey first.</li> <li>• JM also drew attention to the raised flower bed at the top of W Morton Street. DGHP had tidied this up last year, but shrubs now appear to be dead or dying and more attention needed. DK will approach DGHP.</li> </ul>	DK
16	<b>DONM:</b> Monday, 21/05/2012	
17.	<b>Meeting Closed</b>	

#### Annexe:

##### Planning Applications:

- 1 Blackmire Terrace: Erection of garage/store & boundary wall
- Holmhill Cottage: Alterations & extensions to house
- Former WHA Site: 22x 2 storey dwellings; 8x1 storey dwellings; formation of access & landscaping
- Kirkland of Morton: Plot opposite: 2 dwellinghouses (application renewal)
- Chinchane, Seton Avenue: Alterations & extension to house.

##### Correspondence:

- Southern Uplands Partnership Spring Newsletter
- E-mail from Sc Govt re 5 consultation papers relating to T&C Planning
- Letter from D&GC: Meeting 24/04/2012 6.30pm Kbt Town Hall, to inform CCs on Wind Energy Interim Planning Policy (Developer Contributions Officer to attend)
- WHA Newsletter: March, 2012-04-17 Letter from DGHP: WHA development: Presentation at Community Centre 13/04/2012, 1pm-6pm
- Letter from D&GC: Application for permanent variation of licence, Thornhill Inn (outdoor seating)
- D&GC: Seminar Report (Community councillors) – 15/11/2011
- D&GC: Details of Public Liability Insurers from 01/05/2012
- Community Centre Management Committee Meeting Minutes 27/02/2012
- D&GC: Extending need for a Public Entertainment Licence
- D&GC: Big Jubilee Lunch: Sunday, 03/06/2012
- "Vikings Are Coming" poster – 05/04/2012
- E-On: (Yet another) Windfarm proposal: Quantans Hill, Carsphairn area. (Visible from B729 Moniaive-Carsphairn Road)