



MINUTES

Torrance Community Council

May 13, 2010

19:40 – 21:20

Present Councillor McNair, Martin Sproul (Chair), Hugh Kershaw (Vice Chair), Morven Quin (Secretary), Brian Quin (Treasurer), Niall Campbell, Barry Small, Sandy Burnie, Rona, Thomson, Aileen MacKenzie

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on March 11, 2010 were proposed as being an accurate account by Martin Sproul and Seconded by Hugh Kershaw.

Treasurer's Report

Current Balance £1300.26

Foreseeable Expense	Approx Amount
Gala Day	£250
Caldwell Hall	£150
Xmas Lights	£500

Councillor's Report

Anne McNair mentioned she was still waiting on the Council's announcement on the schools' review. However, there would be nothing in it for Torrance Primary to be concerned about.

The contract to build the new prison at Low Moss was awarded to Carillion on the understanding that they would employ local companies, whenever possible, to assist. It is understood that Stent is one of the local companies to benefit from this arrangement.

The deadline for termination of our mobile library is August 2010. The Council are keen to try and keep it but, as with so many things just now, it depends on whether or not funding can be saved elsewhere to pay for this service. Councillor McNair stated she will try to get a copy of the usage figures for Torrance. A general discussion followed surrounding the benefits of this service to our community, especially to the physically impaired and elderly. All present agreed that it would be a loss to the community if it were to be discontinued. Although there may not be a high usage by the more capable members of the community it would have a detrimental impact on those who rely upon it. It was concluded that mere usage figures should not be the only means for deciding its fate. Resource

Caldwell Hall

Martin gave an outline to the background of the community ownership of the Caldwell Hall to all those present then Hugh Kershaw spoke about the public meeting which had taken place the night before. It was felt that the meeting could have been better attended considering the impact losing the Caldwell Hall would have on the community.

The Community Council had been in close contact with East Dunbartonshire Council (EDC) regarding the hall and felt that it would be futile to fight for this hall to be kept under Council management. The Chief Executive (Gerry Cornes) and all three Councillors were adamant that the hall will not remain under Council management and community management was the only way of ensuring its future.

On May 12, 2010 a group of 9 volunteers came forward willing to form a community management committee and thereby keep the hall open. There is a positive attitude towards this approach and the Council have agreed to assist in any way they can.

Martin, on behalf of the Community Council, thanked Rona and the other volunteers and promised the group as much assistance as possible.

Rona stated that the group had already met and a further meeting was planned for Monday 17 May where the group would decide upon the way forward and make approaches to EDC.

Martin extended an invitation to co-opt a member of the group onto the Community Council. Additionally, until the management committee are financially established, the Community Council will assist with as much of their costs as possible. Examples of this would include paying for their hall lets and newsletter.

Gala Day

Sandy Burnie gave a detailed account of the running order for both the Campsie Show and the Gala Queen procession.

At this time the Stewards for the procession have not been named but the application has been applied for. It is not anticipated that the Council will refuse the application.

Sandy was told that the Community Council would provide funding of £250 for the pipe band.

Torrance Playpark & Greenspace Group

Aileen MacKenzie provided a description of the plans the group has for the area behind the bus stop, opposite the village square. The proposed cost for the project would be approx £130,000 and unfortunately no funding has been raised to date. There may however be funding available from the Council for bird and bat boxes along the railway line path between Woodmaill Park and the bus stop.

Aileen requested funding for 4 new plant tubs which would be located at the village square which would cost approx £130. This was regrettably turned down by Martin, with the agreement of the other members, for the following reasons:

- Expected costs for fighting the loss of the school crossing patrol

- Caldwell Hall management committee funding
- Gala Day expenses
- Increased cost expected for Christmas lights ceremony
- The grant has not yet been received and we are unsure how much we will be awarded.

It was suggested that sponsorship from the companies being awarded low moss prison contracts may be an option. Councillor McNair provided a contact for this.

Martin asked Aileen if she could please return the keys she had for the community notice board. Aileen stated she had several keys and that she would arrange for them to be returned.

Meeting with Councillor Hendry

Martin told the meeting that he and Brian had been invited to a meeting with Councillor Hendry at Tom Johnston House on 10 May, 2010. The meeting was to discuss issues affecting the community. Items discussed were:-

- **Caldwell Hall** – Grace Irvine explained that the Council were waiting for volunteers to act as management committee. There would be no possible alternative to this approached. She assured us that the Council would offer every assistance to this group.
- **Roads** – The Council has £4.5million for road improvements. This money is separate from the Council's annual budget and can only be used for road improvements.
- **Ornamental Garden** – Martin asked that the garden be kept open at all times. The garden is a great asset to the village and it is currently not available out with Monday to Friday 09:00 – 16:00. It was agreed that a fence would be build to separate the 'depot' from the garden thus allowing it to remain open at all times.

It was agreed that further meetings would be helpful and these will be arranged on an ad-hoc basis. Any two members from the Community Council will attend.

Close

The meeting was closed at 9:20.

Date of next meeting – 10 June, 2010