



Thornton Community Council

Draft Minutes of the public meeting held on

06/09/2023 @ 7pm

In Thornton Pensioners Hut

1. Meeting Attendance:

Community Councillors	Dorothy Herd (DH) [Chair], Euan Ross (ER) [Treasurer], Jean Laird (JL), Christine Ross (CR), Dawn Taylor (DL), John Laing (JoL), Izzy Anderson (IA), Heather Paterson (HP), Kelly Coull (KC), Rae Duncan (RD)
Fife Councillors	Ross Vettraino (RV), Daniel Wilson (DW), Derek Nobel (DN)
Apologies	Kelly Easton
Absentees	Community Police

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Held on:	2nd August 2023		
Proposed by:	ER	Seconded by:	HP

3. Review of Actions:

Action no.	Details	Owner	Actioned/ Cfwd
23.08-01	Secretary's handover	JL	Actioned
23.08-02	Contact Fife Council Head of Planning	JL	Actioned
23.08-03	MM footbridge-contact Scotways	JL	Actioned
23.08-04	MM footbridge-contact Thornton Golf club	JL	Actioned
23.08-05	Raise awareness and seek volunteers for community speedwatch	ER	Actioned
23.08-06	Attempt to contact Thornton Highland Gathering Committee in an effort to mediate	DW	Actioned
23.08-07	Continue investigations into play equipment for Memorial Park	KC	Update 04/10/2023

23.08-08	Weed situation at Orchard Road area to be investigated	RV	Actioned
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Only one volunteer came forward for Community Speedwatch so this initiative cannot be progressed at present. JL to Contact single volunteer to offer TCC thanks.

4. Fife Councillor's Update

Parks and play equipment -DW shared that at a Ward 15 meeting it was proposed that play equipment in Thornton's three parks be reduced to two or one park only containing play equipment. DW and RV intervened and brought this proposal to this meeting in order that it could be discussed. ER suggested that it would be good for TCC to hear the results of the consultation. RV and DW to share results of consultation at next meeting. KC to speak with other parents to gauge opinions. JL contact Thornton Primary School to ask if there is interest in the suggestion to reduce play equipment.

RV noted that speed indicator signs are still broken. ER reported this to Fife Council 10 months ago.

At most recent Glenrothes Area committee Fife Council Officers couldn't give updates as to when repairs to pavements and roads in Thornton will happen. DW will contact Officers and report back. If no response DW intends to pursue at a higher level.

DH Traffic Calming. DH mentioned proposed traffic calming measures and DN said he would send an invite to officers to attend TCC meeting to engage/consult on this.

5. Community Police Update:

No Community Police in attendance and no apologies received. No update report shared. JL to email community police to ask for an update and enquire about this. JL to mention erratic driving and dangerous parking in Main Street at 'school time'. JL to contact Milton & Coaltown of Balgonie CC secretary re pop up policeman.

6. Treasurer's Report:

See Appendix 1. Mention made of new defibrillators being required and assessment to be made by St John's Society. New cabinet for existing defibrillator is also required. Some funding has been raised from local businesses and ER to seek funding from Foundation Scotland/ wind & solar farm fund. CR proposed ER's defibrillator related funding application and RD seconded this.

7. Secretary's Report:

See Appendix 2

Planning applications submitted	
Address	Application summary
39 Strathore Rd, Thornton, KY14DY	Single story extension

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Planning applications approved	
Address	Application summary
Wester Balbeggie Farm	Battery Energy Storage System

Planning applications rejected	
Address	Application summary
Nil	

8. Memorial Park (Younger Children's Facilities)

KC to pursue this and update next time.

9. Train Station Renaming Update:

JoL updated that he had again written to the various parties involved including Network Rail, Scotrail, Jenny Gilruth and the Minister for Transport. Of note was that Dunfermline Town Station was renamed in 3 months to Dunfermline City and this cost £12 000. Thornton have been quoted exorbitant sums and have campaigned for years for this name change. John has had success in that there is to be a process put in place for station renaming and Thornton will be top of the list. John Laing was applauded for his relentless enthusiasm and hard work to get this campaign to this stage.

