

Minutes of Tynron Community Council meeting held on 25 January, 2010.

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

Apologies: Eunice, Andrew Wood

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Bryan and seconded by George.

Police Report: Scott McDowell had nothing to report, either locally or in the wider region, apart from some oil having been stolen from localities in Dunscore and Moniaive. Scott confirmed he was the policeman to call if advice or help is needed and that he's based in Thornhill.

Matters arising:

1. the kirk: George said Tods Murray had had estimates for making the roof wind-and water-tight, and that when this was done their plan was to give the key to the Church of Scotland
2. Hall extension: Linda reported that the funding application to DGC had been rejected. Sue asked for some opinions about options for further plans to improve the hall, with a view to revising the application.
3. Rorison planning application: Colin had written a letter combining all views expressed at the last meeting, but neither he nor Madge had had any reaction.
4. Colin has yet to approach Alec Brown about being co-opted on to the Committee. Bryan and George confirmed that it was constitutionally valid for co-opted members to have voting rights.
5. Bench: it was agreed that the weather is not suitable for erecting it.

Newsletter: Jan will write a letter to thank Christopher Craig for all his work on the newsletter. Rona and Eunice were thanked for their distribution of the newsletter. Various topics were suggested for the next newsletter, the deadline for contributions being 15 March. Ideas for using the phone kiosk are welcomed and will be published in the newsletter; Madge will give a prize for the best one.

The Christmas Lights event went well: Colin noted that he needed to get the collection of donations started earlier, but £25 was sent to Crisis at Christmas.

Thornhill Hospital: 3 consultation forms have been completed and returned: **more are needed to be sent to Rona before 5 February**. Rona has more forms and a sheet of suggestions for writing a letter. It was noted that the option to rebuild the hospital looks cheaper than the other options. The postponed meeting will be held on 22 February, 7pm, Thornhill Parish Church. Scott Jardine has had publicity printed at his own expense and the meeting voted him a donation of £25 (Madge will organise a cheque and Rona deliver it).

Roads: it was generally agreed that the state of the roads during the severe wintry weather had been disgraceful. Colin observed that DGC had had in place a policy not to grit/salt C roads: too dangerous. This had caused major problems but no actual harm to people (although animals and education had suffered). There were complaints that gritters had been out but not gritting; that the 24/7 phonenumber had frequently gone unanswered; that Dalmakerran Brae had been (dangerously) gritted to halfway; that there appeared to have been no effective debriefing after the poor road care

during last February's wintry weather. Suggestions: we need to know why C roads were not treated: the danger argument appeared not to apply since gritters were plying the roads. Councillors should be invited to the next meeting (Colin will email all four). Jan thought we should have a system for ringing round vulnerable members of the community during hard weather to make sure they are not in need. We could ask for our own supplies of grit/salt and spread it ourselves, although this was questionable from a health and safety point of view, and also because road care is arguably prepaid by Council tax.

Hall matters: the Hogmanay ceilidh was well attended by locals and incomers, with the Hall at legal capacity, and made a profit of £1064. An anonymous donor has offered a new cooker for the hall kitchen, if desired: appreciation was registered and the Hall committee will consider their needs.

Secretary's Report: Jan reported there was information available on Solway Heritage's 21st anniversary, the Queensberry initiative, benefit theft, and the involvement of Community Councils in new planning procedures. George is to handle insurance forms.

The Treasurer had nothing to report.

AOCB: A litterpick, suggested by Christopher Craig, was fixed for Sunday 21 March*, 11am. Linda and Rona will organise a poster, Rona and Sue will provide post-picking soup.

Margaret proposed to hold a coffee morning in aid of victims of the Haiti earthquake on Sat 6 February, 11.30-2pm, advertised by poster; to include a sales table (baking and bric-à-brac).

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 29 March

*The original date was 14 March. As this is Mothering Sunday, it has since been decided that neither mothers nor fathers (who will have far more than usual to do) should have to turn out to pick litter on this day.