



Meeting Minutes

Thursday January 15th 2026 at 7.30pm

Thorntonhall Tennis Club

Sederunt: Fiona Gardner (Chair), John McManus (Vice Chair), Lesley Whitefield, Trevor Herrington and Warren Bader.

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 Douglas Eunson (Treasurer) and Christian Potter (Secretary).

The Chair advised the meeting that Bill Turner had resigned as an Elected Member on 14 January 2026 due to increasing family commitments. The Chair recorded her sincere thanks to Bill for many years of fine service to the Community Council.

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

Public Present: 14 members of the local community attended the meeting.

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 had been discussed at the previous meeting that it may be better to move the meetings to every 2 months if a Councillor would then agree to attend the meetings. It was agreed that it is probably best that the meetings continue in their current format / meeting schedule (ie 9 meetings per annum).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The November Minutes had been circulated in advance of the meeting. They were approved by John McManus and seconded by Lesley Whitefield.

Review of Action Points

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

3. Updates:

JTCC Committee Member Applications

Fiona confirmed that while Warren Bader had recently joined the Committee, Bill's resignation has opened up a further position for an additional Elected Member and she encouraged early applications from residents.

BESS / LDES Update

Trish Harvey from the BESS Group (now renamed the BUSBY LDES Group) provided an update to the meeting. This is attached at Appendix 2.

Trish Harvey, Alistair McPhee and John McManus attended a NESO Webinar on 14 January 2026 on behalf of JTCC.

NESO (National Energy System Operator) is the energy system operator for Great Britain. NESO is a public corporation of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. NESO will be responsible for the creation of a GB National Energy Plan from 2025 to 2050.

Issues raised by the webinar:

1. There is a massive oversupply of battery projects (particularly in Scotland). Approx. 250 gigabytes required and over 800 gigabytes in planning.
2. BESS projects significantly oversubscribed which is why developers are moving to LDES projects.
3. NESO are therefore de-prioritising 2/3rds of the projects. Although this information will become available to the public at a later date, for commercial reasons NESO will not currently identify what projects are going to fail.
4. Key issues for successful projects will be readiness, land ownership surety and local need. Disappointingly there was no mention of greenbelt issues, environmental impact, etc.
5. NESO emphasised that they are not involved in the detail of each scheme / application (ie overall strategic role not delivery).
6. They have offered advice to the Heads of Planning in Scotland but were not transparent on the detail / nature of such advice.
7. High level data will begin appearing on the NESO website in next few months.
8. There was a great deal of frustration from several Community Councils across Scotland in the Q+A session after the NESO presentation. The questions posed from attendees were excellent (particularly from Alistair McPhee!) but key areas of concern were not addressed by the NESO representatives. One Elected Member from a Community Council became so frustrated at the lack of clear answers that he resigned his position during the webinar.

Peel Road.

The traffic survey report from Cllr David Watson was discussed. Resident Paul Harvey commented that there has been an increase in the volume of traffic and that the average vehicle speed on Peel Road has increased 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.

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 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 Community Pledge

Christian had previously advised the meeting 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 one another. They are now meeting with Cala who have made contact to discuss their Community Pledge.

Micro Grant Applications

It was reported that the submission to the British Heart Foundation for a defibrillator (approx. cost £2k) by the Ravenscourt residents had been unsuccessful and that they had made a Micro Grant (£500) application for a contribution towards this. This grant application was agreed

Jackton residents advised that had submitted a Micro Grant application for Jackton Primary School equipment (£500). This grant application was agreed.

Spirit of Lanarkshire Wind Energy Cooperative (SOLWEC)

Spirit of Lanarkshire is a renewable energy co-operative. Spirit of Lanarkshire raised £2.7 million in 2013 and 2014 to purchase a stake in two wind farms in South Lanarkshire; Nutberry near Coalburn and West Browncastle near Strathaven. The SOLWEC Board allocate a proportion of profits every year towards a Community Fund. The SOLWEC Community Fund aims to support communities in South Lanarkshire to pursue projects which reduce greenhouse gas emissions or improve the environment and benefit the people who live in the immediate vicinity of the windfarms.

The SOLWEC Community Benefit Fund is open until midnight on February 28th 2026. Late applications cannot be considered. Projects will be considered by the SOLWEC Board and assessed against the aims of the Fund at their March Board 2026 meeting.

Jackton residents at the meeting advised that they would consider making an application for a cycle path adjacent to Jackton Primary School.

4. Reports

Treasurer's report: Account balances:

Current: £ 3524.90
Business reserve: £ 1818.63

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

5. Correspondence

South Lanarkshire Council – SAMH survey (e-mail sent on 6th January)

6. Planning Applications

While there had not been any Planning Applications of direct significance for the Jackton / Thorntonhall community in the previous month, John McManus presented a few images of the major application that has just been submitted for East Kilbride Town Centre (See Appendix 3). This involves the demolition of the western half of the town centre retail development to be replaced by approx. 300 new homes and culture and library facilities. South Lanarkshire Council have committed an initial allocation of £25m to the development.

