

**Thornhill Community Council
Minutes of Meeting
Held at Thornhill
On Monday, 18 April, 2011**

Present: Douglas Watters, Willie Lenza, Lorraine Murdoch, Jeannette Kerr, Scott Jardine, Robert McGarva, David Kerr, Jason Davies, Linda Airley
In attendance: Cllr Andrew Wood

1.	<p><u>Apologies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">To Do:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"> </td> </tr> </table>	To Do:	
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2.	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved; Proposed by Lorraine Murdoch; Seconded by Scott Jardine. 			
3.	<p><u>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Kerr reported that he had located the Gala trophies and also the Queen and Assistant's dresses; these would be passed to Sara Bain. Likewise James & Caroline have confirmed the unused benches are at Drumcork and will be placed in the container. <p>[Jason Davies arrived at this point]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closeburn Quarry: Objections continue to be made, but Planning Department cannot receive these at present, because the formal Application has not yet been lodged. • Douglas Watters reported that the problem with downloading Planning Applications from the D&GC Website had now been largely resolved. • Nothing further had been heard from Mark Coombes with regard to maintenance of the trees: Douglas is to write a reminder. <p>[Linda Airley arrived at this point]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Douglas confirmed he had now written to Pam Clifford re the decision about Mrs Adam's Legacy. • Douglas had written to Alex Haswell, complaining about lack of notice re Local Development Plan consultation: no response yet. • Thomson Memorial: David had had a response from Gordon Neilson, on behalf of the Thomson Trust. As predicted, they have little, or no, funding of their own and are not in a position to offer any contribution to the restoration costs. They are, however, grateful for anything we propose doing. Rotary response is awaited. 	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Douglas Watters</td> </tr> </table>	Douglas Watters	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There being no Councillors present at this point, we were unable to verify some matters they had promised to chase up, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bench to be relocated outside Pollocks' corner – nothing further known. ○ Condition of surface of Galabreck Road – nothing further known. ○ Cleaning up of Cross; repair work to War Memorial: Cllrs known to have chased this up with DG First; awaiting response. • Douglas would pursue the outstanding matters in an e-mail to Councillors. • It was also noted, on the subject of benches, that the circular bench round the tree outside Blu Apple's offices, and placed there by them, was popular, and had, thus far, suffered no damage. Might more be provided? 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Douglas Watters</div>
4.	<p><u>Police Report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Police Officers were present; there was thought to be a major incident going on at the Assessment Centre and all available Officers from the Area would be attending. • In the meantime it was noted that the benches outside the Community Centre had now been uprooted, concrete and all. Scott Jardine and David Kerr would arrange to uplift these and place them in the container for safe storage meantime, pending deciding what to do next. • It was also noted that there had been damage to daffodils round Dabton Loch; more systematic than that likely to be caused by children picking them. It was noted that there were undesirables tending to hang around there with cars. Police to be asked to include this area in their patrols if possible. 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Scott Jardine, David Kerr</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Douglas Watters</div>
5.	<p><u>Mrs Adam's Bequest:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that D&GC confirm they own <u>both</u> the Scout Hut site <u>and</u> Parker's Yard and are generally sounding positive about the proposed development there. • Rhona Wells of D&GC, however, reports that they cannot find the lease between themselves and the Scouts; Lorraine Murdoch is to ask John Maxwell if he has a copy, or knows who would. 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Lorraine Murdoch</div>
6.	<p><u>Hospital Support Group:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Meeting had been held, although only Thornhill, Moniaive and Carronbridge had been represented. Most of the issues covered at the Meeting had been covered at our last Meeting and Douglas is writing 	

	<p>to all other local Community Councils to summarise the position.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a perception in the Community in general, as a result of remarks made by Mr Burns in public, that local hospitals, including Thornhill, have been ‘saved’ and that there is, therefore, no feeling of urgency. The Board seem to be proceeding on the basis of a hospital being a base for Health Workers, not a place with patient treatment facilities; particularly not In-patients. This has already, to some extent, happened in Moffat – and the Health Workers have then almost immediately been transferred to a base in Dumfries. So: Hospitals likely to be slowly strangled, than closed. • A complaint of maladministration is to be lodged with the Health Board in respect of the non-completion of the consultation (see previous Minutes) and with the Health Service Ombudsman, if no satisfactory response. • Health Board going ahead with plan to run pilot in Upper Nithsdale & Eskdale and review it themselves; Alis Ballance has proposed the commissioning of an independent study. • Concerns expressed again as to conflicts between the delivery of Health Services to the vulnerable and housebound –vs- the bad weather protocol that will have to be adopted for Health Workers so that they are not put at risk. • Scott proposed that he would offer to go out and speak to individual Community Councils (as a Member of the Hospital Support Group); it was agreed he could do this with the Community Council’s blessing. • [Cllr Wood arrived at this point] • Cllr Wood was asked about the role of Councillors in all of this, now that there was a joint venture between D&GC and the Health Board. Cllr Wood sought to reassure us that D&GC was going into this venture ‘with its eyes open’. • Linda Airley said there was anecdotal evidence of vulnerable people being discharged home from DGRI (rather than via rehab in Thornhill); running into difficulties and having to be re-admitted to DGRI and then, only after pressure from relatives, being discharged to rehab in Thornhill as they should have been in the first place. It was feared that these statistics might be being ‘lost’. • [Lorraine Murdoch left at this point] • It was also suggested that the Scottish Parliament 	<div data-bbox="1225 712 1485 790" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Hospital Support Group/Scott Jardine</div> <div data-bbox="1225 1263 1485 1341" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Scott Jardine</div>
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	might be petitioned about this matter when it reconvenes.	
7.	<p><u>Community Resilience:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This matter had been placed on the Agenda again as various Members felt there had been insufficient debate on it last time. • David re-iterated that, whether it was felt that pavement gritting etc was something that D&GC should be doing or not, the fact seemed to be that D&GC would be doing less than they had heretofore done. Cllr Wood confirmed this. David also felt that there were other possible benefits to the Community of being prepared, whether for predictable events (ice & snow), or for less predictable ones (unusually severe, or prolonged, bad weather; prolonged power, water or telecoms loss, flooding etc). • Linda felt that this was largely D&GC passing the buck and adduced various instances of spending on projects (Friar's Vennel etc) which many would view as less of a priority than gritting, flood protection/prevention etc. Jason, whilst agreeing with the above, felt that we should be doing something. Scott advised caution with regard to the extent of what we would be taking on; clearly it would have to be clearly delineated. Douglas felt it would be difficult to explain to our community why Moniaive and Penpont, for instance, had set up such groups and obtained pavement gritters etc if we did not do likewise. • It was accordingly agreed that we would invite Steven Wylie, D&GC's Community Resilience Officer, to attend our next Meeting and address us on the subject. The intention would be that this would largely be a 'single-issue' Meeting. 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">David Kerr</div>
8.	<p><u>Website:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website is coming together nicely, though there is still some work to do. Linda, Lorraine, Jason and David will be meeting again with Neil Allardice on 21/04/2011. 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Linda Airley, Lorraine Murdoch, Jason Davies. David Kerr</div>
9.	<p><u>Planning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (See Schedule for Planning Applications) • Noted that Golf Club have an application in for alterations to the Clubhouse. We have not had a response to our request for more information, following their invitation that we should contribute to their improvements. David will contact Jim 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">David Kerr</div>

