**THORNHILL & BLAIR DRUMMOND COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**22nd April 2025 at 7:30 pm**

**Thornhill Community Hall**

**Minutes**

**1. Present and Apologies**

**Present:** Hector Muir (HM), Chair, Elaine Blanchard (EB) Secretary, Alison Newlands (AN) Minute Taker, Veronica Bachelor (VB), Cllr Martin Earl (ME), Al Rawlinson (AR), Rowena Coulthard (RC), Gary Thompson (GT), Moira Russell (MR), Gabriela Ingle (GI), M Lamb (ML), C Lamb (CL)

**Apologies:** Campbell Millar (CM)

**2. Approval of minutes of meeting on the 11th March 2025**

Minutes approved.

Approved by **GT**

Seconded by **EB**

**3. Matters Arising**

**Smiddy Cycle Route**

The lowering of the 60mph speed limit on this road would improve safety and provide better access to the cycle route; however, there appears to be a disconnect between current traffic policy and the goals of active travel. The committee discussed the issue and agreed to submit a query to Stephen Bly at Stirling Council. The query will outline the concern and request a review of the current policy under the Walk, Cycle, Live Stirling initiative, which seeks to set a new standard for active travel infrastructure in a Scottish city. The initiative aims to connect communities and public transport hubs with businesses, schools, the university and college, and the wider region. The committee also raised the question of how such improvements can be better supported and extended into rural areas.

**Thornhill Recycling Centre**

EB informed the committee that Stirling Council has agreed to conduct a site survey and provide advice on potential options moving forward. A meeting has been scheduled for the first week of May 2025.

**Thornhill Parent Council**

HM advised that a Parent Council meeting is scheduled for next week, during which a discussion on ongoing issues will be discussed. It was noted that school warning signs have still not been installed, and a safe crossing point for children remains a priority. The committee agreed that the feasibility of installing a zebra crossing should be investigated further.

The committee also agreed that the proposed extension of the community hall car park, aimed at facilitating safer drop-off and pick-up arrangements for the primary school, should be progressed. It was noted that a formal request has already been submitted to Stirling Council.

**4. Reports – External**

**a. Police Scotland**

HM updated the meeting on the Police Scotland Report.

**Road Safety**

On 12/03/25 on A84 near to the junction of Kirk Lane, Blair Drummond a collision occurred involving 2 vehicles. As a result of this one driver was issued with a conditional offer fixed penalty ticket for careless driving.

On 20/03/25 on A84 near to Blair Drummond a driver failed to negotiate an overtake, causing another driver to take evasive action to avoid a collision. As a result of this, the driver was issued with a conditional offer fixed penalty ticket for careless driving.

On 22/03/25 traffic officers were carrying out patrols on A84 Blair Drummond. They observed a vehicle travelling in excess of the 60-mph speed limit. The driver was stopped and issued with a conditional offer fixed penalty ticket for speeding.

On 09/04/25 on A84 near to the junction of A873 a collision occurred between 2 vehicles. As a result, one driver has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for careless driving.

**Other Issues**

We continue to be contacted by members of the public who have been the victim of fraud in the Trossachs and Teith area. One recent incident involved a member of the public being contacted by what appeared to be their bank reporting suspicious activity and advised them to move their money to a “safe” account. They were the victim of a scam where they have lost several thousands of pounds. Information can be found on Police Scotland website regarding how to keep safe from scams/fraud.

The committee agreed to contact Police Scotland regarding concerns about speeding on the A84 at Blair Drummond, noting that reinforcing the current speed limit is considered dangerous given the number of reported accidents and incidents of excessive speed.

**b. Stirling County Councillor**

ME advised that a full council meeting will take place on 1st May 2025, during which the visitor levy will be discussed. An ongoing consultation is currently running, set to close on 4th May 2025. A final decision on the levy is expected in December 2025. The general consensus is that local authorities are leaning towards a 5% fee for overnight stays. The revenue generated from the levy will be reinvested to enhance and support visitor experiences in Stirling.

ME added that he would like to raise an issue with Stirling Council regarding the booking system for accessing recycling sites. He noted that, in most local authority areas, only commercial vehicles are required to book appointments, and suggested reviewing Stirling’s current approach.

**5. Reports – Internal**

**a. Chair**

No update

**b. Secretary**

No update.

**c. Treasurer**

GT advised the balance in the account is approximately £300 at present. The administration grant will be applied for in due course.

**d. Planning**

AR Report circulated prior to meeting and advised of the updates and changes received for planning in the area.

**6. Community Council Business**

1. **Traffic Issues - A84/Thornhill**

As discussed under matters arising.

1. **Traffic Issues - Primary Schools**

As discussed under matters arising, awaiting update from Thornhill Headteacher.

**7. Residents Forum**

**Local Café**

ML informed the meeting that he is seeking suitable premises to open a local café in Thornhill and has explored the potential of converting the former village toilets for this purpose. It was noted that the Local Place Plan identifies a strong community desire for such a facility. The committee agreed to support ML in progressing this initiative and will provide contact details for the owner of the Scout Hall, with a view to exploring the possibility of converting that space.

**8. AOB**

Nothing to report.

**8. Date, time, and venue of next meeting**

**3rd June 2025 at 7:30pm Thornhill Community Hall.**

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| **Action Points** | **Member Responsible** |
| **Smiddy Cycle route – Raise query with Stephen Bly regarding review of policy of safer cycle routes.** | **HM** |
| **Contact Police Scotland regarding speeding and accidents on A84** | **EB** |
| **Email Stirling Council regarding extension of car parking facilities for Thornhill Primary School pickup/drop off.** | **EB** |

Meeting closed 20:20.