

Minutes of Tynron Community Council meeting held on 7 June, 2010.

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

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Rona and seconded by George. Colin welcomed Alec Brown onto the committee.

Police matters: in Scott McDowall's absence, Mike Anderson reported that there had been some car crashes in the Moniaive area and cases of theft (diesel, quadbikes), but nothing close to Tynron.

Roads: Colin reported that according to Andrew Wood, Alastair Speedie was in charge of taking forward the review of winter road conditions. Findings would be presented at the start of July, and the full consultation would happen in August. Any contributions should therefore be submitted soon. It was decided that **Colin and George should write a letter** expressing Tynron's concerns, and copy it to Andrew Wood. Rona, Jan and Colin suggested that points to be made should include:

- the glen is a school bus route
- the route through Tynron via Quarry Brae is an ordinary bus route
- the welfare and needs of animals and the elderly increase during cold weather
- remonstrations over any policy not to clear unclassified roads
- grit and shovels are needed for self-help.

Rona enquired whether farmers had been asked to help with winter road clearing, and Jan opined that farmers should get reduction in their council tax for doing this. Colin, Alec and Bryan said DGC may cover insurance for farmers to plough snow. Christopher suggested that a joint letter on the topic from the Confederation of Community Councils might be effective: **George will organise this.** Colin asked whether the road drain had been cleared: Rona said that a sucking machine had been sent, but that owing to the lack of rain recently it was hard to know if it had been effective.

Kirk: George said the roof was still not sealed at back and that he had alerted Stuart at Tods Murray about this. **Jane Blair has undertaken to deal with the request for a photograph of the Cottier window.** Colin commented that it is in the community's best interests to keep the kirk going.

Ideas for Hall Day, 13 June: Linda confirmed that arrangements for this were in hand and that it would happen in tandem with the launch of Gladys Cuttle's book on the history of Tynron.

Repairs to hall roof: Linda reported that the further leak had been repaired.

Queensberry initiative: Bryan reported that he had talked to Pat Kirby of Keir and Wallacehall Academy who had been running this initiative for vocational and outdoor education for 15 months. 33 pupils had been through the scheme in the first year. The aim is to interest children at primary and secondary level in trades and skills relevant to rural life. The scheme aims to introduce children to the possibilities of work in local settings and to provide work placements and mentoring for those interested. Buccleuch Estates supports the initiative heavily, providing outdoor classrooms etc. The scheme needs mentors (e.g. in approaches to business) and money to help with transport and equipment. Although this request has been turned down before, the meeting was in favour of providing money after this report from Bryan, and agreed £100 donation (or – Jan's suggestion – the equivalent in kind if Pat prefers): **Bryan to organise this.**

Election of Committee members: Following the retirement of Madge and Eunice, the committee needs a treasurer. Nobody has presented themselves. Eunice is willing to continue till end September, and if all else fails, will instruct Rona as to what needs done. Colin had discovered that a newcomer, Elaine at Pinzarie, is willing both to stand on the committee and to be Treasurer. Jan thought people who had been in the area longer should have the chance to have the job. Bryan said everybody had had the chance to stand in the elections last November. Heated discussion followed. It was suggested that there should be a poster on the noticeboard advertising the post of treasurer. Rona said Elaine should be told that the post will be advertised but that we welcome her application.

Fun Day: Phil has booked a bouncy castle. George will ask Tom if his field can be used. It was noted that we need a Fun Day committee, since currently Phil takes on everything. Rona will help. Colin will ask Phil to order burgers and Terry and Mary to do the barbecue. Rona will ask Colin Maxwell if he can lend his gazebo in case of rain.

Bench: has arrived: Colin and Eunice to sort payment. Mimi questioned the safety of the bench position (to the north of the Shinnel Glen turn) and was assured that there was room for the bench to be set well back from the road. George will ask Terry to bolt it down. Alec suggested that a noticeboard could be erected near the bench.

Thornhill hospital: Rona reported that all decisions have been postponed until the new Health Board is elected.

Hall Matters: nothing to report

Secretary's report: Jan having left the meeting, Colin reported that a letter about play equipment had been received and that training for community council officebearers was available to those applying by 21 June (Sue expressed interest in improving her minute-taking skills).

Treasurer's report: balance stands at £1452: no windfarm money received as yet.

AOCB: Angus Blair has requested a donation in aid of his participation in a scheme to send UK volunteers to help rebuild New Orleans. TCC will give him £50 (action: Eunice) in line with donation to Sam Harrison.

Alec asked about the Cairneycroft Fund: George told him it had been closed.