



Jackton & Thorntonhall Community Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday November 20th 2025 at 7.30pm
Thorntonhall Tennis Club



Sederunt: Fiona Gardner (Chair), Douglas Eunson (Treasurer), Christian Potter (Secretary), Lesley Whitefield, Trevor Herrington.

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 John McManus (Vice-Chair) and Bill Turner.

Councillors Present: No Councillors were present. Apologies had been received from Kirsty Williams and David Watson

Public Present: 12 members of the local community attended the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Sandy McEwen and Lesley and Mark Dolan.

The Chair noted that no Councillors had attended a meeting since May and it was agreed that Christian would write to the Council to make them aware of this. It was discussed that it may be better to move the meetings to every 2 months if a Councillor would then agree to attend the meetings.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The October minutes had been circulated in advance of the meeting. They were approved by Douglas Eunson and seconded by Trevor Herrington.

Review of Action Points

A summary of the action points is attached at Appendix 1.

3. Updates:

BESS update

Trish Harvey from the BESS Group provided an update to the meeting. This is attached at Appendix 2.

A resident asked if Drax have bought the BESS site. It was confirmed that Drax are only acquiring sites that have had planning consented. There was a discussion that Apatura are selling sites then responsibilities get diluted when the company is liquidated and tax payers are

left to pay for the debts; Apatura will have our BESS site ready to sell off as one of their subsidiaries.

JTCC Committee Member Applications

Fiona confirmed that Warren Bader had volunteered for the Committee and his application has been submitted to the Council.

Peel Road

The traffic survey report from Cllr David Watson was discussed. A resident commented there has been an increase in the volume of traffic on Peel Road as established in the traffic survey. It was discussed that the change in the roads layout at Redwood junction has caused problems with traffic backed up and using Peel Road as an alternative. It was commented that Cllr David Watson's facebook page intimating the traffic survey results has had a significant number of comments highlighting the problems.

There was a discussion about speeding on Peel Road, people driving over the mini roundabouts, traffic calming measures, traffic lights at the railway bridge, speed bumps, use of 20mph signs and fining drivers speeding.

It was agreed that Peel Road is a major issue for Jackton and Thorntonhall and resident Paul Harvey and Chair Fiona Gardner have agreed to take this forward with the Council. Paul will do a FOI request for specific data on the traffic volumes in the survey.

Paul Harvey and local farmer John King have produced a map indicating overgrown trees and hedgerows around Thorntonhall. These will be sent to the Council for help as to how to tackle this, particularly as some of problem areas may be due to resident owned hedges / trees.

Jackton

Christian advised that she has been working with a small group of Jackton residents who had responded to the Local Development Plan consultation. Christian has put the 4 residents in touch with each other. They are now meeting with Cala who have made contact to discuss their Community Pledge. A Jackton resident is also planning to meet with Cllr Geri Gray and Archie Buchanan at his surgery on 25th November. This is to discuss the Construction Phasing Plan for EK which is around the plans Developers were to put in place for Jackton. JTCC will assist the group where we can.

Christian said she will provide an update on this work in due course.

Micro Grant application

The application for a micro grant for the Thorntonhall Christmas Afternoon Tea was approved. Douglas confirmed that the Afternoon Tea had been running every year for the past 5 years.

4. Reports

Treasurer's report: Account balances:

Current: £ 4924.90
Business reserve: £ 1814.33

Scotways affiliation – it was agreed for £30 to be paid for year's membership.

5. Correspondence

- South Lanarkshire Council – SAMH workshops (e-mail sent on 13/11)
- South Lanarkshire Council – Local Transport Strategy consultation (email sent on 13/11)
- Letter from Apatura – BESS / LDES outcome (email sent on 11/11)

6. Planning Applications

none

7. Road Closures & Works

none

8. Other Business

A resident asked if there was any update on the electric trains. People have heard various dates and rumours but there is no definite date. It was commented that Joe Fagan's recent letter to residents had included his wish to improve the train line after electrification.

**Note – see section at the end of the minutes which is an extract from June's minutes regarding a meeting with Scotrail.*

A resident asked about leaves on Braehead Road being dangerous and needing swept. Christian said that there is information about reporting this on the minutes and advised the resident to report to the Council. Christian will also report this.

A resident asked about the overflowing drain beside the Thorntonhall station which freezes over. Paul Harvey said he has asked about this before but it is a railway, not a Council problem. Christian will follow this up.

Fiona mentioned that the Ravenscourt flats had applied for a micro grant for a defibrillator. It was confirmed that they are seeking a grant from the British Heart Foundation for the full amount and will try this route before applying for a micro grant.

9. Next Meeting

15th January 2026 at 7.30pm, Thorntonhall Tennis Club.

10. 2026 meetings: Jan 15; Feb 19th, March 19th, April 16th, May 21st, June 18th,
Sept 17th, Oct 15th (and AGM), Nov 19th.

Meeting closed 8.10pm

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 jackthornncc@gmail.com

Litter Reporting.

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_faultsf

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

***Note of Meeting with Scotrail – 13th June 2025.**

Councillor Monique Equi arranged a meeting with Scotrail and in attendance from Scotrail was their Business Development Executive and External Relations Assistant. Christian Potter from JTCC also attended.

The meeting was called to discuss the Thorntonhall train service which is at present hourly, with more regular services at peak times.

