

TORTHORWALD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (TCC)

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

Monday 16th April 2018

Collin Village Hall

Present: Mr Bob Watson (Chairman), Mrs Pauline Dear (Treasurer), Mrs Betty Paisley, Mrs Lesley Gordon, Mrs Marisa McAdam, Ms Moira Weatherup, Mr Bill Hitchens, Mrs Cath Mundell, Mr Mark Hughes, Mr Miller Cameron, Police Constable Kennedy Anderson

Apologies: Mr John Carson, Mrs Lindsay Florey

Also Present: Cllr Ivor Hyslop, Mr Bill Meadows MBE.

WELCOME

Bob welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

Collin phone box – There were no further suggestions as to how the phone box should be used in the future.

Mr John Campbell – Mark reported that John has still to find out whether or not a Regional Councillor is allowed to serve also as a Community Councillor. Cllr Hyslop said that he was unaware of this rule having been changed. Bob reminded the meeting that there is no problem continuing with 12 CC members.

Collin underpass lighting – There are still only two lights working. Transerv is responsible for street lighting. Moira has reported the fault and volunteered to pursue the matter.

Collin School Keep Scotland Beautiful – Easter holidays have delayed progress. Pauline will email the head teacher to renew contact. It was suggested that a copy of the minutes should be sent to the school for general community information.

Memorial to Dan McKie – Bob suggested a plaque could be added to the proposed bench to be located on the new walk from Hemplands Farm or on the bench that is located in Collin.

Speedwatch scheme – Bob reported no further progress as yet.

POLICE REPORT

No crimes have been reported in the TCC area in the last month. Various crimes have occurred in Dumfries town including thefts from handbags particularly in supermarkets. Constable Anderson urged all to be vigilant. As a security measure, small bells that can be attached to bags, purses etc. are being issued to members of the public. They can be acquired from the Loreburn Police Station.

There are still bogus callers to local properties and any suspicious incidents should be reported to the police immediately.

Enquiries into the Cruck Cottage fire are still ongoing.

SPEED WARNING SIGNS

Collin Speed Signs (and defibrillator) – the application for funding was unsuccessful because the fund was over-subscribed leaving insufficient funds to cover all applications. Pauline will look into applying for other funds to progress this project.

Torthorwald Speed Signs – Pauline contacted Douglas Anderson of Caerlaverock Community Association, who have recently installed a battery/solar powered speed sign at Bankend village, to ask for advice. The device cost about £1500 +VAT and was supplied by SG Manufacturing. Douglas advised that other suppliers are available whose prices are similar. The batteries used to power the system are unreliable because the solar panel is inefficient. Photos of the device in situ were shown to the meeting.

Pauline has asked for advice from the D&G Roads Dept about permissions needed to erect the signs and if it is possible to connect the signs to existing mains power supply used for street lighting. A reply is awaited but Mark has spoken to a Roads Dept employee who suggests that the costs of connection could be prohibitive. It was decided to wait for a formal reply from the Roads Dept before deciding on the type of device to purchase.

Quotes from supplier Elancity including VAT and delivery were:

Mains powered	£1769
Solar powered	£2249
Mobile Battery	£2249

These devices all include the facility to replace the speed indication with 'TOO FAST' above a given speed thereby eliminating the "race effect" when indicating high speeds.

It was suggested that Sanquhar and Clarencefield CCs are contacted to find out about their experience of installing speed signs. Pauline agreed to do this.

RESILIENCE PLAN

The resilience plan will be updated with the names of current TCC officials and a map of the area. A copy of the plan should be forwarded to Torthorwald Hall Association and to the Collin Hall Committee since these two venues are named in the plan as emergency refuge centres.

The plan includes a self-help plan for householders and recommends that this is offered to residents in the community. It was suggested that this A4 sheet could be included in the next newsletter with perhaps a short article about the Community Resilience Plan.

The salt spreader issued to TCC by D&G Council is unusable through deterioration and should be discarded. Its replacement would need a new shed to house it securely.

WINDFARM APPLICATIONS

Wind Farm local grants have been awarded to the applicants as agreed in the last meeting.

FUTURE EVENTS

Dumfries House as a venue for this year's summer outing has been declined because it proved too expensive. It was decided that the outing would be to Kendal in the Lake District. New quotes for the cost of the bus will be required. McCall Bus Company and Houston Bus Company were both quoting £350 for the Dumfries House trip.

PLANNING

David Handley applying to erect an extension at Roucan Byre, Torthorwald.
Dundas Chemicals applied to erect an industrial shed at Mosspark, Annan Road.
Reiver Homes applied to erect 14 houses Phase H3 at Marchfield.
Michael Gunn applied to erect a dwelling house on Linns Road Torthorwald.
Owner of former Pines Golfclub land applied to extract fill material - engineering operations
Story Homes applied for access to Summer Park for 5 years.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current balance	£4526.55	
Income	£2000.00	200 Club for Christmas meals December 2017
Expenses	£2000.00	Wind Farm local grants
	£150.00	TCC top up to local grants

This balance includes £2000 D&G Safety Fund grant awarded towards the cost of speed signs in Torthorwald Village. Cllr Hyslop advised that D&G Council should be informed that the purchase of the speed signs has been delayed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Communication:

Armed Forces Letter: TCC have been asked to consider taking part in a commemoration of the RAF's 100th Anniversary during the week of 25th June to 30th June 2018. It was suggested that TCC could provide a suitable floral tribute possibly at the war memorial in Collin. Archie Dryburgh, Armed Forces Champion, will be informed of this intention.

SNH Newsletter March – forwarded to all

D&G Draft Housing Strategy – Moira asked for this to be forwarded to her.

Southern Uplands Partnership – information re-stakeholder events forwarded to all.

The Big Lunch – This is held each year in June to bring people together in communities. Pauline listed a few of the suggestions on the website for suitable events that could be held in the community. It was noted that Torthorwald Community Group is holding an Afternoon Tea event on the 17th June to raise funds for the Play Park. It was suggested that an

exhibition of photographs could be held on the same day to bring people together and to help the Community Group raise funds. Pauline agreed to contact Torthorwald Community Group to discuss the possibility.

Equal Right of Appeal document re- Fracking – forwarded to all.

Damaged bus shelter between Collin and Greenlea – David Morton has agreed to check if this shelter is due to be replaced by one of the new red shelters. SWESTRANS is responsible for replacing bus shelters. A repair would be very expensive. A design painted on or attached to the damaged panels has been suggested as a potential project for the Collin Primary School Keep Scotland Beautiful Group. David has agreed to check if the Council would accept this idea and, if so, TCC will ask the school if they would be interested in that idea.

Scottish Water Regional Newsletter – forwarded to all

Creativeplay.co.uk/playground-equipment – website showcasing substantial wooden playground equipment.

Ecovision – solar powered notice boards supplier but very expensive

Earth Anchors Ltd – notice boards. A brochure of the supplier's products and prices was shown to the meeting.

TrueCall call blocking device – Trading Standards are offering to install this device free of charge for vulnerable residents of D&G. It was suggested that this could be included as an item in this year's TCC Newsletter.

AOCB

Moiria brought to the attention of the meeting that a phone scam is in operation where a caller says there has been an accident involving somebody known to the receiver of the call and that money is needed.

Betty noted that only a few caravans are now present at the Thistle Grove site and there has been very little trouble there recently. However there is still a lot of rubbish at the entrance to the site and along the road. Constable Anderson confirmed that Police have reported this to the D&G Council.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm . next meeting Torthorwald Village Hall, 21stth May 7.30pm .