

Draft Minutes 137

Tynron Community Council

Thursday 1st August 2024 7.30pm Tynron Parish Hall

Present: Keith Lewis (KL); Mary Newbould (MN) Tina Jolley (TJ) Paul Jolley (PJ)

1. **Apologies** – Sue King-Smith
2. **Approval of TCC Minutes from 10th June 2024**
Proposed (MN) seconded (KL)
3. **Matters arising**
None
4. **Forestry update (SKS)**
 1. **Complaints received about lorries extracting from Stenhouse Forest:**
 - i) >6 per day.
 - ii) travelling in convoys of three;
 - iii) starting up the glen well before 6am.

David Gilmour of Tilhill (the forestry management company responsible for Stenhouse) said this not possible because all regulated by computer. I asked him to check. Problem now better; there are still infringements, but irregularly.

2. I was contacted by **Stanley Wright about the possibility of extracting from two small Auchenbrack sites in March 2025**. I emailed them a copy of our Strategic Timber Transport Fund (STTF) protocol and said it was important for them to liaise with other forestry companies (Tilhill and Scottish Woodlands) and with local landowners (BCCed) who might also be wishing to extract forestry so that operations could be coordinated without contravening the STTF protocol.
3. Our **STTF protocol** is entitled “Scottish Woodlands Appin Forest - Timber Haulage Rules (Revised July 2018)” while the rules sent me by David Gilmour of Tilhill were entitled “Stenhouse Forest - Timber Haulage Rules Oct 2020 relating to use of the U400N between the A702 and NX 800,929”; they were practically identical. He said that Tilhill had been given these by James England (D&G Council for the STTF) and I understood from him that the rules are now used fairly widely.

Lamb Craigs:

Foresight Sustainable Forestry Company have now transferred ownership of Lamb Craigs to Arizona Bidco (wholly owned by Avern Park Ltd): to be confirmed on 31 July. FSFC has been delisted from the stock exchange (ie no longer exists). To find out what Arizona Bidco is planning to do with the site, and how this would affect the community, I rang Foresight (0203 667 8100): Jo the receptionist took my address and will pass on my query to Matt Hammond /Charlie Wright / Anoushka Morjaria.

D&G Tree Planting Grant Scheme: grants are available from D&G Woodlands (a non-profit SCIO) for planting **native** trees on sites of **no more than 0.25ha (approx 6 acres)** “to benefit the Dumfries and Galloway landscape whilst promoting the guardianship of woodland environments in local communities”. One grant per applicant, first come first served.

Landowners, farmers and individuals: A grant of up to 100% of material costs (i.e. trees, shelters, guards, stakes, fencing, mulch mats etc); max £1000.

Non-profit making organisations such as schools and community groups: A grant of up to 100% of labour and materials costs; max £1000.

Good for Ideas for Tynron? To be discussed with new Community Council.

Macquesson proposed forestry site: We have had no further contact from Tom Tryon since the last email requesting any received objections or comments, and no proposals have appeared on the Scottish Forestry site.

Long Term Forest Plan for Queensberry Estate

Buccleuch Woodlands is currently in the consultation phase for the Long-Term Forest Plan for Queensberry Estate. This plan will outline the areas that will be felled, thinned and replanted over the next 10 years. As part of that process, we would like to provide the local communities with the opportunity to put forward information that they believe is relevant to the design of the plan. This can then be considered along with the information from Statutory Bodies and other interested parties in designing the final plan.

To this end we will be hosting a **drop in session at OST, Thornhill (community room) on Wednesday 7th August between 2.30pm and 6.30pm.** Jim Colchester, Buccleuch Head of Forestry and Kyle Hennen, Queensberry Estate Woodlands Operations Manager will be available, and members of the public will be able to see the scope of the plan and discuss any aspects of it.

5. Police report

There were no incidents in Tynron on the police report provided by Luke Leslie.

6. Planning

Nothing to report with regard to planning applications or approvals

The online meeting that MN attended run by DPEA (Directorate for Planning & Environmental Appeals) regarding Planning Appeals Training was only useful in that it provided those with a statutory responsibility to report to councils regarding Planning the opportunity to push for a change in policy to allow statutory bodies objecting the right of appeal too.

Several people have asked what is happening on the land to the left of the Bray. Lots of new deep drainage & a substantial new track. MN has tried to contact the landowner & failed to get a response. We will continue to try to find out what is happening. Forestry Scotland & SEPA have been made aware of the activity: no application/permission granted for planting or felling trees. SEPA made aware due to potential impact on flooding.

7. Treasurer's Report

Expenses:

- Communication: email (1) - £18
- Monthly contribution to Hall running costs & maintenance - £200
- Retiral present - £69
- Refreshments for meetings - £59.05
- Postage to return River Track monitor for repair - £9.95

Total Expenses £ 356.00

Income:

Total income £0

Balance

Our current bank balance is:

Uncleared	£49,837.16	Cleared	£49,837.16
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Reserved Funding

- £578.74 - DGC Admin Grant (Gmail, general admin costs)
- £1,600.00 – Tynron Hall Grant (committed at meeting on 08/02/2024)
- £68 - Cost of 2 roses as part of retiral present (roses purchased but damaged in transit so returned & refund issued)

Considered Committed Funding at this time: **£2,246.74**

Immediately Available reserves : **£47,590.42**

Additional comments:

SPR Annual Report Audit – Due at the end of August

ANCBC Annual Report & Grant Application - Due August/September

Foundation Scotland Windyrigg Annual Report – Extended due date to August

MN asked if the committee wanted to apply for the annual ANCBC award of £4000. This has traditionally been the fund that we have used to award the £200 small grants from plus the £200 per month to THPC to subsidise hall use for local clubs & groups. It was agreed we would apply.

