

Minutes of meeting of Thornhill & Blairdrummond Community Council held on Tuesday 3 April 2007 at 7.30pm in Blairdrummond Community Hall

1. Present & apologies

Mr. Jim Maxwell	Chairman		
Mr. Ian Bain	Treasurer	Mr. Peter Rickard	Secretary
Mr. Campbell Hannah	Vice Chairman		
Mrs. Kate Cartney	Community Councillor	Mrs. Ann Petrie	Community Councillor
Mrs. Cath Preston	Community Councillor	- left after item 7 (a) but see note on item 8	
Mrs. Rosemary Williams	Community Councillor		

1 members of the public

Apologies were received from Mr. Sandy Stewart, Mr. Paul Nelson Stirling Councillor, and Margaret McKechnie Rural Development Worker with Stirling Council.

2. Approval of minutes of meeting on 20 February 2007

The minutes of the meeting on 20 February 2007 were approved by Campbell Hannah and seconded by Ian Bain.

3. Condolences

The Community Council noted the recent death of Mr David Thomson, a Community Councillor for many years, and expressed our condolences to his widow.

4. Matters arising

Some matters arising were covered in a separate note (appended to these minutes) that had been circulated prior to the meeting.

a. School concessionary transport No further information has been received. The matter will be dropped from our list of outstanding issues.

b. Save our Common Fund Peter Rickard reported that all monies have now been received by the North Common Trust. This amounted to £1,565.88.

c. Trossachs Trail notice board Ian Bain has been in touch with Murray Parsons who will help when time allows. **Action Ian Bain**

d. Traffic speeding The secretary reported that he had spoken to the community policeman. It is hoped that the current traffic management scheme being implemented in Thornhill will help the situation.

e. River Forth at Drip Bridge A fence along the river has disintegrated. Campbell Hannah has sent an email to Stirling Council but it seems unclear who has responsibility for this.

f. Livestock Mart Campbell Hannah attended the latest Development Management Panel meeting that discussed the application. The outcome of the meeting was that the matter was referred back to the planners to again attempt to conclude a section 75 agreement with Elphinstone. The latter seemed very averse to making concessions even though the Council had compromised. The community council view is still that a new market is required but this is the wrong place for it. The development now seems to be concentrated more on the retail side than on the market itself. Campbell Hannah is to write to the council to this effect. We believe the matter will come before the Development Management Panel again on 19 March.

Action Campbell Hannah

5. Youth matters

None.

6. Planning

a. General planning issues

S/06/00607/DET	Change of use to form dwelling house at South Kirk Lane Farm Gargunnoch	Recommendation: Approve - Shortened Expiry Date
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S/06/00655/DET	Conversion of existing farm steading to form a single dwelling house at Building 40m South West Of Nether Spittalton Farmhouse Thornhill	Recommendation: Approve - Shortened Expiry Date
S/06/01014/DET	Erection of new livestock auction market and associated facilities at Land To North Of Hill Of Drip Farm Bounded By River Teith And River Forth Stirling	Recommendation: Approve - Subject to Section 75. See item 4 f above.
S/06/01064/NAG	Erection of agricultural building at Land South East Of Greenhills, Kippen Road, Thornhill	Recommendation: Approve with Conditions
S/07/00002/DET	Demolition of existing farmhouse and erection of new Farmhouse at Cardona Farm, Doune	Recommendation: Approve with Conditions
S/07/00024/DET	Erection of new rhino house at Blair Drummond Safari Park And Adventure Park, Somer's Lane, Ochertyre, Blairdrummond	Decision: Approve with Conditions
S/07/00046/DET	Extension to farm storage shed at South Kirk Lane Farm, Gargunnoch	Recommendation: Approve with Conditions
S/07/00060/LBC	Proposed new metal stud partitions to create corridor and new timber door set at Blairdrummond House, Somer's Lane, Ochertyre, Blairdrummond	Decision: Approve with Conditions
S/07/00101/DET	Creation of farm shop, tea room, play area and maze at Briarlands, Somer's Lane, Ochertyre, Blairdrummond	Recommendation: Approve with Conditions
S/07/00245/HAE	Dormer extension to dwelling house at 11 Back Yetts, Thornhill	Application received

b. Application for 150 houses in Doune The meeting noted that this application has been approved by the Development Management Panel subject to a section 75 agreement.

