

Minutes of TCC Meeting 6 June 2011

Present: Colin, Madge, Alec, Bryan, Elaine, George, Rona, Sue: no apologies.

No policemen or councillors attended the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved: proposed by Bryan, seconded by Madge

Scott Jardine attended and updated the meeting on progress regarding Thornhill Hosp update. His main point was that on 7 March the Health Board had issued a policy decision based, as they saw it, on responses to their consultation document. Scott pointed out that no response had been given from Thornhill, because bad weather had prevented the meeting at which this response was to be decided: a part of the process has therefore been skipped and the policy document is not properly informed. Scott also pointed out that although the policy document advocates not closing cottage hospitals, pathfinder projects on enhanced care in the community in e.g. Annandale have resulted in fewer hospital beds being used in those areas, thus suggesting that cottage hospital beds in these areas are not needed. The disadvantage of relying on enhanced care-in-the-community, however, is that such services might not be available in bad weather: an Adverse Weather Protocol is being introduced to avoid nurses putting themselves at risk in order to carry out non-priority visits in bad weather. Scott also reported that a lack of consultation with GPs shows that primary care partners were unaware of certain service redesigns. He also thought that recent redesigns had not taken the results of the consultation process into account. Scott suggested we put in an official complaint, to the effect that we had understood that the review process had been officially paused In Feb 2009 and would resume in summer 2009 to take into account results of local elections, including those for the Health Board, and that the scheduled meeting in Thornhill remains outstanding. He would also add that the provision of local inpatient facilities by the local hospital is strongly supported in this community. There was unanimous support for such a letter. In response to questions, Scott said it was worth scrutinising at other NHS models and the pathfinder projects in enhanced care-in-the-community and independent reports on the same. NHS North Cumbria had such a report done and the TCC could access the same services to do a report for our area: it was agreed that such a report would be in tandem with rather than instead of the proposed letter about the incomplete consultation, and that the cost of a report would have to be discussed. Several people made the point very strongly that a rural community needs a local hospital, and said they would be happy to make a personal contribution towards the cost of a report. The meeting expressed its appreciation of the amount of time and effort Scott had put into the issue.

Roads: We were not successful in our funding bid to the Scottish Timber Traffic Fund but Colin proposes to apply again; Andrew Wood would support this. There were several complaints about the deep potholes: Peter Blake had fallen in one and been badly grazed. A timber lorry had cowped in an area of subsidence: Colin said the haulage firm had been very co-operative. There are still some complaints about the speed of timber lorries, especially along the Low Lann straight.

Drains: George has asked again for someone to come and attend to the drains in Main Street. This has been promised. George will continue to ask.

Grants: A grant of £172 has been received from DGC to support annual community events (£400 was requested.)

Fun Day: 14<sup>th</sup> August was decided upon, and Madge will find out if this is convenient for Bump&Jump. She had been told why their cheque had not been cashed: the first one was eaten by the dog, and the second one was made out in the wrong name. She would have asked for a new cheque but then she had the baby and then she had the wedding. Madge also confirmed that the glebe field would be

available and that she would get it cut soon. Bryan suggested a wheelbarrow race instead of a sack race this year.

Hall Matters. Linda reported that £455 had been raised by the Book and Plant Sale. Sue had applied to the DGC's Village hall Improvements Scheme for funding as well as to the Russell Trust, and the Robertson Trust had pledged £4000.

The Secretary had nothing to report, but Colin had had a letter from Closeburn Community Council notifying us that a windfarm had applied for planning permission for 6 high turbines overlooking Auldirth; and a letter from DGC about data protection that Sue will investigate.

The Treasurer reported that the balance in the account is £2556.50, but that there was still money to come out of this to cover uncashed cheques, as well as the £300 owed to Bump & Jump. People were unsure who were signatories on TCC cheques, and Elaine will ask the bank.

AOCB:

1. Sue said that a resident had asked for a bus-shelter. All agreed that it would be difficult to get planning permission for one, especially as there was no known demand other than this one.
2. Alec and Bryan will get the bench installed before the next meeting.
3. George suggested a party to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee next year, perhaps with a beacon-fire on the Doon. It was agreed that the Silver Jubilee had been a good day, and that the TCC and the Hall committee should combine forces for next year's celebration.
4. Rona expressed concern about trees on the road coming into Tynron from the north: a beech came down recently. Madge will write to the DGC about this.

The next meeting will be held on 25 July.