10. Makies Mill Bridge Update (JL):

- Fife Council Access Officer Contacted 8/8/2023. Response from Access Officer stating they have no funding to support this and that Paths for All give useful information on standards for paths. The Access Office can put TCC in touch with volunteers for working on paths.
- Scotways have been contacted by email
- John Adam and Savills have no objections

11. DoubleDykes Update (JL & HP):

All three rights of way are now blocked a motion is being prepared for next Full Fife Council Meeting. HP has investigated legal Aid and this was positive. TCC need to decide who to pursue should a legal route be pursued. A new strategy and campaign are to be taken forward by TCC. See detail of August correspondence in Secretary's Report (Appendix 2).

12. AOCB:

- Greenfingers Group disbanded. JL to contact Greener Kirkcaldy for advice and ideas on a way forward. HP to inspect Wooden Train Planter and arrange removal if beyond repair.
- Metal decorative train and benches at Station Road. HP to speak with Duncan MacRae. DH to get quote from N. Simpson to shotblast and respray train and fix down benches. ER to source funding from Foundation Scotland Mid Balbeggie Renewables Fund.
- ER to seek funding from Foundation Scotland Mid Balbeggie Renewables Fund for First Aid Training Courses at £80 per person for approx. 12 people over two days.
- New Highland Games now have a committee. The new constitution is being reviewed and Thornton Memorial Park is booked for 6 July 2024.
- Paths between Thornton and Kirkcaldy were raised by Alex Donald. JL to write to Transport Scotland regarding cutting back of bushes next to path alongside A92. JLto suggest possible contractor to Alex Donald for vegetation cutting to clear other paths in this area.

13. Microgrants (closed session)

No applications

14. Date of Next Meeting:

4th October 2023 @7pm

15. Actions:

Action no.	Details	Owner	Target date
23.09-01	Investigate play equipment for Memorial Park	KC	4/10/23
23.09-02	Thank Speed Watch volunteer	JL	4/10/23
23.09-03	Canvas parents for opinions on reduction of play equipment in Thornton's parks.	KC	4/10/23
23.09-04	Contact primary school for opinions on reduction of play equipment in Thornton's parks.	JL	4/10/23
23.09-05	Feedback on play equipment consultation	DW & RV	4/10/23
23.09-06	Update on repair of speed indicator sign	RV	4/10/23
23.09-07	Update on contact with FC officers re roads and pavements repairs	DW	4/10/23
23.09-08	Traffic calming update on consultation	DN	4/10/23
23.09-09	Contact Community Police	JL	4/10/23
23.09-10	Investigate pop up police person	JL	4/10/23
23.09-11	Contact Greener Kirkcaldy	JL	4/10/23
23.09-12	Investigate train refurb. With D. MacRae	HP	4/10/23
23.09.13	Seek quote from N. Simpson for train refurb and pinning down of benches	DH	4/10/23
23.09-14	Investigate soundness of train planter	HP	4/10/23

23.09-15	Contact Transport Scotland & Investigate contractor for 'Kirkcaldy paths'	JL	4/10/23
23.09-16	Investigate/source funding for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defib (new & case) • Benches and fixing • First Aid courses 	ER	4/10/23

Appendix 1

Treasurer's Report

Thornton Community Council Summary accounts to 31/08/2023			FPO = Faster Payment Out FPI = Faster Payment In INT = Interest
	Value	Chq. No. Payee	
Opening bank balance	£18,379.17		
Payments	-£274.80 FPO -£38.40 FPO	Imperative Training (Defib batteries x2) Lady Haig's Poppy Factory	
Credits	£4.31 INT £13.24 INT	Instant saver 32-Day notice	
Closing bank balance	<u>£18,083.52</u>		
Pending transactions			
Reserved funds	-£4,065.64 -£2,000.00 -£2,000.00 -£410.00 -£1,300.00 -£500.00	Foundation Scotland (Microgrant fund) Foundation Scotland (Park improvement grant) Foundation Scotland (1 year Xmas lights) Funds held for Thornton Community Food Support Hanging baskets Funds held for Thornton Highland Games (£38.49 spent)	
Total committed funds	<u>-£10,275.64</u>	NOTES:	
Petty cash balance	£12.19		
TOTAL UNRESERVED FUNDS	£7,820.07		

