

Thornhill Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting

held at 1915 on 21st February 2022,

The Friendship Club

15 West Morton Street,

Thornhill, DG3 5ND

Present: Wullie Lenza (Chair), Keith Watson (Vice Chair) Robert McGarva (Treasurer), Jim Renicks (Secretary), Corinna Harkness, Sharon Hodgkinson, Councillor J Dempster

Members of the Public Present: S Renicks (Admin), Edward Smith, Christopher Craig, Heather Maxwell and Freda Blackwood

Apologies for Absence: Councillor A Wood, John Martin, Belinda Morrison, Adam Zdravkovic

Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting approved by **KW** and seconded by **CH**

Police Report:

The Police Report was e-mailed by PC L Leslie. The local Crime Stats for the month 1 x Breach of the Peace, 2 x Assaults, 1 x Theft 5 x Road Traffic Offences 1 x Civic Government Offences and 8 x Advice Calls.

Other Significant Incidents/Occurrences:

On the 31/01/2022 Police responded to a call in Thornhill of a 17 year old causing damage to a number of cars and assault an adult. She was traced, arrested and charged with multiple offences

There has been a large increase of anti-social behaviour and suspected thefts within the Spar convenience store. As such, the schools officer PC Adair and PC Leslie will be in attendance regularly around school times. One youth has already been charged with Theft by shoplifting

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting:

WL advises the PA System can be stored at the Thornhill Bowling Club

Letter of thanks has been sent to Street Cleaning Department at Council regarding work carried out by staff

JR advises this is still to be done to speak to shop owners re Christmas Festivities being held on an afternoon **Action JR to speak to shop owners and get thoughts.**

ES has been given update from L Cochrane re East Morton Street. Wallace Hall Parent Council have received a response from Kieron McCrudden Speed Bumps to be replaced though due to a change in staff the procurement of same has been delayed. The Yellow Lines (Double & Single will be replaced once the speed bumps are in place. The No Waiting sign opposite the Bowling Club is to be ordered and replaced. The trees covering the 20mph signs have been trimmed back.

With regards to the flashing 20mph signs a decision has been made that due to the ongoing costs of the signs after being installed being the responsibility of the group installing the Wallace Hall Parent Council are not in a position at this time to be able to meet these ongoing costs long term. It is felt that having the 20mph painted signs on the road may suffice the one on Station Road requires to be repainted. A request is being made for a further one on the entrance to East Morton Street from Drumlanrig Street.

Councillor Dempster contacted Amey re installation of flashing speed signs on A76 a confirmation of the email has been received and that it has been passed to the Strategic Road Safety Team.

Podiatry Department DGRI has been contacted re Clinic at Health Centre closing a reply was received back that it was a permanent closure and residents can access clinics at Sanquhar and Mountainhall. A further request has been sent asking the reason of the closure has been ignored on 2 occasions. **Action: Councillor J Dempster to follow this up**

David Smith OST has been advised that all members would like to visit and tour OST awaiting a date from them

Treasurers Report:

The Treasurer (**RM**) provided a review of the Accounts, as they are now:

Current Account balance	£7,383.57
Investment Account:	£3,531.36
Legacy Account:	£185,292.43

RM advises that all expenses for the Christmas Festivities Night have been paid. He has received a further letter regarding the 2nd signatory on the bank account himself and **WL** have completed the forms again and will be submitted again

Wind Farm Report:

JR advises there is a meeting on 22nd February with regards to TwentyShilling, regarding the control of the funds, the majority of the groups wish to be in control via the local Trust

Planning Applications:

Weekly Planning Applications lists checked as they came into the E-Mail nothing of significance relating to the village.

Correspondence:

Christopher Craig (Thornhill Improvement Group) was present advised that he had written to DGHP, NHS and Buccleuch Estates regarding the access road that is presently planned for the proposed development at rear of Health Centre.

The proposed route is of Hospital Brae which will result in several trees having to be felled to make way for the road and the loss of the section of the Core Path. He feels there is an alternative route into the development at the south end of the Health Centre ground this route in his opinion would have less environmental impact. He advised that he has been informed by the Health Board that they would be willing to negotiate with DGHP regarding the land he has identified.

Mr Craig was hoping that by bringing this to the Community Council rather than the informal Thornhill Improvement Group they would back his alternative route and give a letter of support.

JR advises that he had spoken with the development officer from DGHP for the Planned Development who has advised that the route into the development is being reviewed. He also advised that he had spoken with Buccleuch Woodlands who have carried out a survey in the past few years of the woodland they advised there is 7-8 trees within the woodland that will require to come down anyway due to Health & Safety reasons.

Councillor J Dempster at the time of the planning application the decision for giving the planning permission was Social Housing v lose of some woodlands. The loss of woodlands was opted for due to the demand for housing in Thornhill.

A vigorous discussion/debate regarding the loss of woodlands against the gain of much needed housing continued for some time. It was decided that Community Councillors required to discuss this matter further. **Mr Craig** left the meeting at this point.

A letter of complaint was received from Mrs A Cottle regarding Facebook Thornhill Community (DUMFRIESSHIRE) Group regarding persons being removed from the group and being refused back on. A reply was sent to Mrs Cottle advising her of the reasons for removing persons who do not stay in the specified area.

Community Council members acknowledged that the group had evolved from what it originally was intended to be a link between the Community Council and the residents of the Community Council Area.

There had been an attempt to try and return the membership to persons residing in the Mid & Upper Nithsdale Area resulting in persons being removed. Which resulted in the letter of complaint.

It was agreed by all members that since Covid and the loss of the Thornhill Whats Going on Group there has been an increase in membership from outwith the area. It is felt that the group is needed and should remain however Thornhill Community Council will no longer be admin of the group and a request will be made for administrators.

A new Group will be created for residents of the Community Council area only and be used as was the original intention when it was set up.

Queens Platinum Jubilee

Very poor response to the Facebook Post with only 6 replies all suggesting much the same a street party or celebration party. Discussion as to what to have and when by all present. **CH** will speak to Gala Committee to see if they would be willing to help with planning. **Action CH to ask Gala Committee if they will assist with an event to mark the Jubilee**

Any Other Business

Electric Charging Point for Vehicles couple of post on face relating to same. Email has been sent via the Ward Officer to find out if, when and where Thornhill would be receiving same, To date after several emails she has not received a reply. **Action Councillor J Dempster to chase up**

Heather Maxwell and Freda Blakwood left the meeting.

Elected Community Councillors had a further discussion regarding the route into the Planned Development and the suggested Alternative Route. Every Community Councillor gave their opinion and the decision was that the Community Council were not willing to issue a letter of support. It was felt under the circumstances should the applicant (Wheatley Group/DGHP) and the Health Board wish to enter into negotiations that is entirely up to them. It is not in the gift of the Community Council to pursue.

Date of Next Meeting: 21st March 2022 at 7.15pm