

TORTHORWALD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (TCC)

(TCC area: Collin, Dargavel, Douievale, Elizafield, Greenlea, Isle of Man, Racks, Roucan & Torthorwald).

Monday 19th February 2018

Collin Village Hall

Present: Mr Bob Watson (Chairman), Mrs Pauline Dear (Treasurer), Mrs Betty Paisley, Mrs Marisa McAdam, Ms Moira Weatherup, Mr Bill Hitchens, Mrs Lesley Gordon, Mrs Cath Mundell, Mr John Carson, Police Constable Callum Duignan.

Apologies: Mr Miller Cameron, Mrs Lindsay Florey, Mr Mark Hughes

Also Present: Cllr. Colonel John Charteris, Cllr Ivor Hyslop, Mrs Agnes Carson.

WELCOME

Bob welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES.

The minutes of meeting 15th January 2018 were approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING.

Bench on Lynns Road - Possibilities for an alternative site have been explored. No sites were deemed safe on the east side of the road but possible sites on the other side of the road were identified where the land would need to be built up or a wooden structure put in place. It was suggested that a site for a bench could be provided at the Hemplands walk on the High Tinwald Road. Further discussion at next meeting.

Collin Phone Box – No decision on a new role. Concerns were raised about possible vandalism. Further discussion at next meeting.

Cruck Cottage Fire – An update report from Bill Meadows confirmed that electrical works will be done in two weeks after which dehumidifiers will be installed to dry out the stone floor and walls. Quotes for repair to the chimney and re-thatching are awaiting approval from the insurers at which time it is hoped that work will commence in March and April with a view to opening to visitors in May. A highly successful bingo night has raised over £200 towards additional renovation costs. Bill thanked everyone locally and in the wider community for the huge support they have given so generously since the fire. He will continue to keep TCC updated as work progresses.

Collin Underpass – Moira reported that the lights in the underpass were still not working properly. She has tried to report this on the Council system. Betty reported that a fire in the underpass had been started recently.

Community Council membership – Mr Terry Grainger has, with regret, tendered his resignation due to work commitments. Mr John Campbell expressed interest in joining the

Community Council but it was reported that he is seeking clarification as to whether or not his work with the D&G Council would be a conflict of interest.

POLICE REPORT.

PC Callum Duignan reported that there was no further information about the Cruck Cottage fire as yet.

More resources are to be deployed to deal with speeding near to Collin school.

Police have been informed that Tinwald Church was vandalised last weekend.

Police Scotland in partnership with local groups have resumed an initiative to reduce sheep worrying. It is hoped that this meets with the same success as last year. The approach includes educating dog owners to keep their dogs under good control.

SPEED WARNING SIGNS.

Types of speed signs were discussed. The consensus of opinion was that speed indicator signs should be installed on the A709. Bob will seek advice from the police before a final decision is made.

Other Community Councils have been contacted to ask for information about their speed sign installations and costs. Only one reply was received from a CC whose signs were very old and in need of replacement.

A quote of £2500 + VAT for the supply and fitting of a speed indicator sign or a speed warning sign has been received from Westcotec. This would need to be fitted to mains powered pre-wired poles possibly utilising street lighting poles. A solar powered option would incur a further cost of £1155. A further quote from TWM Traffic is awaited.

COLLIN DEFIBRILLATOR AND SPEED SIGNS

No response to the grant application for funds to provide speed signs at Collin and to provide a defibrillator has yet been received.

WIND FARM APPLICATIONS UPDATE

No applications from local groups for Wind Farm funding have yet been received. It was agreed to extend the deadline for applications from 28th February to 15th March. Pauline will let local groups know about the extension.

Action:Pauline

Details of funding application were emailed to a representative for Collin Play Park but the email address was incorrect and rejected. Lesley agreed to give the application details to the representative in person.

Action: Lesley

FUTURE EVENTS

Suggested locations for this year's summer outing are: Lake District, Skipton, Beamish, New Lanark, Largs, Metro Centre, Waverley Steamer, Falkirk Wheel, Queensferry Crossing, Hawkshead and Dumfries House. To be decided at the next meeting.

PLANNING

Storey Homes applied to extract material at the former Pines Golf Course.

Storey Homes applied for access from the A709 to a building site.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Balance £4932.55 – including £2000 Harestanes Wind Farm Local Community Grant 2017/18, £2000 D&G safety fund for Torthorwald speed signs. £2000 to be received from 200 club towards Christmas meal costs.

No income or expenses this month.

Forms for online banking have been filled in and signed by Chairman and Treasurer and await signatures from Secretary and Vice Chairman.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Applications are invited for two Non-Executive Members to join the NHS Dumfries and Galloway Health Board. Interviews to be held 28 and 29 March. For application form and details see www.appointed-for-scotland.org

Pauline will send out this month's Hub email to all members

Action: Pauline

A.O.C.B.

Speedwatch Initiative – An initiative to combat speeding in our communities. Bob and Bill were interested in finding out more and reporting back to TCC. Bob proposed to contact Supt Gary Richie of Police Scotland to register interest and ask for information.

Action: Bob

Scots Night - Bob encourages all to a Scots Night on 2nd March at Torthorwald Village Hall. £5 adult £1 child. Pies and beans. Good entertainment. Bob has tickets.

Notice Board - Marisa reported that the notice board in Torthorwald is in need of replacement. A larger board would be desirable. It was suggested that TCC could apply for a local wind farm grant. Lesley agreed to ask a local joiner for a quote.

Action: Lesley

Greenlea Bus Stop - Damage to the Greenlea bus stop has been reported to D&G Council by Moira

Potholes - Betty raised concern about the number and severity of potholes in the area's roads. Moira and Pauline agreed to report to Council website.

Action: Moira, Pauline

Litter - Complaints have been received about litter around the Starbucks coffee shop and Travelodge Hotel opposite Douievale and on the A75. Moira will find out who to contact to bring this to attention. Moira also agreed to report the litter to Transerve roads management.

Action: Moira, Pauline

Resilience Plans – Betty noted that a grit spreader located in Collin was inaccessible when needed during an icy spell of weather because it was locked away and key could not be located. A local man, Norman Crosby, voluntarily took on the job of gritting the pavements preventing possible accidents. Betty suggested that Norman is asked if he would be willing to take on the responsibility of keeping the key, which is now found, and gritting the pavements when needed. Betty agreed to make the request on behalf of the TCC.

Action: Betty

During the discussion it was noted that the Community Resilience Plan had not been updated for a long time. Therefore it will be added to the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm. Next meeting in Torthorwald Village Hall, 19th March 7.30pm.