



Jackton & Thorntonhall Community Council



Meeting Minutes

Thursday April 16th 2026 at 7.30pm

Thorntonhall Tennis Club

Sederunt: Fiona Gardner (Chair), John McManus (Vice Chair) Christian Potter (Secretary), Tom Shaw, 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 Douglas Eunson (Treasurer), Warren Bader and Lesley Whitefield

Councillors Present: Councillor Equi was present.

MSPs: Collette Stevenson was present.

Public Present: approx. 20 members of the local community attended the meeting. 12 signed the attendance sheet.

Apologies had been received from Mark and Lesley Dolan and Alan McMillan.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The April Minutes had been circulated in advance of the meeting. They were approved by John McManus and seconded by Tom Shaw.

Review of Action Points

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

3. Updates:

LDES consultation

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

There was discussion about what height 2 units would be and the height of the surrounding walls around the site. One resident said he was surprised by the lack of people at the meeting with such a major issue in the area.

The LDES group confirmed that previous meetings had been well attended, but that people are reluctant to come every month. Despite this there is a high number of people on the LDES group e-mail distribution group (450 people) and over 3000 people had signed a recent petition opposing the development. They advised that there is also now a Busby LDES group which is separate to Thorntonhall.

The LDES group confirmed that there are 171 schemes for LDES originally put through. It went down to 77 to initial project assessment phase (UK wide). We are now waiting to see how many of these 77 go forward to the next stage. Frontier Energy have put forward 16 and 2 of these are in Scotland. This information is available in the OFGEM report.

There was discussion that we need to understand the status of the project as to whether Apatura or Frontier Energy are running this. Frontier Energy is a much bigger organisation than Apatura. It was agreed that JTCC would write to Apatura to check the status of the project.

NESO are also doing a review – they are already saying battery storage is over subscribed by 3 times, hence the need for the review.

Collette Stevenson, MSP (standing for re-election) asked if anyone has spoken to NESO as they are a key player here.

Collette said she wants it put on record that she is against the LDES given it is to be situated on the green belt. Collette also said she would try and reach out to NESO for further information.

The LDES group advised that general public don't seem to be able to talk to NESO, ECU, OFGEM and the ability to object via the ECU is now being changed by withdrawing the ability to object by e-mail and changing this to objection by letter. There was discussion that it would be more difficult to get residents to object if they have to write letters.

Peel Road

Fiona provided an update.

She and Paul Harvey had met with South Lanarkshire Council in February and they had responded on 19th March (this e-mail was circulated with the minutes of March JTCC meeting). The council has written to owners re overgrown shrubs and hedges and will serve notice to those residents who have taken no action. There is signage to be added by the end of April and carriageway deterioration has been repaired this week.

There was discussion that the signage the council has said they will be put up will not include cycle friendly signs. Councillor Equi said she would look into this further with SLC.

Jackton Primary School After School Care

Councillor Equi provided an update on the work she and Councillor Buchanan are doing on the Primary School after school provision and ongoing fight on this with South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC). She had meeting with the SLLC Chief Executive on 16th April. He had advised that a working group has been set up to look at the issue but this would not have a report produced until October.

Cllr Equi is pushing for the Care Commission stages to be pushed through quickly with the provider who has already started the process of setting up the service; looking at a short-term solution until the report comes out; she will continue to push SLLC on this. The issue is also tabled as a motion at the next full council meeting.

The Primary School Council chair confirmed that there are currently 60 existing children in need of the care and with another 65 new Primary One children starting in August, many of this number will also need wrap-around care.

Further information in Cllr Equi's report at Appendix 3.

Eaglesham Road Flooding Issue

There was a discussion around the flooding of sewage on Eaglesham Road and the fact that this has been ongoing for years; an online petition has been raised by local residents to bring the matter to wider attention. Councillor Equi discussed that she has previously attended meetings and pushing Scottish Water for detailed answers to specific questions.

Residents said that parents are walking along the road rather than the pavement to get to the Primary School; this is an accident waiting to happen; work has stopped at construction site.

It was questioned why planning permission is given for new developments if this is a problem for years. There was discussion that the developer is not able to get the new Sainsburys up and running yet the community are crying out for this.

There was a discussion as to whether it is a road traffic offence for motorists to drive through a puddle deliberately covering pedestrians. We will raise this with the police who are attending the May meeting.

