

MINUTES OF A TYNRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

held in Tynron Parish Hall on Monday 29 January, 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: George* (in the chair), Eunice*, Phil*, Janet*, Sue*; 9 members of the public.

Apologies: Colin, Madge, Jane, Peter Bryden.

Adoption of the minutes of 29 Nov meeting, subject to an amendment kindly proposed by Geoff (that PC Buwert had stipulated that headlights, rather than sidelights/foglights, **MUST** be used when driving in poor light conditions), was proposed by Janet, seconded by Phil and duly carried.

Matters arising:

1. Scottish Power has made out a cheque for £1647.50 to the TCC for renovations to the hall; it will be paid into a high interest account allied to such renovations. There followed a discussion about buying the field in the village from Hugh, centring on the price that should be paid and whether buying the field was the best use of income from windfarm projects. Rona suggested that those who see the field most from their houses should have a say in plans for it.
2. George reported that the Quarry Brae road is still in a bad state but that the Roads Department has said it will be reported soon, and that Scottish Power is still responsible for it. Eunice suggested there should be a sign warning motorists to take care.
3. The sign to say that the Dalmakerran Brae is unsuitable for large vehicles has been moved.
4. 30 mph signs will be placed at: Kirkland steading; the Harlands' house; the Manse road end; and at the south end of the bridge.
5. Fraser is going to replace the water trough on Quarry Brae as soon as possible.
6. Madge is retiring as secretary and Janet has agreed to take on the role: she was proposed by Rona and seconded by Eunice.
7. The constitution was amended: paragraph 4.1, stating that co-opted members of the committee could not vote, was excised, although it remains the case that junior co-opted members may not vote. This was ratified by the meeting.
8. Sue was officially appointed Minutes Secretary.
9. The ceilidh was agreed to have been a great success, and all who contributed were thanked. These included Arch for the tree, Terry for setting up the lights, John and Emily for the singing, and the committee for the catering. Eunice said a profit of £123.83 had been made, and had been told that one person was disappointed that there had been no prizes for the fancy dress.
10. Alex and Jonny have been helped with the website by George's nephew William, who will continue to give advice. Sue has written to Simon Dale to notify him of this development and thank him for his contribution.
11. Sue reported that the Appin hydropower scheme is now delivering electricity to the grid in excess of Appin's domestic requirements, and that when the King-Smiths have recovered their investment in the project they propose to pay the excess into a fund for local projects to generate power from sustainable sources. At Christopher's suggestion, the meeting thanked the King-Smiths for this generous offer.

Christopher and Eunice have noticed litter in the village and on radiating roads, and Sat 10 February was agreed as a litterpick day. Phil offered to arrange to borrow bags and reachers from the Council. Margaret offered to make soup and Eunice said the TCC could contribute wine.

Christopher observed that Kirkland sluice is overflowing: George will ask D&GCC to clear it.

Secretary's correspondence: Rolf had written a letter of thanks for his cake and photoframe.

Rona and George had attended a meeting about the closure of Thornhill hospital, at which the NHS was requested not to close it down. A new consultation is to be held involving local representatives: Rona is to represent Tynron.

Rona reported on the restructuring of mental health services: new building is to happen (location not yet known), and the facilities at the Crichton will close.

Treasurer's Report (Eunice): the balance is at £5132.89. It includes £883.21 from the Cairney Croft Fund: there was some inconclusive discussion as to the origin and destination of this money. Christopher asked about the conditions attaching to the creation of a high-interest account for the TCC: whether it had to be called a Treasurer's account, and whether a public body could hold it in trust. George said he would find out.

Hall Committee report: Phil said

- he and Linda had attended a food hygiene course in the interests of hall catering.
- he had attended a seminar about funding options for hall improvements; one application for a grant to renovate the back wall has been unsuccessful. He will get an updated estimate for the work, and has applied to the Robertson Trust.
- A surface dressing for the car park has been applied for.
- Dates for the Funday, Halloween and Xmas ceilidh should be decided soon.
- There was some discussion about the ownership of the Hall, which is in doubt (although the Hall Committee definitely owns the carpark). The hall appears to have been originally part of the Stenhouse estate but is not on the Stenhouse deeds. The new owner of Stenhouse doesn't want it, but the 99-year lease ends in 2026 and a document needs to be made to establish ownership: grants sometimes require evidence. Janet suggested money should be reserved to establish ownership. There was a suggestion that the 80th birthday of the Hall should be celebrated this year with a party.

Newsletter: Christopher and Rona will organise this. They will need contributions by 14 March, preferably in electronic form. Sue will produce hard copies.

Graham Banks wants volunteers to lead short walks in the area: anyone interested in this should see Eunice.

Withdrawal of Glasgow University resources from the Crichton campus: Christopher and George would write to the First Minister and the Minister of Education recommending that Glasgow University should continue its support for the Crichton.

The next meeting will be on Mon 26 March.

*Key to names:

Alex = Alex Collins-Taylor
Arch = Arch Courage
Christopher = Christopher Craig
Colin = Colin Forsyth
Emily = Emily Smith
Eunice = Eunice Laidlaw
Fraser = Fraser Dykes
Geoff = Geoff Harland
George = George Freeborn
Hugh = Hugh Rorison
Jane = Jane Blair
Janet = Janet Davies
John = John Cowdery
Jonny = Jonny Blair
Linda = Linda Macdonald
Madge = Madge Rorison
Margaret = Margaret Irving
Peter = Peter Bryden
Phil = Phil Armstrong
Rolf = Rolf Buwert
Rona = Rona Dent
Sue = Sue King-Smith
Terry = Terry Kirkton