



## Jackton & Thorntonhall Community Council

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday February 20<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 7.30pm

Thorntonhall Tennis Club



**Sederunt:** Fiona Gardner (Chair), Sandy McEwen (Vice Chair), Christian Potter (Secretary), Warren Bader, Lesley Whitefield and Bill Turner.

It was noted that a quorum of members was present and the meeting could proceed in accordance with the constitution.

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from David Ross and Douglas Eunson.

**Councillors Present:** No Councillors were present. Apologies had been received from Councillors David Watson, Monique Equi and Geri Gray.

**Public Present:** 26 members of the local community signed in.

Apologies had been received from Barry and Sandra Gladstone.

#### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

These had been circulated in advance of the meeting. They were approved by Warren Bader and seconded by Sonia Bader.

#### Review of Action Points

Christian outlined the 4 current action points:

- **Cllr Williams to follow-up re Peel Road Hedges needing cut back.** Christian explained that in the absence of South Lanarkshire Council attending to this, a Beechwood Lea resident had cut the hedges on Peel Road at Frederick Boulevard himself.
- **Cllr Williams to ask SLC Road Department to do an assessment of the railway bridge and road calming measures.** Christian explained that she has not received a response from Cllr Williams regarding this but Cllr Monique Equi had emailed to say she would take any actions from the meeting. Christian will raise this and previous action with Cllr Equi.

- **Ardbeg Lane fly-tipping to be reported to SLC.** Christian had reported this recently, no removal of the fly tipping on Ardbeg Lane as yet. Fiona said she thinks the lane where the fly-tipping is may not strictly be Ardbeg Lane, but we will await a response from SLC.
- **Street Light on station side at the bridge at Thorntonhall Railway reported to SLC.** Paul Hughes said this was still not working and was well past the 30 days deadline with SLC. Christian will raise this with Cllr Equi.

### 3. Updates:

#### - **Fly-tipping (Peel Road / East Kilbride Road junction)**

Sandy McEwan said that the area had improved slightly with fencing and the gate replaced. He explained that JTCC had written to the landowners, who own around 11 hectares of land at the north end of Thorntonhall, asking for an informal meeting to discuss the fly tipping issue. The owners have responded to the letter and phoned Sandy, confirming that their Planning Consultant will shortly be contacting him. Sandy explained that as there is still evidence of the waste in the field, he had discussed a community litter picking to clear this with the owner. The owner did not wish any litter picking to go ahead due to insurance concerns but did say this can be discussed with their Planning Consultant. The owners have put a rock at the gate of the site and will put more there to deter fly tipping. They have agreed that a sign can go on the gate warning about fly tipping. This will be paid for by the Community Council.

#### - **Thorntonhall Roads / Peel Road Petition**

Paul Harvey has taken this issue on and explained that he had set up an e-petition on the SLC web-site. 92 people have signed the petition for road calming measures through Thorntonhall. Paul explained that a petition only needs 50 signatures for the matter to be raised within SLC. As there are over 50 signatures the matter will now be brought up at a SLC meeting. They will invite residents along and potentially someone from JTCC committee and a case can be made. Paul not aware of a date for this as yet.

#### - **BESS / Apatura Consultation**

Trisha Harvey from the BESS group presented an update of the group's activities. This is attached at Appendix 1.

Trisha stressed that the application from Apatura would go live soon after the Consultation event on 5<sup>th</sup> March. Residents need to be ready to submit comments to the Energy Consents Unit within 28 days of the application going live. There is only one opportunity to respond to the application.

JTCC and the BESS group will notify residents when the application is live.

Trisha asked residents to make sure that JTCC and the BESS group had their e-mail addresses so that they could be quickly notified of the application.

Trevor Herrington, a local resident, put forward his concerns regarding the BESS. He explained he was a Senior Officer at London Fire Brigade with experience in disaster planning. The points discussed by Trevor are attached at Appendix 2.

