

Minutes for Tynron Community Council meeting held in Tynron Parish Hall, 30 November, 2009.

Present: Colin, George, Jan, Eunice, Sue, Madge, Rona, Bryan.

Apologies: Andrew Wood

Approval of minutes of last meeting (26.10.09): proposed Rona, seconded George

Police matters: Derek Mitchell represented the police, and apologised for the lack of police attendance at recent meetings; in future a police representative will attend (either Scott McDowall, Derek, or Jodie John, Scott being the first choice; failing these, community Sergeant Bruce Robison, Community Inspector Gary Miller or Acting Inspector Rory Caldwell). Derek apprised the meeting of a recent increase in quadbike thefts, and encouraged vigilance. Colin, Rona and Jan mentioned vehicles speeding through the village on Hallowe'en, possibly part of a classic car rally, and apparently racing against time (a change from previous years). Derek suggested that if this happens again the police should be contacted at the time, because the police can stop/warn them.

Rorison planning application: a reply is to be submitted within 21 days from 25.11.09. The topic was much discussed. The field in which the house is proposed is likely to be designated part of the conservation area by January 2010 (George noted that the Rorisons should have been told this by their agent). Some aspects of the planning application appear to make for difficulties: any reservation expressed by villagers is likely to be treated by DGC as an objection, whereas the general feeling seemed to be that the only objection to the house being built would be if it was in the wrong location for its visible acceptability as part of the backdrop to the village. Secondly, more detail as to the exact location and design is needed at this stage for a house in a conservation area. Thirdly, acceptability might change according to whether or not the house had an agricultural tie: unclear at this stage. Madge said she and Hugh would be happy for the house to be built in a corner of the field where it is mainly out of sight from the village, and that its design would be in keeping with the other village houses. There were two objections: one from George, on the grounds that lack of objection was contradictory to the previously established principle of the village being a conservation area, and one from Rona, who asserted that this is a full planning application and objected with concerns about the inappropriateness of a bungalow-style building in this particular location. This field has the protection of a specific policy relating to environmental importance, and will shortly be included within the conservation area; it is described as "the backdrop" to the village. Mary and Jan suggest seeing what the sightlines are in daylight and taking photos. Colin will write a letter combining all views expressed.

A further planning application had been received, for extension and change of use to outbuildings at Auchengibbert: it was noted that the applicant was apparently a car body repair firm, and all agreed that if such a business is to be situated there the access road to Auchengibbert is not suitable. Colin will speak to the applicant to find out what is planned.

Tynron Kirk: George reported no progress.

Hall extension: Jan reported that if we can get one grant, matching funding is likely to be available.

Halloween party: this was a success, and the children who attended, although few, enjoyed it.

Thanks were expressed to Bryan, Rona and George. Rona will give left over prize money to Eunice.

Co-option of Alec Brown: Colin has (as agreed) talked to Alec, who would be keen to join if he has voting power (it was established after the last election that co-opted members would have this right). Some discussion ensued as to whether a precedent for co-option was being set that might be awkward to evade in future, and whether such co-option contravened voters' wishes. A further view was expressed that the situation after each election could be decided on its own merits. Colin will therefore write inviting Alec to join the committee.

Memorial bench for Alan Kerr: it was decided to order a brown one with arms in recycled plastic.

Christmas lights: will be turned on this Sunday (6th December).

Hall Matters: A Hogmanay ceilidh will be held, with food and tickets @£15 each. The Council agreed to pay £400 for the band. Profits will go towards the refurbishment and maintenance of hall.

Secretary's report: BT is about to discontinue the payphone service in the village but has invited us to adopt the phonebox (for £1). It was decided not to do this, since the phonebox, being in a conservation area, cannot be removed. Bryan will investigate this further.

Treasurer's Report: account totals £4862.23.

AOCB: Sue reported that in connection with the Data Protection Act she had received an application pack to provide information held by community councillors (data controllers). The Council needed to register as a single entity at a cost of £35.

Rona reported on the NHS meeting that had been held in connection with Thornhill Hospital. Of the three options offered, she and Jan supported the idea of rebuilding the hospital to provide intermediate care for patients between Dumfries Infirmary and returning home. George noted that the local doctors favour this plan. Replies to these options have to be received by the end of January 2010.

Eunice noted that drainage on the Quarry Brae needs further attention. Colin will write a further letter to DGC about it.

The next meeting will be held on 25 January