

**Thornhill Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held at Thornhill
On 21 March, 2011**

Present: Douglas Watters, David Kerr, Robert McGarva, Willie Lenza, Linda Airley, Davie Sharp, Scott Jardine, Lorraine Murdoch

In attendance: Sara Bain, Pam Clifford, PC Scott McDowall, Cllrs Andrew Wood and Gill Dykes.

Apologies: Cllr Jim Dempster, Jason Davies, Jeannette Kerr

<u>No</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>1.</u>	<p><u>Police Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playpark: Extra patrols have been put on; no-one has been caught, but there has been no further damage. • There have been: • 3x Breach of the Peace • 1x Assault • 2x Theft: 1 from a derelict cottage; 1 of cattle from Drumcork; this is increasingly common. • 3x RT incidents: use of mobile phone while driving; bald tyres. This has been due to extra traffic officers being drafted in. Operation adjudged successful and will be continuing in to April. • One or two significant troublemakers have moved out of the village and they contributed to most of the trouble in the village. • The previously mentioned Environmental Health Dept CCTV was mentioned again. This will be chased up. 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">PC McDowall</div>
<u>2.</u>	<p><u>Report from Gala Sub-Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-Committee's Business Plan was presented; a very comprehensive and well costed-out proposal. • West Morton Street residents have been written to in connection with the street closure on Gala Day. • A small article has already appeared in the Standard about the forthcoming Gala; more will follow. • Dumfries & Galloway Council are providing bunting, banners, barriers etc on loan. • Question arose as to where trophies were? David Kerr thought he might have some, which had been uplifted from the container at Drumcork at the same time as the stuff for the Christmas Shopping Night. • A grant of around £500 is expected from Dumfries & Galloway Council. Community Council agreed to 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">David Kerr</div>

	<p>make a grant of £750 meantime. More money will be needed, but there will be fundraising efforts as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Council had received an intimation copy of the Road Closure Order from Dumfries & Galloway Council. • Gala Queen: Primary 7 pupils are to be canvassed. Mrs Patterson is to be asked to crown the Queen. It was recalled that the rules of eligibility as to who could be Gala Queen had been changed a couple of years ago to extend beyond Morton Parish to the Catchment Area of WHPS. It was accepted, with some resignation, that there would probably, once again, be complaints about this. • Questions as to whereabouts of Gala Queen costume. David would check whether that, too, was in the box uplifted from Drumcork. • It was noted, also, that Dunscore have curtains, a back-drop etc for the trailer, which we may be able to borrow. • Community Centre does not charge for Gala events. 	<div data-bbox="1214 712 1385 831" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">David Kerr</div>
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Community Resilience</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Kerr reported on his meeting with Steven Wylie, Community Resilience Officer for D&GC. • D&GC is the first Authority in Scotland to make such an appointment. Steven Wylie felt (as, presumably might be expected) that this was a far-sighted appointment and would soon be copied by other Authorities. • The post covers all kinds of areas of planning by communities to cope with such things as floods, extreme weather, power and water outages etc. Mr Wylie had been frustrated that the bigger picture had been lost, in the local media, at least, by arguments over the provision of Salt Bins. • Steven Wylie is willing to attend any Public Meeting we arrange to discuss or implement this. David suggested we might need a sub-group to look at this: he had a couple of existing Members of the Community Council in mind, but had not had a chance to talk to them about it yet. He proposed trying to get a sub-group together and talking to Steven Wylie again before arranging a Public Meeting about it. Linda Airley voiced her objection to this scheme, on the basis that it was merely being set up to do things that D&GC ought to be doing anyway. David felt that, whether this were true or not, the reality was that D&GC would not be 	<div data-bbox="1214 1720 1374 1839" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">David Kerr</div>