The key points raised by residents at the meeting were:

- That the NHS at Hairmyres would not be able to cope with casualties if there was to be a fire
- The need for a disaster recovery plan within SLC in the event of a fire.
- The concern that the Energy Consents Unit application process does not include a mandatory requirement to consult with Fire Chief as part of the consultation.
- Concerns around the extent of a toxic flume
- That there could possibly be disruption every 5 years
- That beneficiaries of the BESS are venture capitalists and landowners who walk away from any liability.
- General concern that the BESS is not environmentally acceptable; the threat to health and safety of the community.
- Concerns around the lack of engagement from the community and how this can be improved.
- Discussion around raising awareness in Clarkston and Busby.

Fiona said that it is critical that as many residents as possible write and complain about the BESS.

Sandy explained that the application will be through the Energy Consents Unit, not South Lanarkshire Council and that JTCC and residents will be consulted.

Fiona thanked Trisha and the BESS group for their hard work to date and suggested that residents may wish to watch Paul Burgess, Climatologist on YouTube as recommended by Trevor Herrington.

#### **4. Reports**

Treasurer's report:

Account balances:

Current:	£ 2078.28
Business reserve:	£1799.18

A micro grant of £500 to JTCC was recently approved by council members. This is required to cover expenses (replacement defibrillator pads for Thorntonhall and Jackton, domain name renewals, expenses incurred in the leaflet drop and litter picks last year etc.).

This was proposed by Warren Bader and seconded by Bill Turner.

A micro grant application for £500 has been received from Thorntonhall tennis club (TLTC) to pay for additional pickle ball equipment and a storage facility.

This was proposed by Warren Bader and seconded by Bill Turner.

A payment of £105 for hall rental to TLTC has been made to cover the January February and March meetings.

This was proposed by Warren Bader and seconded by Paul Harvey.

An additional payment of £35 will need to be made to TLTC to cover the planning meeting for the Local Development Plan.

This was proposed by Paul Harvey and seconded by Warren Bader.

## 5. Correspondence

- SLC Off Road parking places (attached to agenda)
- SLC Broadband Survey (attached to agenda); Fiona has completed on behalf of the community.
- South Lanarkshire Community Partnerships Register of information (attached to agenda)
- Busby Parish Church request for newsletter articles

Trisha Harvey agreed to write an article for the Church regarding the BESS development. Fiona would write an article for the next quarter. Fiona said she is happy to support this and will write an article for the next edition. Christian will liaise with the Church contact and Trish regarding magazine deadlines etc.

- SLC Garden Waste Permits required from 1.4.25 (attached to agenda)
- SAMH Mental Health Workshops (previously e-mailed and on Facebook)

## 6. Planning Applications

Noted as per agenda. No comments with the exception of:

P/25/0068

Date registered 5.2.25

Proposed residential development of 3 no. detached dwellinghouses with detached garages and associated engineering works.

Land at Baron Court Thorntonhall, G74 5BP

Warren Bader said that because of the ongoing building here, the road at Beechwood Lea won't be adopted by SLC until all building completed. This is causing ongoing problems.

There was discussion about the building work there and what is being proposed there in the application and longer term. There are problems with litter from the site.

Sandy asked that once there was clarification about the planning application, residents should let the JTCC know and they could support appropriate objections.

Fiona suggested that a list of problems with the site is created and the Beechwood Lea residents' association put this to the contractors.

The status of a previous (retrospective) application was asked about – ie the location of residential caravan and containers at the land north of Waterfoot Road, North Hill of Dripps Farm. Sandy explained that JTCC had lodged an objection to this after the last meeting and Planning permission had been refused on 2 February. SLC were on the point of enforcement action for removal of the caravan and containers prior to the application being made but this was put on hold until the application was decided. The applicant has the right to appeal the refusal within 3 months so the enforcement action remains on hold until the appeal, if one is lodged, is heard.