Appendix 2

Thornton Community Council

Draft Secretary's Report, 3 August - 6 September 2023

Councillor Awards-nominations by 22 September

DoubleDykes Correspondence

- 3/8/23 Scotways shared file information regarding the Barrel Brig showing that an engineer's report was sought in 2008 by Wemyss estate and Laurie Adams (Scotways Route Warden) was present at the meeting when this was agreed.
- 3/8/23 Scotways were updated by Heather Paterson regarding the DoubleDykes discussion at TCC meeting 2/8/23
- 3/8/23 TCC now hold on file 9 Affidavits evidencing the rights of way at Doubledykes, Tullybreck and Waulkmill.
- 4/8/23 email from H. Paterson – Considering FOI information from Network Rail and 1952 Leven Railway Act it appears that the rights of way at Tullybreck and Waulkmill have never been extinguished and that a bridge or arch should be provided by Network Rail. Network rail insist that both of these crossings have always been private level crossings. These crossings are shown on estate maps.
- 4/8/23 email from Rick Ware regarding DoubleDykes-No evidence of frequent use of the line by any engines. A 10mph speed limit sign is in place. Fly tipping has increased.
- 4/8/23 Peter Grant MP and Jenny Gilruth MSP were thanked for attending our August meeting and updated with the information regarding Waulkmill and Tullybreck..
- 6/8/23 Heather Paterson shared The Railway Clauses Act 1863 and has read up on this.
- Cllr Vettraino contacted Fife Council's Legal Resource team and asked for Fife Council to take a stance on this.
- 8/8/2023-Fife council Access Officer emailed demanding unhindered public access at all three rights of way at DoubleDykes, Tullybreck and Waulkmill is maintained/restored, and affidavits are attached to this email. No response other than a promise to respond.
- Response to appeal on FOI request to Fife Council FCIR:45264 RO63.23. A successful appeal meant more information was shared but some correspondence remains redacted and some withheld.
- Planning 23/01595/PN Maintenance Car Park at DoubleDykes. Planning advised this is a Prior Notification not a planning application and have not responded to follow up questions sent. This 'planning application' now reads Case Closed.
- 14/8/2023 Minister for Transport responds to correspondence from 11/07/2023.She states Network Rail advise that the level crossing at DD does not legally constitute a right of way and that there is no funding from Fife Council to provide a crossing point.
- 15/08/2023 Email from Access Officer responding to a question re Core Path Status. DoubleDykes has never been a Core Path but there is significant useful information within the attached Core Path Document.