	doing as much as it had heretofore done.	
4.	<u>Minutes of Previous Meeting:</u> Proposed by Davie Sharp; Seconded by Willie Lenza.	
5.	<u>Matters Arising:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors Dykes and Wood noted that they had received a number of letter objecting to the Closeburn Quarry proposal. Since the Planning Application has not actually been lodged yet, all they can do is file the letters, but they remain happy to receive them. • Douglas had written to MSPs, Councillors etc. re Quarry proposals. Poor response from MSPs. • Douglas Watters noted a problem with the redesigned Council Website: it seems to be impossible merely to select those Planning Applications which relate to our area: the only option seems to be to read through, and then print off, the entire Planning Applications lodged in D&G. Councillors undertook to enquire about this. • Douglas had written to Andrew Vermeersch, indicating we did not think we could proceed with his proposal for an installation in West Morton Street. • Douglas had written to Barry Graham to indicate that we would be unable to attend the presentation on the Queensberry Initiative (it's during working/school hours). • David had had a very positive response from Barry Graham with regard to the general proposal to increase co-operation and interaction between the CC and the School. David will follow this up. • Douglas had written to Mark Coombes about the maintenance of trees in the village. Nothing further heard meantime. • Windfarm Benefit review: had been well attended and had given D&GC officials plenty of feedback to consider. • Cllr Wood gave some history of the background of Solway Heritage. It was originally conceived as an Arm's Length Organisation for D&GC to look after old buildings within the Region. It was more recently given the job of handing out Windfarm monies, for which it was supposed to receive a fee, based on a percentage of the monies turned over; Cllr Wood, however, had the impression that much of the money promised to Solway Heritage to cover 	

	<p>its admin costs had not, in fact, been forthcoming and it increasingly began to struggle. Eventually the core funding had dried up completely. In due course another body will be set up to handle Windfarm monies. Meantime Solway Heritage has wound down many of its activities; but it is not 'insolvent' as such.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Douglas reported that, finally, a formal reply had been sent to Iain Renicks, in response to his letter of observations about the proposals for disbursement of Mrs Adam's Legacy. Douglas and David both apologised for the time it had taken to do this, but the letter had been very detailed and had required both careful research and careful wording. A similar letter should have been sent to the Community Centre Management Committee, but this had not happened yet. An apology was tendered to Pam Clifford, who was in attendance, for the delay in so doing. • Further to mention of this last time, the Playgroup have now decided enough is enough with regard to the damage etc being done to their benches and exterior play equipment and wish to dispose of the benches elsewhere in the Community. Did we have ideas as to where these might be placed. Linda also suggested that there might be a further three wrought-iron benches in the container at Drumcork (David was fairly sure they were not in the container as such, but might be elsewhere; he would investigate), which should also be put to use somewhere. Various locations were suggested: Kirkbog, Nithsdale View (there is a bench there, but in poorish repair), Dabton Loch. Cllrs Dykes & Wood thought that probably they could arrange fitting, subject to consent of the appropriate landowners (mainly Buccleuch). Also: the bench removed from in front of Renicks' at their request, which, it had been agreed, would be re-sited at Pollocks' corner. Cllr Dykes had chased this before; she agreed to do so again. Meantime, we can store any undeployed benches in the container. Lorraine Murdoch will consult playgroup and David will uplift (subject to some borrowed muscle). • Surface of Galabreck Road reported as being in dreadful state. Some doubt as to ownership/adoption status of this, but Cllr Dykes will speak to Bob Green about it. 	<div data-bbox="1204 1196 1374 1317" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">David Kerr</div> <div data-bbox="1204 1525 1374 1646" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Cllr Dykes</div> <div data-bbox="1204 1666 1374 1787" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Lorraine Murdoch, David Kerr</div> <div data-bbox="1204 1807 1374 1928" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Cllr Dykes</div>
	(Willie Lenza & Davie Sharp left at this point)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Development Plan: only appeared on D&GC 	