A resident said that his wife had been walking along the pavement and her guide dog was distracted when a van had gone through the puddle. He had tried to contact the company but given up. Councillor Equi asked the resident to e-mail her with more detail.

There was a question raised about Scottish Water – if they are public owned could the government do something about the problem. Collette Stevenson MSP said she would look into whether there is a government route to question Scottish Water on this.

Further information in Cllr Equi's report at Appendix 3.

Community Plan and Partnership (CPP) Meeting

Christian advised that she and Claire Marr had attended the East Kilbride CPP on 8th April. In advance of that meeting she had submitted a paper to the Chairperson detailing the key issues under discussion with the community. The meeting was useful and the new Chair person and SLC Officer are actively trying to help the community. There is a Board meeting in June which Christian hopes to be able to attend and will report back on that.

Community Policing – East Kilbride Police Office – attending May meeting

Christian advised that the community police would be attending May meeting and asked residents to let her know what questions they have for the police in advance of the next meeting.

4. Reports

Treasurer's report: Account balances:

Current: £ 1921

Business reserve: £ 1550

Councillor's report: Councillor Equi's report is attached at Appendix 3.

5. Correspondence

Guide dog seeking south Lanarkshire locals (e-mail to all residents of 23rd March)

Survey about new powers for Scotland community councils (e-mail to all residents of 2nd April)

Amended summer opening hours at waste and recycling centre (e-mail to all residents of 2nd April)

6. Planning Applications.

Nothing of note

7. Road Closures & Works

None

8. Other Business

Jackton Primary School – let room for JTCC

Christian advised that Jackton Primary School have confirmed JTCC are allocated 12 free 2 hour lets throughout the year running from August to June. This would be discussed at the next meeting.

Telecoms mast upgrade

Christian advised that an e-mail had only just come in about a mast upgrade at Thornton Farm. Responses are to be by 24th April. An e-mail was sent to all residents on 16th April confirming the reply-by date.

9. Next Meeting

21st May at 7.30pm, Thorntonhall Tennis Club.

Meeting closed 8.45 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

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

For fly-tipping and rubbish dumped:

<https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200193/pollution/344/fly-tipping>

Appendix 1 – Action Points

1	Land 50M North of 1 North Hill View, Waterfoot Road, Thorntonhall- ENA-380-2033: dpea.scotland.gov Retrospective planning permission refused; applicant appeals; appeal refused; applicant appealed in August – allocated to Reporter. Reporter visits 7.10.25. Feb 2026 – Reporter asks for responses to questions from both parties by 14th March. Both have responded.	Christian Potter	Awaiting Reporter decision.
2	Drain beside Thorntonhall station Christian wrote to Scotrail 6.1.26 to report drain beside station and leaking roof at the station. Scotrail responded to say in hand. Chased 4.3.26 (PR contact). Chased again 8.4.26 Cllr Equi written to Scotrail – 17.4.26. Scotrail responded 21.4.26	Christian	Follow-up Scotrail response / also SLC issue.
3	Jackton After School Care provision Full council meeting 29 th May – notice of motion.	Cllr Equi	ongoing
4	Peel Road – ongoing work with SLC Roads to be completed April 26. Ask SLC about cycle friendly signage they could add to Peel Road	Cllr Equi	
5	Eaglesham Road Flooding Cllr Equi dealing with this (see her report) Long term Scottish water issue.	Cllr Equi	
6	Contact Scottish Water to establish if there is a government route to question Scottish Water on this.	Collette Stevenson MSP	
7	Contact Eaglesham Echo to see if they would do a story on the flooding	Christian	
8	SUDS / Eaglesham Road / Okein Drive Jackton Land owned by CVO Ltd but leased to Cala. There is a 2007 deed of condition indicates Cala hold the license. Fencing needed to reduce the risk; landscape of the area needed.	Cllr Equi	Following up with Cala Land and Development Director – Graham; CP also requested meeting with Nicki.
9	Jackton Landscaping – ongoing	Tom / Cllr Equi / Cllr Buchanan	
10	Write to Apatura to establish status of LDES project / change of ownership.	Christian	e-mail sent 16.4.26.
11	Contact NESO for further information on the Busby LDES	Collette Stevenson MSP	
12	Advise residents community police attending meeting in May and ask what topics want covered	Christian	

Appendix 2 – Notes from LDES group provided for the meeting.