- 17/082023 Heather Paterson emails Network Rail stating that Owen Campbell referred to all three disputed paths as rights of way at the CMilton & Coaltown Community Council meeting on 3/8/23
- 21/8/23 Network Rail respond to FOI sharing 1852 deposited plans.
- 22/8/23 Email to M.Mckinlay of Network Rail, copying in Jenny Gilruth MSP, Peter Grant MP and the Minister for Transport, with affidavits attached. This email is asserting public access must remain unhindered over these rights of way.
- 22/8/23 John Laing emails with Fife Today Article containing and article suggesting that Network Rail intend to close DoubleDykes Crossing on 31 August 2023. This is the first 'public' suggestion of a closure date.
- 22/8/23 Fife Editor of The Courier emails for a statement and J. Laird shares a statement which is published. https://edition.pagesuite.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=4eee4977-232f-4cfd-b48a-6060b2679fdc
- 22/8/23 J Laird contacts Fife Free Press with a statement and enquiring as to why TCC were not contacted for a comment when original closure article was published.
- 22/8/23 TCC writes to Jenny Gilruth MSP, Peter Grant MP, Cllrs, Noble, Wilson & Vettraino and Fife Council Access Officer regarding astonishment at the suggested closure date for DoubleDykes. In response on 23/8/23 Jenny Gilruth MSP wrote to Fiona Hyslop to raise her concerns and to ask if she will meet with TCC on her visit to Fife. Peter Grant is quick to publicly condemn this article and suggested closure.
- 24/8/23 Emails sent to; P. Grant MP, Cllr David Ross- Leader of Fife Council, Cllrs Vettraino, Wilson and Noble. This email contains information received from Fife Council FOI which shows Fife Council Officers recognise the right of way and that correct procedure has not been followed by Network Rail to stop up the right of way. No response forthcoming from Councillor Ross Leader of Fife Council.
- 24/8/23 Emails sent to Leader of Fife Council and all Councillors on the Glenrothes Area Committee. This email contains information received from Fife Council FOI which shows Fife Council Officers recognise the right of way and that correct procedure has not been followed by Network Rail to stop up the right of way. No response forthcoming from Councillor Ross Leader of Fife Council.
- 25/8/23 <https://news.stv.tv/v/backlash-over-decision-to-close-doubledykes-crossing> TCC -Heather Paterson and Jean Laird are interviewed for STV News
- 27/8/23 Facebook campaign by TCC is instigated and widely supported by local and national organisations, groups and people. We have had over 5000 visits to our page in the last week and our videos have been viewed by approx. 1500 people.
- 28/8/23 email from J Gilruth MSP promising an update as soon as they have anything to update.
- 30/8/23 Cllr D. Wilson raises an emergency motion at Fife council's Glenrothes Area Committee. Councillor Wilson and Councillor Vettrano speak in our support and the motion is unanimously passed with cross party support for our community campaign and a promise to work with all stakeholders in the Levenmouth Rail Project to find a solution at DoubleDykes.

- 30/8/23 2nd Courier article
<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/fife/4684504/doubledykes-crossing-closure-2/>
- 1/9/23 Heather Paterson interviewed again by STV News
- 4/9/23 Councillors emailed to ask if it would be appropriate to raise DoubleDykes at Fife council Cabinet Committee.
- 5/9/23 Response from Transport Scotland on behalf of Transport secretary to emails from TCC sent 22, 26 & 31 August. Recognises efforts of TCC and sympathises with our community. Suggests our only way forward is through working with Fife Council and Fife Council working with Transport Scotland.
- No position taken by Fife Council and no response from Access Officer.
- Our Fight for DoubleDykes email group have been kept updated of all correspondence and members of the group have also written several letters to politicians and stakeholders in the Levenmouth Rail Project.
- Mention must be made of our supporters from the various local and national organisations, community councils and the correspondence and efforts they have made to support this campaign.

Community Council Video

- Ross Cunningham contacted regarding the video of our Community Council taken on 3 August 2023. We don't have a copy yet.

Makies Mill Bridge

- Fife Council Access Officer Contacted 8/8/2023. Response from Access Officer stating they have no funding to support this and that Paths for All give useful information on standards for paths. The Access Office can put TCC in touch with volunteers for working on paths.
- Scotways have been contacted by email
- John Adam and Savills have no objections
- Thornton Golf Club emailed again and telephoned.

Community Council Elections

- Email from Fife Council was shared regarding requirements and procedures for upcoming Community Council elections. This was shared with current CC members by email and Whatsapp. This information was displayed in our noticeboard and on Facebook. Deadline for nominations was then extended by Fife Council and this was also shared on Facebook and by email.

Path clearance and maintenance at Diageo-Cluny Bond

- Alex Donald contacted us to ask for further and ongoing support with this (email forwarded by previous secretary)

Local Place Plan

- We are being asked to contribute to this by Fife Council. Do we want to accept.

MacKay Hannah Placemaking Conference

- A conference to support us in planning what we want our 'place' to be like in future.

Planning-see Agenda

My Place Awards open for entries

Fife Climate Hub Events (free)

Scottish Trunk Roads-work at Bankhead Roundabout extended until 15/9/23

Children's Panel Member Campaign

Community Speedwatch Update Euan

Notice of Public Engagement for Community Councils - Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES)-assign someone to this? response by 29 Oct.