c. Application for Short Rotation Coppice in field opposite Netherton Farm The secretary had received information on this and the meeting discussed the implications. Concerns were raised over the change of use of good arable land to semi-permanent woodland; in particular this would affect the drainage as roots would undoubtedly find their way into the field drains; over the extra noise during harvesting; and over the extra vehicle traffic during harvesting. Doubt was also expressed over the viability and indeed the environmental soundness of this scheme when the understanding is that the crop would have to be transported a considerable distance. The council however decided not to raise any objection as the planners have put a series of conditions on the development that cover our fears including the temporary nature of this as a pilot scheme.

d. State of fields around Thornhill Concern was raised at the condition of some of the fields around Thornhill. They contain rusting vehicles and similar waste and litter, and consequently are an eyesore and dangerous to animals and people who may enter the fields, especially children who find such items irresistible. **Action secretary to write to Stirling Council**

7. Correspondence

The secretary had issued a note to councillors on correspondence since the previous meeting. It is appended to these minutes. The following items were discussed at the meeting.

a. Consultative Draft Clackmannanshire & Stirling Structure Plan The council discussed the draft plan. The main relevance to Thornhill and Blairdrummond is the inclusion in the plan of a new western village of 1,500 houses to cope with anticipated and desired population expansion. One of the three options for the location is in the 'Gargunnoch, Killearn, Buchlyvie, Balfron, Fintry, Strathbane, Thornhill' area. This is recognised in the report as the poorest option. The council decided that as the Structure Plan is at such a high level with no detail, they would not comment on it.

b. New Planning Act Documentation received on the 2006 Planning Act was discussed. This has major changes to the way planning will operate and will come into force over the next year or two. Details of how the Act will work are still being determined and the Scottish Executive is encouraging the use of training for community councillors.

c. Paths issue A letter was received regarding the ploughing of paths on fields belonging to Mr Steedman. The council took the view that this was an unfortunate event that

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should not have occurred but that in view of the actions taken by Richard Waite of Thornhill Community Trust, there was no need for any further input from the council.

d. NHS forum membership A letter has been received inviting us to renew our membership of the NHS forum. **Action Ann Petrie**

e. Trossachs Area Network Health sub-group An invitation to a meeting has been received from this group. **Action Ann Petrie and Kate Cartney**

f. Football pitch A letter from Thornhill football club detailed difficulties with the drainage of the football pitch. Ian Bain arranged for Willie Hamill of Stirling Council to see the problem and he has seemingly accepted that there is an issue. A further meeting is being held on the pitch on 5 April with Stirling Council and the original contractor. **Action Ian Bain**

8. Thornhill Community Trust (TCT)

Note this item was dealt with before item 7 above, and while Cath Preston was still present.

No written report had been received but Cath Preston updated the meeting on:

- two new directors are in place, David Firth and Peter Stott
- the Kids Club is on-going
- action to erect a deer fence on the Muir Dam path is imminent
- footpath signs should be erected soon

9. Blairdrummond Community Hall Association

Jim Maxwell reported that a successful Race Night had raised £1,300. A Ceilidh is being held this weekend and a Jazz concert on 21st.

10. AOCB

a. Traffic management The meeting noted that the traffic management proposals are currently being implemented in Thornhill.

b. Working Group invitation The secretary reported that he has been invited to attend a Scottish Executive Working Group to take forward some of the recommendations from the consultation on Community Councils carried out last year. Specifically the Working Group will address the issues of

- a Model Community Council Scheme for Local Authorities;
- Good Practice Guidance for both Community Councils and Local Authorities;
- a Code of Conduct for community councillors

c. Wheelie bins The meeting expressed some concern over the possibility that we will be asked to place our wheelie bins for collection on only one side of the street. This may involve elderly and infirm people having to move a heavy bin across a busy road. It was pointed out that it is possible for people having difficulties handling the bins to apply to have them collected from the house.

11. Date of next meeting: 7.30pm Tuesday 15 May 2007 in Thornhill Primary School.

Future meeting schedule for 2007:

15 May	26 June ^{%*}	7 August [%]	18 September	30 October
11 December				

[%] meeting will be held in Blairdrummond Community Hall

* the AGM will precede this meeting