The Frontier BUSBY LDES 86-acre Plan Update

The Busby LDES application is now named ‘Frontier LDES Busby’ on the Ofgem website.

It has recently come to light that Apatura are looking to sell, or have already sold, the LDES development prior to the first hole in the ground being dug, to the Frontier Energy company.

Last year 150 LDES applications were registered with the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) and after a first round of assessment, 77 applications have been selected to go forward to the next round, Project Assessment, which will be announced in Q2 of 2026. Of, the 77 named two are in Scotland **Frontier Busby** and **Frontier Ayr**.

National Energy System Operator (NESO) and OFGEM are working together on these decisions.

Frontier BUSBY LDES

The Frontier Busby LDES (150 MW) is classified as Vanadium flow / Zinc battery LDES with a Track 1 delivery date of 2030.

This means it is still in competition, but not yet approved for funding.

Frontier BUSBY Project Assessment stage, where Ofgem evaluates:

- economic value
- deliverability, and
- system benefits

To date there has been no final investment decision, it’s awaiting outcome of the NESO/Ofgem process.

Local Planning Status

Local planning status for the 86-acre Busby / Thorntonhall LDES

- The project currently sits at: Pre-application Section 36 ECU consent process on their website and was Submitted in June 2025.
- This means It has not yet received planning consent and
- that it is still early in the Scottish consenting process

Apatura’s (Frontiers?) plans and consultation documents on the ECU database identify that the LDES facility will feature amongst many other criteria a 2.4m high fence, a road access infrastructure, extensive lighting (including nighttime) and 24-hour security systems.

What Else

LDES containers will be stacked TWO high, transforming the site into a massive industrial estate surrounded by a security perimeter.

A battery specialist told me whilst I was at the Edinburgh BESS/ LDES demonstration “If you think a BESS is an eye sore then an LDES development with their stacking of containers is 100% worse”.

The Busby, Jackton and Thorntonhall LDES Campaigners, whilst not against the need for energy security for the UK, are against the site, situated on Meikle Dripps Farm greenbelt land, because they believe that it is unsuitable for such an industrial infrastructure, and that it would pose

- risks to residents,
- the roads infrastructure,
- and the environment.

It may have Gone Quiet for the moment, but the threat has not gone away

The Jackton, Thorntonhall and Busby Alliance LDES Action Group is calling for people to unite in renewed opposition.

We have been asking MSP's and potential MSP's where they stand on the Frontier Busby LDES development. In South Lanarkshire Joe Fagan- Labour, potential MSP has come out and declared that he is totally against this development, on this greenbelt land.

Finally, please register your name and email address by emailing bess@thorntonhallbess.com and we will keep you informed.

Appendix 3 - Councillor Equi's report

Update on Engagement with Cala Homes regarding Ocean Drive

Cllrs Equi on behalf of herself and Cllr Buchannon

I wanted to update you on recent correspondence with Graham McNeil, Land Director at Cala Homes (West), regarding the neglected state of the land on the west side of Ocean Drive and the safety concerns surrounding the unfenced SUDS pond. I have exchanged several emails with Cala Homes to advocate for a resolution. The current situation remains a point of dispute regarding legal and maintenance obligations.

Cala maintains that they do not own the land and that it is held by a third party. They claim their involvement was historical and limited to drainage access rights. They have suggested the community contact these other parties directly. Based on the information provided by the JTCC, we have highlighted the 2007 Deed of Condition. This document indicates that Cala holds a licence for this specific SUDS area. I have argued that such a licence usually includes the right and often the duty to maintain the site for safety and service.

I have emphasised that the lack of fencing around the SUDS pond is a significant risk, given its location directly next to a children's play park. I have stated that safety should take priority over technical ownership disputes. I have challenged Cala to align the reality at Ocean Drive with their Community Pledge and their 2026 Sustainability Strategy, which promises a positive, lasting legacy. I have also asked Cala to take the lead in transforming this plot into a managed biodiversity space, rather than simply passing the responsibility.

I have requested a formal meeting between myself, Cala representatives, and the Community Council; to review the 2007 Deed of Condition together to resolve the confusion over maintenance rights, to secure a commitment for immediate safety improvements (fencing) and to discuss a long-term plan for the landscaping of the area.

While Cala's initial response has been to step back from responsibility, I am continuing to push for a collaborative solution. A proactive show of goodwill from Cala is essential for the residents and the safety of the local area. I will update the Community Council as soon as a meeting date is proposed or further information is received.