## 7. Road Closures & Works

Noted as per Agenda. No comments

## 8. Other Business

Warren Bader raised that the gun shots are still ongoing. There was general discussion around this.

Trisha Harvey checked everyone at the meeting is happy to share their e-mail addresses with the BESS group. There was no disagreement to this.

The new bridge on Thornton Road was raised and the fact that this is an eye sore and attracting graffiti because it's a blank canvas. Sandy explained that the JTCC were not consulted on this. Fiona said that it is unlikely Network Rail will respond to this but the JTCC would try writing to them.

## 9. Next Meeting

20th March 2025 at 7.30pm, Thorntonhall Tennis Club.

**Meeting closed 8.30pm**

### **Actions from the Meeting**

1	Cllr Williams to follow-up re Peel Road hedges needing cut back.	Cllr Williams / Equi
2	ask SLC Road Department to come out and do an assessment of the railway bridge and road calming measures.	Cllr Williams / Equi
3	Ardbeg Lane fly-tipping to be reported to SLC	Christian – Cllr Equi
4	street light on the station side at the bridge still out and to be reported	Christian- Cllr Equi
5	Trish Harvey to write article for Busby Church regarding BESS development. Fiona to write next article. Christian to liaise with Church contact person to arrange.	Trish Harvey / Fiona / Christian
6	Write to Network Rail regarding bridge at Thornton Road.	Christian

### **Micro grant applications:**

The Community Council can award grants of up to £500 to support local constituted and non-constituted groups and where appropriate individuals who need small amounts to pursue their objectives. Applications can be requested via the CC Webpage or by emailing [jackthonrncc@gmail.com](mailto:jackthonrncc@gmail.com)

### **Litter Reporting.**

[https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200233/street\\_care\\_and\\_cleaning/347/litter\\_bins\\_and\\_street\\_sweeping/3](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200233/street_care_and_cleaning/347/litter_bins_and_street_sweeping/3)

**For local road and lighting faults**, potholes, broken slabs, damaged footpaths, signs, broken bollards, guardrails, flooding, blocked gullies please use the following link.

[https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200232/roads\\_lighting\\_and\\_pavements/337/road\\_and\\_lighting\\_faults](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200232/roads_lighting_and_pavements/337/road_and_lighting_faults)

**For council maintained landscaping enquiries** such as overgrown bushes and fallen branches. Waste and Ground Service Enquiry form

[https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200255/land\\_management/338/maintenance\\_of\\_landscaped\\_areas](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200255/land_management/338/maintenance_of_landscaped_areas)

Appendix 1:

### **The BESS group report for the JTCC Feb 20 2025**

The BESS group having been continuing to be in contact with relevant MPs, and MSPs since the last JTCC meeting.

Our update consists of 3 main points:

Please will as many residents as possible attend the exhibition on 5th March (3.30 - 7.30pm) at the Tennis Club.

Please will residents give individual feedback regarding the design changes featured in the exhibition, at the exhibition. Also, check that your email address has been supplied to both the JTCC and the BESS group so that you can receive updates and advice on how and when to comment on the BESS application when it goes live.

The proposed Thorntonhall (Meikle Dripps) BESS has not changed, just the design and the management consultancy.

Although this is not part of the exhibition,

the background lack of national strategy and joined up thinking is now potentially being addressed. Together with a FOI question to SFRS

**FOI request regarding BESS quantity ( via EIA, Scotland, no.202400433145 )** was responded to in September and states that Scotland will need 6.2GW of BESS ( output level ) for 2030 and 7.1GW of BESS (output level ) for 2050.

However, the Renewables Database published by DESNEZ to October'24 shows a total of 21GW (output level) already approved or in operation. That is THREE TIMES the requirement stated by DESNEZ as required to be installed in Scotland for 2050.

The excess 13GW of BESS in Scotland (growing monthly) will serve opportunities for arbitrage. i.e. making money. Much of this is being done through overseas companies presenting initially as UK companies, at the expense of our environment and wellbeing. It looks like it's going to take a tragic accident to slow this down. Then just watch politicians dive for cover.