8. Secretary's Report

An email was received regarding Lorg Wind Farm. They have amended the Scheme and reduced the number of Turbines from 15 to 10 x 200FT. Gavin King-Smith assisted in drafting our reply, which has not changed from our original, however we asked that they consult with the biosphere partnership to assess implications and wait until the boundaries of the new National Park are announced.

9. Grant Applications

We have had several funding requests this time:

1. Joseph Thomson Group requested funding towards the cost of repairing the privy, pigsty and fence. £200 Granted.
2. SWI requested funding towards the cost of speakers, and hall hire. £200 granted
3. Cake and ceilidh club requested grant towards the cost of the Ceilidh band for New Years eve, £200 granted
4. Moreton Thistle Junior football Team in Thornhill requested funding to help with running costs. £200 granted.
5. Tynron Parish Hall Committee requested part funding towards the cost of a new heating system. Quotes have been obtained for replacement air source heating, but the TCC asked if there were other solutions which could be considered. A grant of £20,000 was awarded.

6. Tynron Parish Hall requested part funding towards the cost of a new gate and fence to be erected between the hall car park and the river. A local blacksmith has created a design which is sympathetic to the age of the building, and in metal will outlast a wooden alternative. A grant of £3000 towards the cost was awarded.

10. Hall Update

It has been a busy couple of months for members of TPHC:

The renovated weathervane & vent have been reinstated on the hall roof Big thanks to Steve Mullane & Terry

Renovation Day: There was a good turnout for the renovation day. Big thanks to all those who took part. We will need to have a day to tackle some of the indoor jobs later in the year.

Also big thanks to everyone who turned out this week to help with preparing the Hall Car Park for Resurfacing. A great community effort.

Car Park Resurfacing: TPHC agreed to put kerb stones by the boundary fence with the gardens to prevent weed creep into the tarmac. Initially it was hoped that the surface of the car park could be sloped towards that kerb but subsequent measurements have indicated that a shallow concrete drainage channel will need to run down the centre of the car park channelling the surface water running down the road & from the car park itself towards the river
This was partially funded by TCC windfarm funds

New Fence: details above

Replacement Heating System: Details above

Partial Reroofing of the Hall: This work will be scheduled for next Financial Year. An initial survey of the roof & guttering has taken place by a local tradesman.

1. Complete new roof on the car park side of the hall with Welsh slate.
2. Repair & replace damaged slate on existing roof over the kitchen & the roadside of the hall roof & replace ridge with interlocking clay ridges
3. New lead valley gutters
4. Replace Velux windows
5. Overlaying the stage / Kitchen flat roofs with fibreglass

Telephone Box: Thanks to everyone who made the fused glass panels & to Steve & Jill for installing them in the phone box. Two panels were too large for the holes so they are waiting to be cut down before being installed.

The Fused Glass Course was funded by TCC

Mindful Movement Class: New class started on Thursday morning run by NHS – combination of Tai Chi & Qi-gong

11. Preparations for handover to new Community Council

Under the assumption that enough volunteers are nominated then it was agreed that we create central files (possibly drop box) to incorporate all the information the current CC has on personal pc's. This would include:

- bank account signatories, Committed funding, Standing Orders, Annual Windfarm Reports and rules attached to awarding funding, etc. Password file
- Ideas Day progress
- Planning
- Roads & Forestry
- Windfarm proposals
- Secretary notes & grapevine
- Resilience
- Future works – memorial garden trees

TJ to investigate file storage.

In the event that no community council is elected then there will still be 1 month to prepare before the bank account is frozen and the community council ceases to exist. If this happens then hopefully the hall committee would consider applying to the council for insurance for the resilience team to ensure that continues. Also taking responsibility for the £40 per year from ICO to keep the grapevine running. TJ is happy to continue to send grapevine messages if there is no CC.

12. Update re: visit from D&G council chief exec.

The meeting was mostly about Community Resilience provision, an area in which we are considered by DGC to be very proactive. It gave us the opportunity to mention 3 of the most major issues that we have previously raised with the council regarding drainage & the state of the road (or lack of it) at the bottom of the Glen.

She wrote a letter passing on her thanks to all those who attended the meeting.

13. Summer event

It was agreed that a joint BBQ and Pub night would be organised by the Hall committee and TCC on Saturday 14th September.

14. AOCB

PJ expressed his disappointment that he was retiring from the community council, he strongly believes in the ethos of the council and had hoped to have achieved more with things such as the shared heating scheme, new website etc, but due to work commitments he had found it impossible to commit the time needed to see these things through. KL echoed his agreement.

Thanks to all who have brightened up our village with flowers, the memorial and bridge have been full of colour and lots of positive comments have been received.

15. Date of next meeting

A meeting & AGM will be held on the 9th September, by which time we will know if we have a new community council.