Improving Disability Support for Families

Cllr Equi

Recently, a family in our community faced a serious problem with their child's disability benefits. Due to a mistake made by the benefits agency, the family lost their access to a Motability car. This child has severe epilepsy, so having a safe way to get to the hospital is a necessity, not a luxury.

I have been working closely with Monica Lennon to fix this. A Judge has now officially ruled that the agency made a mistake. The child's full benefits have been put back in place and backdated to February 2025. We successfully convinced the car provider (Motability) to let the family have their car back immediately, even though there was still a debt on the account caused by the agency's error.

I also wrote to the Scottish Government, and Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, has replied. She agreed that the current system is frustrating for families and has promised that things will change. This case has helped highlight a gap in the law that affects families across Scotland. As a result, the Scottish Parliament has passed the Social Security Act 2025. This will allow the agency to fix mistakes much faster, so families don't have to wait months for a court to decide. We are pushing for a new rule where the

government must pay back any debts caused by their own mistakes, so families aren't left struggling with bills they didn't create.

I am planning on bringing a Cross-Party Motion to the Full Council. This motion will ask all councillors, regardless of their party, to work together to; support the Cabinet Secretary's plans to make the system better, make sure these new rules start as soon as possible and to ensure no other child in South Lanarkshire is left without safe transport because of an office mistake.

While this was a very difficult time for the family involved, their experience is now helping to change the law for everyone else in Scotland. It shows that when local and national representatives work together, we can make the system fairer for our most vulnerable residents.

Eaglesham Road Drainage & Sewage Crisis

Cllrs Equi on behalf of herself and Cllr Buchannon

For over a decade, Eaglesham Road has suffered from persistent flooding and ponding. Recent site surveys have confirmed that the issue is not merely excess rainwater, but a failure of the Scottish Water (SW) foul sewer network. This has resulted in raw sewage and toilet paper surcharging onto public footpaths and adjacent land.

A specific SW chamber is continuously surcharging effluent onto a high-traffic pedestrian footpath. Despite SW's national policy to prioritise public health risks, they currently categorise this as a lower priority because it occurs in an external area. Raw sewage has leaked onto a nearby construction site. This has caused a complete halt to work, leading to job losses and local economic damage. No date for sanitisation has been provided by SW. SW claims road gullies were bunged by a third party. This blockage is forcing surface water into the foul network, causing it to fail. SW has yet to name this party or confirm if legal enforcement is being taken.

Scottish Water has repeatedly claimed that hydraulic modelling exonerates new developments and that heavy rainfall is the root cause. I have requested the raw rainfall and flow data for the dates of the surcharges. SW has provided no evidence to support their assumptions that rainfall is the sole trigger and I've questioned their model. If the network is physically blocked (bunged gullies) and watercourses have been altered (Gill Burn), any model that assumes a clear network is fundamentally flawed and irrelevant to the reality on the ground.

Rachel Mair (covering for Erin MacKenzie-Williams) has proposed an online meeting for the week of 20th April rather than answering my specific questions in writing. I have refused a meeting until the requested evidence is provided. A meeting without the data would simply lead to more corporate word soup. I have said we require; the specific rainfall and flow data, the name of the third party responsible for the bunged gullies and a confirmed repair date for the chamber at No. 325A. The Jackton & Thorntonhall Community Council (JTCC) has formally joined the campaign and raised this issue at the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) meeting on 8th April.

The focus remains on forcing Scottish Water to stop shifting blame to other agencies (the Council/SEPA) and to take responsibility for the health hazard caused by their own assets. Further updates will be provided once SW complies with the request for evidence.

Protection of Respite Provision for Aging Carers

Cllr Equi

This situation highlights the importance of protecting sustainability in home care arrangements for elderly carers and the successful application of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016. A local family, involving primary carers in their late 60s and late 70s, had been faced with a proposed 75% reduction in their annual respite provision. The individual receiving care has significant, lifelong clinical needs that require high-level supervision.

The family had received a consistent level of support for over two decades. The sudden proposal to reduce this support created significant distress and threatened to make the current home-care arrangement unsustainable, potentially forcing a move into a high-cost residential setting. Under the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016, the Council has a statutory duty to provide support that sustains the caring role. Reducing support as carers age is contrary to this duty. The cost of a full-time specialist residential placement is estimated at over £180,000 per annum. Maintaining a robust respite package is a significantly more responsible use of public funds than allowing a home-care arrangement to collapse.