	<p>website today. It was felt that this was insufficient notice. Cllrs agreed and said they would pass this on. Douglas agreed to write to Alex Haswell at Planning Dept, expressing our dissatisfaction at the notice given and asking if there would be any possibility of the consultation period being extended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Village Cross still has not been attended to, despite D&GC's earlier promises to tidy it up. Cllr Dykes agreed to chase this up. • Thomson Memorial: Nothing has been heard back from either the Joseph Thomson Trust or the Rotary in relation to our proposals re refurbishment of the Memorial. David will chase Gordon Neilson about this. • War Memorial: lettering is starting to come off. Whilst D&GC seems to clean it periodically, no-one was certain as to whose responsibility it might be to carry out repairs, such as those needed now to the lettering. David would e-mail Cllrs and ask them to find out. 	<div data-bbox="1220 241 1385 360" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Douglas Watters</div> <div data-bbox="1220 434 1374 553" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Cllr Dykes</div> <div data-bbox="1220 577 1374 696" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">David Kerr</div> <div data-bbox="1220 792 1374 911" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">David Kerr</div>
<u>6</u>	<p><u>Mrs Adam's Bequest:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing further meantime. We are awaiting D&GC's response as to whether they will sell the site, a suggested valuation etc. Should we update public at this stage? No, it was felt; not until we have some actual news to report. 	
<u>7.</u>	<p><u>NHS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott Jardine and others had attended the Health Board meeting on 7 March, which was, once again, inaudible. • Minutes had been produced shortly in advance of the Meeting, in contrast to previous occasion. • A partnership Agreement has been drawn up between NHS Dumfries & Galloway and D&GC Social Work Department, aided by £7.2million from the Scottish Government. But there seems to be no clear idea of who is responsible for what. • Scott also pointed out that the Consultation Process had never been formally completed; it was 'paused' in the early part of the year for Health Board to 'take stock' and to allow parliamentary elections to pass – and now Health Board seem to be looking on the Consultation as being formally over. • Health Board have stated that they are 'not closing hospitals' but both beds and nurses are being scaled back in Moffat and staff re-trained to work in the Community. So: hospitals may be strangled, rather than closed. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allis Balance has resigned from the Health Board (reported in the <i>Standard</i>); seems to be clear that other Board Members had objected to her stance and their treatment of her had had the result of forcing her out. • We need to press for an Independent Assessment of the Pilot Schemes (Board is planning to self-assess). • Scott proposed that the Hospital Support Group should meet again and see where we go from here – probably a bigger group of Community Councils etc. This was endorsed and it was also felt we should consider a complaint to the Health Service Ombudsman in connection with the lack of completion of the Consultation process. • Health Board should be asked to publish/comment publicly on the balance of their priorities between Care at Home and the Bad Weather Protocol – which could potentially leave a number of patients in outlying areas with no support during bad weather. 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">Scott Jardine</div>
8.	<p><u>Website:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone agreed that Neil Allardice had made a great job of the Website and of presenting it. • 21 April is to be the closing date for submitting material for it and then we must decide on a date for it to go live and to host a launch. • Formal thanks to Lorraine, Linda, Jason Davies and all at Wallace Hall Academy: it was recognised that this had been a very large undertaking and involved a lot of work by those concerned. 	
	Lorraine Murdoch left at this point.	
9.	<p><u>Treasurer's Report:</u> Current a/c: £ 2892.80 Investment a/c: £ 5324.69 Legacy Account: £255,901.38</p> <p>Nothing else to report in particular.</p>	
10	<p><u>Planning:</u> Nothing to report, since we had been unable to access the current information.</p>	
11.	<p><u>Correspondence:</u> See paper apart, but it was agreed that we would make a grant of £250 towards the Old Folks' Concert, in response to the Rotary Club's request.</p>	
12.	<p><u>AOCB:</u> There was none.</p>	
13.	<p><u>Meeting Closed.</u></p>	

Paper apart: Correspondence

- March Newsletter: Loreburn Housing Association
- Letter from Thornhill Rotary Club, requesting grant (see item 11)
- Notification of Military Exercise in Thornhill area, 20 March to 1 April, 2011