

Minutes of Tynron Community Council meeting held on 29 March, 2010.

Present: Colin, George, Rona, Sue, Eunice; Andrew Wood for DGC

Apologies: Jan, Bryan, Madge, Alec

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Rona (subject to a small amendment) and seconded by George.

Police matters: apologies from the police – no officer could attend.

Winter road conditions: Colin asked Andrew to account for the DGC's shortfalls: insufficient action to clear the roads, lack of grit and salt, unmanned helplines. Andrew replied that the main problem had been the long duration of the cold spell and that some supplies of salt had been redirected down south. Colin said that the main reason for the bad condition of the roads was that so little was done in the early part of the cold spell, between Christmas and New Year, and that this appeared to be because too many DGC people were on holiday (Mary contested this ) and not answering the helpline, although Andrew thought the lack of response might have been due to the volume of calls. He said that the DGC recognises the need to cooperate with farmers and locals to get roads scraped.

Andrew also said that a review is scheduled for September 2010. Questions were raised about this: Colin asked why review had not happened after last year's bad winter, Christopher asked why it was being proposed for as late as September, and Sue C-T suggested bringing forward the review to coincide with the start of a new budget, i.e. to May. The TCC should send a letter to Alistair Speedie, the Director of Sustainable Development, who is charged with taking forward the review. Andrew pointed out that the review might change little because of the lack of resources: a service cannot be improved without investment. He has since produced a diary of action on the review which suggests that the process cannot be speeded up.

Colin also asked about the DGC's alleged policy not to attend to C roads: Andrew said bus routes should be covered. It emerged that there may be some doubt at DGC as to whether the road up Quarry Brae through Tynron and back to the Clone was a bus route in their records: the meeting agreed that it is. Colin suggested that in D&G a higher percentage of people live on C roads than not, and that therefore C roads should be a priority.

Andrew said DGC has purchased 10 new gritters which enables them to close the Thornhill depot and operate solely out of Sanquhar (where the depot will be strengthened) and Dumfries; but he also said that this winter had shown you needed facilities within small areas. Rona pointed out that this argued in favour of keeping the depot at Thornhill, but it seems there is also a problem with that depot's roof. George and Colin said the clearance vehicles, when they came, sprinkled minuscule amounts of grit/salt and were not using their ploughs: a waste of resources. Andrew has suggested supplying sealed tote bags of salt as well as salt bins, from which salt tends to disappear. Margaret suggested putting salt in several places.

Christopher asked whether anyone was taking responsibility for the poor management of roads in winter, and insisted that there should be some resignations. Helen asked what individuals can do: individual letters to police and MSPs would be good (the more letters the better), as well as a joint

letter from the Confederation of Community Councils: George will investigate this at the next meeting of the Confederation of Community Councils.

Christopher asked if road deterioration as a result of the wintry weather was going to be repaired soon. Andrew pointed out that all areas of DGC have this problem and again mentioned lack of funds to deal with it. Colin asked where the money was going: Andrew said on staff, administration, fuel, power, and the costs of facilities (icerink, library, swimming pool).

Rona asked if a DGC person could come and look at a drain carrying surface water down Tyron main street which seems less efficient than it used to be. Andrew said he would email Dave Allan about it.

Colin asked about recycling. It seems that all rubbish uplifted by Shank can be mixed because the EcoDeco machine sorts it all, collects resulting gas and pelletable fuel; local recycling depots run by Shank will therefore be removed. Villages where Shank does not operate will retain their separate recycling containers.

NHS: Andrew asked that young people should vote in NHS election (10 June), and if possible get on the board

Matters arising from previous meeting:

1. Kirk: Tods Murray sent a slater who partly mended the roof and gutters: George noticed that the front ones had been replaced but not the back ones. Stewart Ralston at TM said he would chase the roofer.
2. Hall extension: a fee has been paid for the building warrant on the proposed plans, and some minor details have been recommended for change
3. Queensberry initiative: Bryan went along to a meeting and will report on it for next time.
4. Rorison planning application: Colin has had no reply to his letter. Rona has heard that permission has been refused because of objections from some individuals.
5. Cooption of Alec Brown: he's keen but unable to attend tonight because of lambing. The question of whether a non-elected person can be co-opted and have voting rights was aired again, and it was established that this is in line with the TCC's constitution. The fact that it makes an election somewhat redundant will be revisited and resolved before the next election.
6. Bench: Solway Recycling have confirmed they will supply a brown bench with arms for £325. This is from Christopher and Mimi Craig using proceeds from their 'open garden' event. Colin will chase Solway Recycling and ask Terry for suggestions as to how to fix it. George confirmed we had permission to site it at the corner of the glen road, and Christopher will check with Mimi that this is where they would prefer it to be.
7. Thornhill Hospital: Rona had had 30 responses, i.e. from >50% of the community. There was unanimous support for retaining the hospital. Scott Jardine had submitted a comprehensive paper to MSPs, ministers, etc., explaining the pros and cons of community hospitals. A decision as to the future of the hospital has been postponed till after the election of the new NHS board.
8. Payment for repairs to hall roof: the TCC will pay Scott Irvine £4552, slightly higher than estimated because the timbers were in worse condition than expected. There is another small leak – Scott Irvine will investigate.

Hall Matters: Phil thanked the TCC for funding the roof repair, and reported that the latest Walk & Soup had been very successful: these events had made £636. Book sales have made £450. Margaret

will run Summer Teas again. Small events bring in significant amounts of cash. Ceilidh dancing has run for 3 years and been very successful. In a financial year, rents make approximately £1000: this covers the hall's insurance, electricity bill and basic maintenance. Phil said the Hall is now generating more money than ever before and keeping pace with needs, thanks to the hard work of the volunteers on the hall committee. Eunice has closed the Northern Rock account and put the resulting £850 into a new account with the Scottish Building Society to be devoted to hall renovation and development.

Secretary's report: in Jan's absence, Colin had some correspondence:

1. reports about Stenhouse wood and the Juniper Wood;
2. emails from Gladys Cuttle, local historian, who is writing a book on Tynron and wants an rent-free event in the hall in the summer to promote her book, in exchange for the gift of a copy. Phil agreed to this; Colin will send him Gladys Cuttle's email address to arrange a date.
3. the Fine Art Society writes to ask for a photo of the Cottier stained glass window in the church. George and/or Jane has one.
4. there is an improvement plan for the Fire Service.

Treasurer's report: balance £5546, but bill for hall roof (£4552) to come out of that. Windfarm money still to come in for this year. RD sent receipt from Scott Jardine to Madge.

AOCB:

Litterpick a success: mentioned in Standard thanks to Phil's email.

Christopher described a scam in Clackmannanshire reported by Neighbourhood Watch.

Sue reported that there is a move to create a 'biosphere reserve' in Galloway and Southern Ayrshire: see [www.gallowayandsouthernayrshirebiosphere.org.uk](http://www.gallowayandsouthernayrshirebiosphere.org.uk)

Gala fun day arranged for 8 August, to be discussed in more detail at May meeting, but Phil will order inflatables etc.