As the local Councillor, I raised a formal challenge with the Chief Officer of the Health and Social Care Partnership regarding the strategic logic of the proposed respite changes. I cited the Administration's Budget for People and Place, which prioritises the protection of our most vulnerable residents. I further requested transparency regarding the commissioning policy for local respite beds to ensure that South Lanarkshire residents are prioritised and not displaced by spot purchase arrangements from other local authorities.

Following a formal review the Council has confirmed that the respite provision will remain unchanged at the original level. All support was protected during the review process to ensure no gap in care. I have now opened a dialogue with the Chief Officer to move toward Multi-Year Support Plans. This aims to stop the annual battle for support and provide long-term peace of mind for elderly carers in similar positions.

This case demonstrates the vital role of robust advocacy in ensuring that social care policy is implemented with empathy and common sense. I remain committed to ensuring that our social care services reflect the political will of this administration to support residents to stay in their own homes for as long as it is safe to do so.

Calderglen Country Park – Accessibility and Inclusion Project

Cllrs Equi on behalf of herself Cllr Scott and Cllr Buchannon

I wanted to provide an update on the ongoing work to make Calderglen Country Park safe, inclusive, and accessible for all children and families. While we have secured some initial successes, several key deadlines have been missed by Council officers, and I am currently pushing for firm commitments.

Following a period of intense negotiation with South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC), the following has been agreed –

- The Council has committed to installing a Mirage high-back seat (which provides essential postural support) and an inclusive basket swing.
- Officers have moved away from their initial refusal and are now actively assessing locations for a standalone modular Changing Places toilet.
- We have ensured that the new pump track project includes a connecting path that meets accessibility requirements, ensuring the facility is physically reachable.

I am currently holding the Council to account on several items where progress has stalled. Officers committed to finishing a site survey for a wheelchair accessible roundabout by the end of March 2026. This deadline has passed without a report. I have followed this up (14th April). The Council is currently refusing to install secure fencing, citing a natural play policy. I have formally challenged this.

For many children, particularly those with autism who may run toward danger, a lack of fencing is not an aesthetic choice, it is a safety risk that prevents them from using the park. On my constituent's behalf I am demanding a specific health and safety risk assessment to address this.

I am raising concerns regarding the £300,000 pump track. While the track is a large investment, it requires expensive bikes and safety gear. During this cost-of-living crisis, this could exclude many local families. I am pushing for a free equipment loan scheme to be included in the project budget. I have issued a final request for a joint response from the relevant department managers to provide –

1. Fixed installation dates for the new swings and the roundabout.
2. Confirmed application dates for the Changing Places funding.
3. A date for the safety risk assessment regarding elopement and fencing.

My position remains that the Council has a legal duty under the Equality Act 2010 to make these reasonable adjustments. Accessibility is a matter of basic dignity and safety, not an optional extra. I will continue to push for these works to be completed before the summer season begins and will keep the Community Council informed of any further delays.

Eaglesham Road / Redwood Drive Junction Review

Cllr Equi

The formal review of the Eaglesham Road and Redwood Drive junction is now nearly finished. South Lanarkshire Council's Roads Department is currently going through the final details of the report produced by their consultants. The report contains technical details that need explanation, the Head of Roads and the consultants will first meet with local Councillors to discuss the findings. The review is in its final stages. A meeting is being set up for May so that Councillors can be briefed on the outcomes and potential recommendations. A full update will be shared with the Community Council as soon as possible after that meeting has taken place.

Jackton Primary Afterschool provision

Cllrs Equi on behalf of herself and Cllr Buchannon

"SLLC can confirm that they have been working with the potential provider and that a booking form for after school provision with Jackton Primary has been received for the 2026/27 term, starting in August 2026.

Following the Council Motion on 11 March 2026, a working group has been established to review Afterschool provision in South Lanarkshire. The group includes representatives from Community and Enterprise (Facilities and Employability), Education and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture.

An initial data gathering exercise is underway to understand the levels and variety of provision, costs, availability etc. and includes a review of afterschool provision in other Local Authority areas.

The group will also engage with other employability partners such as Routes to Work South to understand more about the barriers faced by parents and how much services can do to support them.

A consultation will be undertaken around May / June time to feed into the final recommendations, which will be presented to Committee in October”.

Statement from SLLC