It was confirmed that the planned first stage of electrification of the East Kilbride / Glasgow route has been completed recently. For now, diesel trains will be in operation. It is anticipated there will be an introduction of some electric trains in time for the December 2025 timetable. At that point there will be a mix of diesel and electric trains ScotRail's procurement of new suburban trains will take some years. Only at that stage will there be a full electric service on the EK line.

The present hourly service for Thorntonhall is due to the due to capacity constraints with diesel trains. The diesel trains can't get to East Kilbride / Glasgow quick enough. There is also the issue of volume - with Thorntonhall passengers of 19,500; Busby at 136,000 and Clarkston at 400,000 in the 2023/24 period.

With the current diesel trains, there is not enough time in the timetable for Thorntonhall to be served half-hourly during the day. However, with a fully electric train service, ScotRail expect to be able to increase the frequency from the current hourly service. ScotRail are going to look at the timetable to see whether an improved service can be delivered when a mixture of diesel and electric trains are operating, although the whole industry process to make timetable changes mean this cannot be achieved for the December timetable change.

We agreed we would keep in touch going forward and discuss further plans again as a group.

Appendix 1 – Action Points

1	<p>Land 50M North of 1 North Hill View, Waterfoot Road, Thorntonhall- ENA-380-2033: dpea.scotland.gov</p> <p>Sandy advised that the Reporter had requested access to caravans and containers; this would have shown evidence of misuse; farm equipment now appeared on site.</p>	Christian Potter	<p>The case has been allocated to a Reporter to determine. Reporter visit took place 7th October; awaiting response regarding eviction. Checked website again 20th Nov – still awaiting Reporter decision.</p>
2	<p>Peel Road Petition / improvements / hedges</p> <p>Paul Harvey has had meeting with SLC and visit in June</p> <p>Paul and Farmer John King has produced maps of problem areas of hedgerows and trees.</p>	<p>Fiona Gardner Paul Harvey</p> <p>Christian</p>	<p>SLC response received 16th Sept ; traffic volume and speed survey received 17th November.</p> <p>Fiona and Paul will progress with SLC / Councillors. Paul will do FOI on survey data.</p> <p>Christian will write to Council / Councillors for help as to how to progress this, particularly if some are resident owned.</p>
3	Vandalism of Hedgerows on Braehead Road	Bill Turner / Christian	<p>Written to Cllr Watson and Developer Barratt Homes. Not responsible.</p> <p>Wrote to Factors – Taylor & Martin – they can ask residents to replace; Police advised civil matter; Not Council land so Council not involved.</p>
4	Defibrillator cabinet replacement	Trevor Herrington / Christian	To order .
5	Leaves on pavements – Braehead Road	Christian	To report to SLC
6	Drain beside station	Christian	To report to SLC / Scotrail
7	Write to SLC about lack of councillors attending meeting. Consider meeting every 2 months if we can get councillor attending	Christian	Discuss with SLC / Fiona.

Appendix 2 – Notes from BESS group presented at meeting

BESS and LDES JTCC Presentation 20 Nov 25

Well, you will all have seen the recent missive or should I say dismissive from Apatura regarding the Meikle Dripps Farm BESS.

In simple terms APATURA have put the BESS on hold whilst they explore the cheaper and far more lucrative, for them at least, Busby Long Duration Energy Storage LDES option that has currently been shortlisted by Ofgem and is lodged at pre -application stage with the ECU, with SLC saying that the proposed development does not constitute an EIA development.

Please note that the BESS is on hold and that it has not been cancelled, as suggested by a local councillor and later corrected when informed by our group.

If we are to believe APATURA the 86 Acre application for, in their words, a “Section 36 APPLICATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF AN ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM, WHICH WILL COMPRISE LONG DURATION ENERGY STORAGE WHICH WILL STORE UP TO 150MW / 1,200 MWH OF ENERGY, TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, SUBSTATION, SECURITY FENCING, CCTV, SECURITY LIGHTING AND LANDSCAPING” will only be a 16 Acres site for the LDES but we should all note from the application wording it is for an “Energy Generating System” not an energy storage system.

Having dealt with APATURA over the last two years the BESS and LDES group are acutely aware of their weasel wording and we are extremely suspicious of the need for an 86 acres application for an alleged 16 Acre requirement.

On a separate note, you may have seen that APATURA have been flipping, selling off, undeveloped sites, even though they told us, in this very hall, that they would not be selling off sites and would manage the Meikle Dripps Farm BESS throughout its whole life cycle.

Also after receiving Joe Fagan round robin letter declaring he is against the BESS proposal at Meikle Dripps farm we spoke to him on his views about the LDES and he confirmed they remain the same as the BESS.

Finally and just to reiterate the BESS has not been cancelled, the LDES is now the preferred option, subject to final OFGEM approval, with the BESS seemingly forming a backup plan should the LDES be turned down by OFGEM. We will of course keep our communities informed of any further developments and will write to all our members explaining the way forward with the LDES.

Meanwhile Busby and Thorntonhall communities will continue to be held to ransom by the self-styled Green Energy company APATURA who want to industrialise our green belt, threaten our communities and introduce untested Vanadium Redox Flow Battery Technology, known as VFRB's into our rural and heavily populated communities for the next 40 years.