7. Road Closures & Works

Redwood Drive, East Kilbride to Hairmyres Station Car Park – 26 to 29 January
Buses - Temporary restriction to right turn for carriageway repairs.

8. Other Business

Jackton resident Tommy Shaw advised the meeting that he has been in contact with the local planning officer and is also scheduled to meet with Cllr Geri Gray and Archie Buchanan. This is to discuss the Construction Phasing Plan for New Jackton. A key principle of the planning approval granted is that the central landscaped zone which ties all of the residential areas together should have been fully planted in the first phase of the construction development. This has not happened and what should have been the mature landscaped central area is currently an undeveloped waste land.

John McManus asked that if Tommy could provide him with the relevant plans / layouts of the development, he would accompany him to his meeting with the local councillors.

9. Next Meeting

19th February 2026 at 7.30pm, Thorntonhall Tennis Club.

Meeting closed 8.30 pm

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

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_la

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.</p> <p>Checked website again 9th Jan - 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 wrote Council / Councillors 6th Jan for a meeting before Feb JTCC to discuss how to progress this, particularly if some are resident owned. Response received 2nd Feb will be circulated</p>
3	Leaves on pavements – Braehead Road	Christian	<p>To report to SLC</p> <p>These seem to have been cleared. No need to report.</p>
5	Drain beside station	Christian	<p>To report to SLC / Scotrail</p> <p>Christian wrote to Scotrail 6.1.26 Reported drain beside station and the leaking roof at the station.</p>
6	Write to SLC about lack of councillors attending meeting. Consider meeting every 2 months if we can get councillor attending	Christian	<p>Discuss with SLC / Fiona.</p> <p>Christian called SLC. They advised it's not compulsory for councillors to attend. We could have 1 AGM and min of 4 meetings per year if preferred to monthly.</p>

Appendix 2 – Notes from BESS / LDES group presented at meeting

Good evening and Happy New Year to everyone.

I hope it is a good new year for all of us and we can see this LDES disappear away from our greenbelt, but we need everyone's help to achieve this.

IN 2026, we mark the third year of fighting the proposed industrialisation of our Greenbelt here in Thorntonhall and Busby.

To date: We can take some relief that the Meikle Dripps Farm BESS plan has not been submitted and passed for development.

We can also take some comfort that we, as an alliance of communities, have made enough noise to delay and stall development and would like to thank everyone for their support. The BESS group has grown over the last few years and Jackton, Busby and to some extent Clarkston have all become involved in the campaign so we will be changing our name to include these communities.

As far as we understand the Meikle Dripps Farm BESS has been taken off the table as far too many BESS plans have been passed by the ECU in Scotland. Three times the amount required.

The BUSBY LDES

A cynic may argue that the LDES is a re-branded BESS especially after the advice that the climate secretary has given to contractors at their pre application meetings. An LDES must go through a slightly different process prior to planning and this process, put in place by OFGEM and NESO assesses connectivity to the National Grid prior to the ECU planning permission being granted.

Last week also saw the demise of some of Gillian Martin responsibilities. It has been reported that the Scottish Government's Climate Secretary has been accused of an ".....embarrassing climbdown" after being removed from looking after massive energy projects, after complaints were made about her clandestine meetings with energy giants. Scottish Ministers are meant

to be unbiased when it comes to granting permission for major projects. She has allegedly spoken repeatedly with SSE and other contractors and even suggested that they do more to help local communities in order to get their applications accepted, although she continues to refuse to meet with concerned local groups/communities about these issues. Why am I mentioning this, well, what we are now fighting, is the proposed Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) plan on an 86 acre site, between BUSBY and Thorntonhall located on Meikle Dripps Farm, which is huge and totally unsuitable for this area. It is bigger, uglier and will be a massive eye sore. It will take longer to build, and will attract more traffic during and after construction, through Busby, along Peel Road and Waterfoot Road. The Recent NESO Meeting with Community Councils The Scottish element of NESO identified all Scottish Community Councils to a Zoom meeting to discuss LDES planning applications. We were all told that there will be no change to the planning application process and that the NESO Connections timeline process won't involve local communities. In fact, many of the communities that attended the NESO meeting walked away in disgust.

Let us remember that that the Busby LDES is no different in its supporting infrastructure than the Meikle Dripps Farm BESS there will still be a:

- 2.4m fence potentially now around an 86-acre plot

- There will still be extensive lighting and camera systems surrounding the site.
- The LDES itself will resemble a massive industrial estate surrounded by a prison type security system and,

Given the increased size of the location requested in the planning application the LDES will be just as close to the Busby Schools, Churches,

Nurseries, Care Homes and residents as the previous BESS and be almost as big as Thorntonhall village.

So, one down one to go, we need everyone to come together and continue to help fight this dreadful proposed industrialisation of our greenbelt.

In short, our beautiful environment would be destroyed forever.

If you can speak to your neighbours and ask them to email me with their email address so that we can keep everyone informed. bess@thorntonhallbess.com

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Finally, a quick request, Is there a graphic designer out there that could help the group mock up an image of the proposed 86 acre site so that everyone can visualise what is coming our way if we are complacent.

Thank you for your continuing support.

