

Minutes of TCC Meeting 31 January 2011

Present: Colin, Madge, Elaine, Alec , Bryan, George, Rona, Sue

No apologies. Subject to a couple of small amendments the minutes of the previous meeting were approved: proposed by Madge, seconded by Alec

Police matters: Sgt Emma Dodds had nothing specific to mention except the wintry road conditions. In answer to a question from Colin, she said the Police cannot do anything in particular about icy roads: they can make recommendations to the Council, and in extreme circumstances they can get a road closed, but they cannot get action quicker than anyone else. She talked about Operation Dandelion, which aims to monitor people visiting houses allegedly looking for scrap items to buy: if anybody experiences this, they are advised to ring the Police. She also mentioned the Disclosure scheme, whereby anyone who has concerns about the contact between adults and children should contact the Police.

Matters arising from last meeting:

- Community Resilience Pack: Colin had applied for what we required and had been given a fraction of it, eg asked for 10 bins and got 1; asked for 50 bags of salt and got 4. Madge will write asking for more action and explanations as to why so little so distributed.
- Main Street drains: George has followed up to find out why nothing has happened, and will ring again in a month if no progress has been made.
- Timber traffic: Colin has hopes that we may get a grant from the STTF, with matched funding from DGC and in the shape of donations of materials from Scottish Woodlands, land for laybys from local landowners, and help from farmers in road-widening. Colin, Andrew Wood and George met with Neil Dyson and Graeme Allison and all were hopeful a grant might be forthcoming. All emails, messages and papers pertaining to these matters available from Colin. Nick Dowdell has mapped out places where more passing places should be. DGC will assess the road for the STTF. Colin will chase Neil for making the relevant application.
- Christmas Lights and Winter Art Fair: Phil reported the Art Fair a huge success, raising just on £1000. It was thought that it may have been a good thing to hold it on the same date as other Christmas fairs, as some people went to several on that day. There was discussion as to whether a similar event should be held in the summer or next winter; and whether it was a good idea to combine it with the Christmas lights event; the consensus on this was that on the whole they should be combined but that the timing could be improved. Jane will be consulted. The Christmas Lights collection raised £63 for Shelter.
- application for small grants for TCC-run events: <£200 available from Area Committee. Sue to produce a semi-completed Area Committee form.

Hall Matters: there is approximately £10,000 in the Renovation Fund. Alastair Davies has installed some insulation in the roof. The Renovation sub-committee hopes to apply for funding for air-to-air heat pump heaters soon, but owing to changes in the deadlines for applying for funding, it is not certain when we will know about this.

Secretary's Report: there is to be a meeting reviewing the way windfarm money is allocated to communities at Thornhill Community Centre on 22 February at 6.30pm. George and Rona offered to attend this.

Treasurer's Report: there is £1,832 in the account.

AOCB:

- Diana Turner spoke about the D&G geology project, with examples of what are considered interesting sites in the Tynron area, and how the project aims to make a record of where these are and what they consist of. Much interest was shown and Colin asked Diana to keep us updated on what she finds.
- Rona has Glencairn Gazettes, and suggested the phonebox could be used as a depot where people could collect their own: Colin suggested not until the phone has been extracted. There followed some discussion as to uses for the phonebox (pub, art gallery, etc)
- Sue asked if the Tynron Newsletter could be distributed by email except for those who prefer hard copy: agreed. Articles welcome: to be contributed by 15 April.
- Litterpick: a date was set for Sunday 13 March, 11am. Phil will borrow the necessary paraphernalia from DGC. Sue will ask Christopher Craig to make posters advertising the event. Madge and Rona will make soup to refresh people afterwards.
- Sue mentioned the Climate Challenge Fund's 'Community Powerdown' initiative: it was agreed that this would be worth looking into.