

THORNHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 28th April 2014, in the Friendship Club,

West Morton Street, Thornhill, starting at 19.15 hrs.

In Attendance: Cllr J Dempster, J Marchbank, J Holroyd, J Renwick, J Bailey, R McGarva, D Watters, W Lenza, J Kerr, several members of the public

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Dykes, M Bainbridge, D Sharpe

2. Police Report

In Closeburn 2 trailers stolen. Advice to make sure locked or secure in some way. Rural thefts.

3 assaults in past month. 1 outside on street, 1 domestic incident, 1 dentist assaulted. Nothing outstanding as person reported.

A strange person reported in Seton Avenue – no trace.

Car crash at lower wood – boy taken mothers car. Been traced and reported for relevant offences.

People should note travelling criminals reminder to keep vigilant.

The police patrol Seton Avenue, Nithbank, Queensberry Beeches.

3. Health Centre

Discussion on GP provisions

Dr. Ishmael, Dr Osmond, Wendy Howat Practice Manager, Kirsty Bonn and Lynne Hyslop from Boots were welcomed as guest presenters

DW advised that the issue raised at last TCC meeting concern over GP provision. Representatives from Thornhill medical practice invited and the meeting has been advertised and members of the public are in attendance.

Dr. Ishmael presented the power point presentation that has been in the Medical centre waiting room which addresses concerns in response to rumours.

Dr Ishmael hopes that the power presentation answers all the questions. See attached sheet with presentation.

DW open to questions

JH asked if there is something about Thornhill that's different.(with reference to recruitment)

Dr Ishmael – Lockerbie, Lochthorn, Dunscore are all recruiting at the same time. In previous years he had never known that to happen. A lot of vacancies in the region. In the past a lot of doctors trained

locally, having completed their training they then tended to look for work within the region. Now the majority of trainees that come to Dumfries and Galloway leave when they are trained. Dr Ishmel has already made investigations with the current trainees and none are wanting to stay in the region. When they advertise nationally find that due to changes the way GPs work that GPs from England and Wales are not wanting to settle in to a practice. They are looking for locum or sometimes salary work, because there is a lot more to the job than there was 10 years ago. With changes under the GP contract, Doctors have to provide a lot more evidence for the work that they do, in a week 10 -12 hours administrative work. Less money paid in to general practice but expenses increase meaning partner profit reduced therefore locum work more attractive as less responsibility. Permanent Doctors have to do administration work for patients they have not seen. At present no alternative to having locum. In smaller practice this is felt more. At great expense a number of locum doctors have been brought in. This means that there are appointments available tomorrow for a locum doctor, there are appointments for Wednesday, however if an appointment is wanted with Dr. Osmond or Dr. Ishmael then an appointment would be available in a week to 10 days. Dr Ishmel away at trainers meeting last week therefore out of the practice for 2 days. No trainee at present, although due to a process that has to take place there will be trainee from next year.

Dr. Ishmael is asking for patients to be patient. They are trying very best. Sacrifices being made to keep practice going. Patients should write or approach practice manager if they have concerns.

DW given letters from members of public and read letters. Questions from letters already covered. Letters particularly concerned about continuity, patients having difficulty understanding some of the doctors.

Member of public requested that a complaint letter was read in full, but Douglas felt the letter should be given to Dr. Ishmael as it mentioned doctors by name.

Members of public felt that DW was badly prepared but public letters had only been handed in at the beginning.

JR agreed that the questions within the letters had been answered by Dr. Ishmael's presentation.

A member of the public asked how a fulltime doctor could work locum as well.

Dr. Ishmael answered the question with regard to how many hours he works at Thornhill. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. Half day on a Wednesday. Dr. Ishmael picks up his children at 3pm. Wendy, the practice manager can vouch that he doesn't take break in the morning. Lunch often taken only for 15 minutes. No compromise has been taken with patient care. Reminder that as pointed in presentation that it is only 2 days for a routine appointment. Dr. Ishmael can understand peoples concerns if they could not see a Doctor, but the recurring theme is the inability to see the Doctor of choice. Dr. Ishmael is full time and Dr. Osmond is 3 days per week. Locum doctors are like supply teachers. Because a lot of locum work in Dumfries & Galloway just now the locums are very much booked up. There is great difficulty to get locum cover.

Member of the public says they think more than one permanent Doctor needed at this practice

Dr. Ishmael completely concurs

Dr Osmond points out that the common theme with the letters is continuity and DW agrees. The bottom line is that they would love another fulltime. It would make life easier for everybody, but there just isn't anybody.

Member of the public said that people are frightened to complain but she had been told that some of the locums were not very good.

Dr Osmond, advised as Dr. Ishmael had already said that more and more Dr.s are giving up permanent practice and do locum for more money and less administrative work.

Member of public wished that the information being given on PP presentation had been done a year ago.

Member of public asked for clarification re whether locums are earning more than practice partners. Dr. Osmond gave clarification and said that locum job has freedom, a lot of younger doctors like to look around before and confirmed that locums do not earn more than permanent doctor.