	<p>Nicholson about this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation re new draft Local Development Plan: Douglas, as previously mentioned, had lodged objections to the lack of notice given about this. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Douglas, David & Scott had attended the drop-in at the One Stop Shop. This seemed to have been better attended than similar events elsewhere, though this only meant that there had been about 15 attendees in Thornhill and significantly fewer in other places. ○ Copies of the maps and proposals were circulated and perused. Concern was expressed at the number of sites in and around Thornhill which Buccleuch Estates had earmarked for potential development. Planning Department had already commented on the unsuitability of some of these sites for development. Others (such as, for instance, the suggestion that a field adjacent to Nithbank House had been suggested (by Buccleuch) as a possible site for a small industrial estate, in preference to the existing, surplus, and already brownfield Nithbank Depot) will be outlined by Douglas as part of our response to this consultation. ○ It was acknowledged that some small industrial units are probably needed; various businesses in the village have either outgrown the available premises, or are having to make do with premises which are not fit for purpose. ○ Concern was also expressed at the fact that no visual plan is produced for areas (such as Burnbrae), which are not large enough to be accorded one. ○ Cllr Wood advised that we would not receive a formal response; Planning Department is obliged to take our observations into account. They will produce justifications for any alterations – or lack of alterations in the light of observations – to accompany the draft LDP when it is published. 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Douglas Watters</div>
10	<p><u>Treasurer’s Report:</u> Robert McGarva reported a problem with the Standard Life website: figures for our Legacy and Deposit accounts had not been updated and were the same as they had been last time. Douglas advised that this was a not infrequent occurrence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Account: £1893.05 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotary Club: £250 had been sent towards Old Folks' Concert; not yet acknowledged. • Rotary had also asked (again) for a contribution towards the Bonfire Night; it was agreed to offer £200. 	
11.	<p><u>Correspondence:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Schedule. 	
12.	<p><u>AOCB:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed to hold the formal AGM of the Community Council as part of the June meeting. • Next Meeting (concerned mainly with Community Resilience) will be on <u>Monday, 9 May</u>, owing to the unavailability of several Members on the due date, the following Monday. • Cllr Wood asked for our endorsement of an e-mail he was sending to Transport Scotland, seeking action on the provision of a proper bus stop on the A76 at Courthill; present arrangement is dangerous; landowner has agreed to make land available. Agreed we would support this. • It was noted that the re-opening of Thornhill Railway Station seems to have died a death. • It was noted that the lady who staffs the One Stop Shop is on the point of retirement; concern was expressed as to whether she will be replaced, and on how full-time a basis. Cllr Wood will make representations on our behalf. Concerns were raised again, in this connection, with regard to the proposed relocation of the Ambulance Station to this site (rather than the Fire Station, which seems more suitable). Cllr Wood suggested writing to Derek Crichton, Acting Manager. • Willie Lenza mentioned a problem encountered booking the Community minibus. David (Secretary of Community Transport) promised to look into this. 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Douglas Watters</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">David Kerr</div>
13.	<p><u>Meeting Closed</u> At 9.15pm</p>	

Paper Apart:

Planning:

- 9/10 West Morton Street: Alteration & extension to outbuilding at rear of dwellinghouse to form dwelling annexe.
- The Hill, Corstorphine Road, Thornhill: Extension to rear of house.
- Thornhill Golf Club: Alterations & extension to Clubhouse.

Correspondence:

- Various items re 'Buccleuch Property Challenge' – to be held on Friday, 16/09/2011.
- Letter from D&GC re Data Protection Register (confirming they have registered us).
- Material from David Mundell MP about his representations to various bodies re Closeburn Quarry (responses have been negative since Planning Application has not yet been lodged).
- Notice of NARC Meeting on 'Future of Policing and Fire & Rescue Service', held 13/04/2011 at Dumfries Academy.
- Energyshare Grant Fund on Community Renewable Energy Projects
- Wallace Hall Academy Newsletter (very impressive).
- NCVS Funding Bulletin and Newsletter (both March 2011).
- Letter re draft Demographic Action Plan – responses invited by 27/05/2011.