### **Smoke Plumes from BESS Fires**

An FOI request was sent to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) which read as follows:

Can you provide any Analysis/research that you have carried out or guidelines that you follow in relation to the effects of smoke plumes from Li-Ion BESS fires/accidents/explosion particularly with regards to deadly toxin gasses like Hydrogen Fluoride being released into the atmosphere at locations close to BESS sites. There does not appear to be any mention of this in the NFCC Guidelines.

NB: The National Fire Chiefs Council is the professional voice of the UK fire and rescue service).

The SFRS response was

The SFRS have not carried out any analysis/research in relation to effects of smoke plumes from li-ion BESS fires/accidents/explosions etc. Therefore, in terms of your request no information is held as per regulation 10 (4) (a) of the environmental regulations.

Why is this relevant to us here at Thorntonhall? The residents of the whole village, William wood high School, 2 primary schools and a care home are all within a 1 mile radius, and Hairmyres hospital is only 1.6 miles away of the proposed BESS, as the crow flies or in this instance as the smoke drifts of a potential plume.

### **In Summary**

To fight the BESS development, the BESS group alongside the JTCC will do everything possible to make sure MPs, MSPs, South Lanarkshire Council and the ECU (Energy Consent Unit) hear the voices of Village Residents thereby stopping the Apatura/AHA development happening here, in Thorntonhall.

Residents must also object and it can be more than one objection from each household as long as you have different email addresses and are not sending the same wording.



## Appendix 2

### Exposing The Battery Backup Con - Are you watching Ed Miliband and Starmer?

By Paul Burgess, Climatologist on YouTube.

Proposed Battery Farm seeking planning permission just outside Swansea.

How good are battery farms at providing electricity when backing up wind farms?

Maximum available UK electrical output is 50GW

8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 we came close to lights out. National Grid demand was 46.922GW and wind provided just 3.512 GW

Solar negligible

Gas 25.148GW

Imports 18-20GW

European wide wind can be negligible when it fails to supply electricity for 9 days or longer per month.

How much energy is stored in these battery farms?

Swansea; maximum capability of 200MWh with a maximum capability of 100MWh for two hours. That gives  $100\text{MWh}/22,000\text{MW} = 0.0045\%$

That requires 220 such farms to meet that shortfall for two hours and then they are not capable of supplying the grid system until those farms are replenished. The other factor to consider is that draining the batteries 100% damages the batteries and gives them a very short life. What happens when the wind doesn't blow to replenish the batteries, you either burn more gas or, because our output is limited due to power station closures, we import more electricity.

If all the battery farms in the UK were used to power the National Grid they would last less than a minute!!!!

According to data from Carbon Brief, in 2024, the UK used gas as its primary source of electricity, generating around 28% of the country's power, which translates to roughly 88 terawatt hours (TWh) (88,000,000 MWh) of electricity from gas fired power stations.

More wind equals less gas but we still need to rely on gas to back up the periods of drought. Wind is expensive and we have to pay to keep some of the gas generators on standby at enormous cost just to use wind.

It is wrong to claim that batteries are used to fill the demand for wind drought periods as they are not capable of providing back up over long sustained periods.

Tom Vernon, founder and Chief Executive of Statera, one of the UK leading battery developers, a battery powered Britain makes sense.

"These technologies can store energy at scale – not just for hours, but across days" says Vernon. "This capability is essential for maintaining energy security, reducing the UK's reliance on natural gas, and ensuring we are prepared for future cold snaps and dunkelflautes, (dark doldrums) as and when they occur."

Vernon believes that once Britain hits the Miliband target to have at least 25 GW of battery capacity, there will be times, especially on cold, windless winter evenings, when batteries provide up to two-thirds of the UK's power.

Utter tosh, that 22GW is only sustainable for 1 hour !!!!!!! 24 hours in a day!!! Storage is totally depleted. Good for stabilising energy peaks and maintaining 50hz cycle.