Dr Ishmael advised that locum rates vary widely from £380 per day to over £1000 per day. The doctors in Dumfries & Galloway are naming their price and their conditions. We have to go with what we can have.

Member of public repeated the need to go to government about locum not being good.

Dr Osmond advised the Health Board has been approached. The problem is region wide. Consultant positions cannot be filled. Recruitment to Dumfries and Galloway is very difficult. Neurology is 8 month wait of routine appointment. Clinics are running months behind. Cardiology have 2 permanent cardiologists – they should have 4. There are so few people for pathology that they are sending people to Glasgow for post mortem. Dentist problem. Problem attracting professionals to Dumfries and Galloway.

Dumfries Hospital are doing ad campaign to draw in people from outwith area.

Cllr JD asked have incentive been considered. Council used to do golden handshake as incentive Scotland offers golden hello and further for rural.

Cllr JD- asked if the practice was doing over and above the standard

Dr Osmond advised they have flexibility in ads, late starts, school hours, all sorts of flexibility

Dr Ishmael advised that all the flexibility that they are advertising unlike other practices.

Cllr JD asked if the advert was open ended or if closing date

Dr Ishmael advised that always a closing date as if advertise too frequently it doesn't look good. Advertised at Christmas and have just advertised again. If this round of recruitment is unsuccessful the solution may be to have one or two locums. All Doctors are competent. They will not be dangerous. Whether you like them or not is a different matter. They are highly qualified and experienced.

JH added professionals want to live and work in city. When worked in Dumfries and Galloway council they were having to lure social workers from Canada and South Africa none of them lasted 6 month. It's a real problem to get professional people to come to rural area.

Cllr JD asked if explored how many people are currently through the process of qualifying as doctors?

Dr Ishmael advised that he knew them all. He has emailed, written and txted them. He will consider advertising outwith the UK

Dr Osmond has placed advert in Bath to recruit people to come up.

Cllr JD Have you asked if any of current locums wold permanent post

Dr Ishmael advised that by having locums they can see how they work and can see the doctor in practice. By getting people to work with us we know who the preferred doctors are. If any of the locum doctors apply we know who to put at the top of the list.

DW asked for any further suggestions.

Cllr JD Asked if they had considered giving accommodation or other incentives that wold make them come here. That may be the thing that helps young professional with family. Way to encourage them to come here

DW advised that something similar happens with the vets

Cllr JD is there anything that discourages

Dr I – believe not as they are a popular practice with locums. He wants to work on the practice website the current website is out dated . A new website will sell the practice

Member of public asked if there is a reason why doctors leaving as we had a local doctor and Dr Proudfoot, Dr Graham – why are they leaving.

Dr. Osmond advised that Dr Graham worked in palliative care and got to do more work at the hospital. Dr. Proudfoot had two young children, was commuting from Castle Douglas, trying to work 5 days a week – it was just too much.

Dr Ishmael said Dr Proudfoot could not commit , Dr Ishmel tried all sort s of things to make it work for her. It was just not the right timing for her. She was used to working in bigger practices.

Dr Osmond advised that exact situation is why we have to get it right

Dr Ishmael only works at Thornhill Practice and has done for 11 years. He does an out of hours shift in Dumfries on Tuesday evening. It is completely separate and outwith his time at Thornhill. Primarily that is to supervise on the out of hours service. He supervises for other practices . It does not conflict with his Thornnhill work.

Members of public ask to be kept informed at all times.

JM suggested to use TCC board.

DW advised that the power point presentation can be put on the notice board and be put on the TCC website.

Dr Ishmael will make news update on their new website.

Member of public requested to know the complaints procedure for patient. If anybody has complaint they can come to reception, leaflets at the practice. If someone has a concern or complaint they should put it in writing to the practice manager, after that the practice will go back to the complainant within 9 days and then take it from there.

Member of public said he knows of complaint that has taken 2 and half months without response. Dr Ishmel advised that he should then get back in touch.

WL said he has lived in Thornhill for 60 years and had throughout the 60 years he has never had one bit of bother with the Doctors. HE has been in hospital with major surgery and has had no bother. Everybody is resistant to change people have to be patient.

DW added personal note that he had occasion over the last 7 months for at least 5 different complaints 3 of which were emergency. I can only compliment the speediness with which I was seen.

DW Thanked the health practitioners for their attendance and thanked the members of the public for their attendance.

The Thornhill medical team then left the meeting as did all the members of the public.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

Proposed J Renwick

Seconded J Kerr

Matters Rising

WL advised of East Morton Street holes in road still not fixed

Cllr JD will speak to Transport Scotland

JR spoke to Willie Slider who confirmed the section of road is Transport Scotland

JK still concerned about the potholes on East Back Street.

Cllr JD

WL advised that the potholes on the Main Street.

Cllr JD advised only investment on A75 is north of Thornhill

RMc – commented on Barbara Mill corner and JH agreed Cllr JD agreed to email those concerned

5. Wind farms

DW advised that we are now involved with 4 different wind farms; Dalswinton, Clyde Valley, 20 Schilling and Harestanes.

DW would like help with sitting on the committees. JB and WL agreed to go to 20 Schilling meeting on Wednesday. Meeting will discuss the money split between communities.

