

Minutes of TCC meeting held on 28 January 2008

Present: Rona Dent, Madge Rorison; Colin Forsyth; Jan Davies; George Freeborn; Eunice Laidlaw; Jane Blair and Phil Armstrong.

As all members of the committee had not read the minutes of the last meeting they were held over and passed round the table.

David Johnson from the Forestry Commission came along to talk on the Forestry Plan and Routes. He has provided us with a CD for members of the community with information on design plans, conservation issues etc.

The Black Grouse population has plummeted over the years and the Forestry Commission is now looking to create habitats within the Forest Plan to encourage a re-generation of these birds. After clear fell the forestry will be re-planted with more sensitivity to the environment and not to the same high density.

Forestry routes: All Forestry Commission timber goes north and nothing comes down the glen. Appin Forest will come down the glen as it not owned or managed by the Forestry Commission. It is up to the Council to look at the route and check if it is suitable for HGV traffic.

He gave us a booklet on the code of practice for the hauliers and he also left a map of all the roads in Dumfries and Galloway used by timber wagons. Shinnel Glen is a consultation route which means that whenever Appin is felling they have to consult the council as to how much timber is coming out and the frequency of the wagons. He will send us the name of the council official that we should speak to.

If we have an issue with any wagons we need to get their registration number and contractor name and get in touch with the Forestry Commission and they will advise whether they are on contract to them or not. Appin is managed by Scottish Woodlands.

He talked a bit about regeneration and re-planting of felled forestry. Margaret Irving asked about a spot on the Shinnelhead road that she thought would make a nice picnic area and walk. David Johnson said that Solway Heritage was the body to approach for funding for a conservation project, but the Forestry Commission would support a project with practical help should we get funding.

Christmas Lights - The switching on of the lights, torchlight parade and mulled wine and mince pies had been a success and was well attended. George thanked Arch Courage for the Christmas tree; John Cowdery for leading the singing, and Emily Smith; Mary and Terry for the delicious mulled wine and Madge Rorison for getting the torches. It was decided to get Madge just to order the torches for next Christmas.

Web site - George has spoken to Gordon Neilson from Penpont who is in charge of the web site for Penpont Heritage, and he is still in consultation with him.

George has talked and written to Fraser Dykes re: the stone trough and he does intend to return it.

Strictly Cabaret - Sinclair Barbour; Frances Forsyth; Emily Smith; Jamie and Bruce are practising each week in the hall for the upcoming competition and their charity is Save the Children. We've been asked to sponsor them and it was decided to give a check for £100.00. We will get our name on the programme and the competition takes place on 14th, 15th and 16th February.

The money raised at the switching on of the lights was supposed to go to Crisis Line, but Helen White discovered that there was not a local branch so it was decided to send it to the Salvation Army.

Secretary Report - There is a Waste Information road show coming up. We have a form to fill in for Loreburn Housing for their Allocation Policy. Community Council calendar for meetings for 2008, we did not get our info in but will send it off now. George is to attend a wind farm meeting. There was an NCVS news to read, if anyone wanted it. There is to be a women's lunch at the Crichton foundation, which Rona is going to anyway. The NCVS sent a poster round for the Health Walks in Thornhill which take place every Friday afternoon.

There is to be a Bus Users Consultation and the Big Red Bus will be Near the Cross in Thornhill on Thursday 31st January.

Hall Matters - Phil reported that the hall is very busy at the moment, which is bringing in some useful revenue.

The work on the back wall has been completed and paid for.

The application for the Village Hall Improvement Scheme is to be in by 28th February. No firm plans meantime but we may put in for background heating.

AOCB - Planning notice in the press for pruning Cherry Trees in the Kirk yard was a misprint and should read Holly Trees. They will cut the trees down to size and plant others in between to create a hedge and they will also maintain them.

Minutes had been circulated and passed, Rona proposed them and Jan seconded.

Rona wanted to know what is to be done with the little survey booklet that was produced and George suggests sending a copy to the Ewart library. There are some copies left and Rona is to ask Mary Donaldson if she still has it on a disk.

Rona suggested that Helen White got a public thank you for all the work she put in on it.

The meeting ended and the next meeting will be 31st March.