Vernon's business is selling Batteries and his claims are credible in one sense but unrealistic in another.

Batteries are normally only drained to 20% and charged to 80% to maintain battery life cycles which is around 10 years maximum, depending on usage.

Government plans 1800 Battery Farms, Industrialisation of the Countryside.

The biggest battery farm in the world is in California, Moss Landing, caught fire recently giving off toxic fumes, Lithium carries its own oxygen so is extremely difficult to extinguish. It took days to burn itself out and there is now a class action suit against the company as residents are suffering ill effects from the toxic fumes. Erin Brockovich leading a class action suit.

Even Miliband's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan aims to dramatically expand Battery Farms, calling for 29-35GW across battery storage, consumer led flexibility and interconnection capacity.

More than 1,800 grid scale battery storage projects are now being pushed through planning, according to Renewable UK.

### **Dealing with a Thermal Runaway Fire in a BESS installation proposed in Thornton Hall.**

#### **The Problems**

Water supply is totally inadequate for the Fire Brigade to deal with such an incident as large volumes of water are required to suppress such a fire.

The roads leading to the proposed BESS site are unsuitable to cope with the traffic required to deal with such a major incident.

- An irreversible thermal event in a lithium-ion battery can be initiated in several ways, by spontaneous internal or external short-circuit, overcharging, external heating or fire, mechanical abuse etc.
- The electrolyte in a lithium-ion battery is flammable and generally contains lithium hexafluorophosphate (LiPF<sub>6</sub>) or other Li-salts containing fluorine.
- In the event of overheating the electrolyte will evaporate and eventually be vented out from the battery cells.
- The gases may or may not be ignited immediately.
- This leads to opportunity for exposures and contamination of persons
- In case the emitted gas is not immediately ignited the risk for a gas explosion at a later stage may be imminent.
- This leads to thermal burns and exposure burns

- Li-ion batteries release a various number of toxic substances as well as e.g. CO (an asphyxiant gas) and CO<sub>2</sub> (induces anoxia) during heating and fire.
  - This is exposures causing an inability to process oxygen and/or the displacement of oxygen from the environment
  - At elevated temperature the fluorine content of the electrolyte and, to some extent, other parts of the battery such as the polyvinylidene fluoride (PVdF) binder in the electrodes, may form gases such as hydrogen fluoride HF, phosphorus pentafluoride (PF<sub>5</sub>) and phosphoryl fluoride (POF<sub>3</sub>).
  - Compounds containing fluorine can also be present as e.g. flame retardants in electrolyte and/or separator, in additives and in the electrode materials, e.g. fluorophosphates, adding additional sources of fluorine.
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- Hydrogen fluoride**
- Hydrogen fluoride mixes readily with water forming hydrofluoric acid.
  - For all practical purposes, they are considered the same chemical.

Hydrogen fluoride/hydrofluoric acid can be absorbed systemically into the body by ingestion, inhalation, or skin or eye contact.

The important issue is the Gas cloud.

A gas cloud from such a Thermal Runaway fire will contain highly toxic gasses, such as;

Hydrogen Flouride, Hydrochloric Acid, Phosphory Flouride, Cobalt.

All of these gasses and or particles are toxic to the human body, in particular Hydrochloric Acid, which will cause burns to the skin as it is easily absorbed and inhalation.

(Hydrogen Flouride will absorb moisture from the air and form Hydrochloric Acid)

The gas cloud will form before the attendance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as all BESS sites are REMOTELY MONITORED.

Such a cloud will be subject to the prevailing wind direction and the Fire Service could potentially end up driving through it to reach the Fire.

Houses and Schools may have to be evacuated and the Local Accident and Emergency Department could be compromised, depending on the wind direction.

None of the BESS sites are fitted with Fire suppressants, or Bund walls to contain water contaminated during Fire Fighting.

Contamination of the surrounding soil and water courses is inevitable.