Harestanes want to appoint directors for set up.

Cllr JD Sanquhar & Kirkconnel have set up single fund whereas Thornhill already has four different mechanisms for different funds. Need to sit down Thornhill to work out what we want to do

JR wanted to know if there is any way legally if we can draw that in to a pot for Thornhill Community Council where the whole amount goes to TCC we decide, this is the criteria.

DW advised that Dalswinton works completely different, where a list of projects is out in. It's the much smaller of the funds we draw up a list generally for the annual ongoing things like the Gala, hanging baskets, website maintenance.

With Clyde applications go into Scottish Foundation.

Cllr JD advised that in Sanquhar they have created a group including solicitors and accountants and created a constitution.

DW advised that Scottish Foundation is going to change the system where applications will go direct to them.

Cllr JD advised about consultation document what wind farm companies should consider. The government is saying that deprivation should be considered and zone of viewing, populations size.

6. Treasurers Report

Current Account £6485.77

Investment Account £3429.70

Legacy Account: £266 913.44

7. Correspondence

List attached

Planning applications

Email from Joyce Beattie from British Legion with regard to the cost of public liability insurance asking if TCC can take on the responsibility. They misunderstood that TCC has insurance in place regardless which is incorrect. We have to take insurance specific to each event. DW suggested that

TCC make £250 mini grant application. This should cover 3 years contributions. JM supports as do all members.

Further correspondence from Morton Milers asking for a micro grant. JB advised that Morton Milers is a running group in Thornhill and have successfully recruited lots of young girls. Girls asked to have hoodies. The girls did their own fund raising doing a bake sale. DW recommends paying full £283 for the remaining balance after their own fund raising. All members are happy with this.

Formal letter to advise that the changes to the post office are going ahead. DW advised that some of the changes suggested by TCC have been taken on board.

Loreburn want to come to a meeting in connection with Abbeyfield site. They are invited to May meeting.

Waste services change update. 30 minute presentation. DW suggests that nearer the time it should be at Community Centre. Likely to start April next year, so RMc suggests meeting February. DW will email to arrange.

DW will chase about the disabled parking space and lights on the cross.

JK asked about the future of the Community Centre after reading something in the Standard

Cllr JD advised that all community facilities are being reviewed. One of the things being considered is to close the library and to build a new extension at the community centre and out the library and the customer services there. The council don't want too many buildings in one town or village. It has not been decided.

DW advised of meeting tomorrow with Karen Brownlie to take the proposal of Duke William building forward.

Cllr JD said if the council decide to put the extension on the Community Centre that would put to bed any concerns about the Community Centre being handed to the community. Richard Grievson will report to Committee. He said that if the TCC go ahead with the Duke William building the council will likely see there being a problem with the future of the Community Centre. The whole idea is to have everything in one building. Decision is for council to maintain the fabric of the building and that a management committee runs it or the council owns the building and moves the library and customer services to the community centre.

JB explained her frustration at the change of agreement made with Justin Tracey, but she is concerned that any decision made by TCC for the Duke William Building doesn't jeopardise the future of the Community Centre.

Cllr JD advised again that the council do not want 2 buildings in Thornhill, even if that includes a renting space in the Duke William Building.

JR confused by email sent by JB. JR feels that the community council is holding Thornhill back. JB believes that as the agreement has been changed with regard to the Duke William Building and that the TCC needs to move forward with caution with regard to this project as it may affect the

Community Centre. JB said that in the last 6 weeks the agreement that was made with Justin Tracey has been revoked as he agreed that there could be 2 buildings.

Cllr JD – council have tried to support Thornhill Community. The council will support the Duke William Building and put in staff, they will not pay more than current building.

JB advised that we were told that we would get a share of the profit from sale of the existing library. However, now the council are saying that if they support the Duke William plans as they have presented them then the Council will no longer pay the rates and oil for the community centre and TCC are aware that the community centre is not sustainable in this case with its current income.

Cllr JD – council want the rates charged for council buildings to be equalised. Council want Community Centre rates increased.

JB – argued that local groups using the Community Centre cannot afford the type of rates the council want to be paid.

Cllr JD – if the council take on the community centre with library and customer services the council will want to increase the fees at Community Centre

Cllr JD left the meeting.

10. Gala and Tattoo

Nobody to report on the gala

JM advised still a lot of entertainment but are still looking for a silver band

AOB

JR asked Jane about email to members. Wants to know where she stands. JR felt that JB slap in the face to committee as she looked at another option.

JB believed that in the email she made it clear that it was simply a conversation about hydro income, and she wanted to bring it to committee as we have this change in policy re

JR believed JB acted inappropriately by talking to Mark Coombs

JH felt that something was happening outwith the democratic procedure.

JB handed her notice to the Chair due to the way in which she was being spoken to by members and apologised for anything that she had done

DW asked it to be left at that

JR said to wait and see what comes from the Karen Brownlie meeting

DW agreed further discussion after the Karen Brownlie meeting as the goal posts have moved since the public meeting.

DW closed meeting and thanked for attendance. Next meeting Monday 19th May.

