

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir
Village Hall, on Thursday, April 2 (7.30pm)**

Present: *Gavin Parker (chairman), Brian Bushell (vice-chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), councillor Kaitlyn Roper, councillor Sarah Northcott, councillor Lesley Mason, Scottish Borders Councillor Keith Cockburn, Cat Smith, Tour of the Borders. 4 members of the public were also present.*

01.04 APOLOGIES

None.

02.034 MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the community council meeting on March 5 were approved.

Resilient Communities programme

Chairman Mr Gavin Parker said a representative from the organisation had agreed to attend the community council's meeting on May 14 to give a presentation about the programme.

SSE windfarm

The chairman reported that representatives from the windfarm would attend the June meeting of the community council to give a talk about plans for the new extension at the windfarm site.

Pothole on the A701

The secretary reported that he had contacted the SBC about the pothole near the junction of the A701. This had been filled in once, but had since reappeared. The SBC had promised to undertake the work again, following an inspection.

Gritting along Kirk Road

Councillor Sarah Northcott said she and resident Rod Sibbald had met Jason Hedley, of the SBC, on site. She said a two-pronged attack had been agreed to solve the problem of the lack of gritting down the road (The gritting lorry cannot use the road because of overhanging trees.)

- 1 To contact the driver of the gritting lorry to ascertain which trees need to be trimmed.*
- 2 To approach the resilient communities programme about the possibility of hand-held gritters for the village and also the installation of grit boxes along the lane.*

Fruid Road

The secretary said he had contacted Jason Hedley, of SBC, about the state of the road, and that Mr Hedley had promised to carry out any patching necessary. Mr Hedley had also sent on a request by the secretary to Mr Douglas Scott, of SBC, for an indication of any long-term plans for a permanent solution to the problem. Regular repairs are needed on this road because of use by forestry logging traffic. Councillor Northcott added that at the Kirk Road site meeting, Mr Hedley had said there was very little he could do about the Fruid Road because of limited financial resources, but urged the community council to press the SBC councillors about the matter.

Councillor Cockburn suggested bringing the problem up at the petitions committee, the scrutiny committee, and writing to councillor Gordon Edgar, who is also a portfolio holder. He also urged the community council to write to the MSP and MP.

Treasurer Brian Bushell thanked the councillor for his guidance, and the meeting agreed to follow up the SBC councillor's suggestions.

Carlowse Bridge

The secretary said he had had no response regarding his request to SBC councillor Willie Archibald at last month's meeting for a full breakdown of the costs involved with the Carlowse Bridge repair. This had been promised to the community at a meeting with SBC in June. Councillor Cockburn said he would speak with Mr Archibald to determine progress on this matter.

Police

The secretary agreed to contact the new police officer for the area, Nicky Craig, to invite her to the community council's next meeting, as suggested by the treasurer, and to set up regular reports on any crime in the area in future.

Borders Forest Trust

The secretary reported that he had received a number of provisional dates for a public site meeting to discuss the trust's plans at Talla. Following discussion, the meeting agreed that Saturday, May 30, would be appropriate, and the secretary agreed to contact the trust with the date.

03.04 TOUR OF THE BORDERS

A presentation then followed by Ms Cat Smith, of the Hillside/Outside organisation, which is organising the Tour of the Borders cycle race this year. The race, on Sunday, August 9, will run through the Tweedsmuir area, and will necessitate the closure of the A701 between 6.30am-11.30am. Although no vehicles will be allowed, pedestrians will be able to use the road during these times. The treasurer thought the closure times coincided with a church service at Tweedsmuir, and Ms Smith took details of the church minister in order to make contact.

Ms Smith also said that any emergency calls should go through the usual 999 number, and would be dealt with by a central unit involving representatives from all the emergency services. In the event of an emergency in the village, she assured the meeting that the race would be stopped while it was being attended to.

Ms Smith also appealed for volunteers. She said there would be a feeding station at the Crook and volunteers were also needed for Talla Linns. Anyone interested should contact Ms Smith at [07856 267785](tel:07856267785) or by email at community@tourotheborders.com. Ms Smith added that a donation would be given to a local community project in lieu of the volunteering help.

The chairman concluded by thanking Ms Smith for her attendance and presentation.

04.04 TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer said he had now been told by the SBC that the following monies would be accruing to the community council in due course:

£540 per year, and a pro-rata amount of £180 to take into account of the fact that the community council formed before the end of the last financial year. The treasurer said, therefore, that once the constitution had been approved, the next financial year would see £720 lodged into the CC's account. The treasurer also reported that he was in the process of opening an account for the CC at the Bank of Scotland in Peebles. Each cheque would need two signatories, but there would be three signatories for the account. All needed to be office-bearers, and the chairman/secretary/treasurer agreed to carry this out.

05.04 SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Councillor Lesley Mason, who has children at Peebles High School, highlighted the following problem with transport to and from the school.

Currently the first pupil on the minibus at Tweedsmuir boards at 7.25am, and the mini-bus collects pupils along the route (including travelling up Glenholm) and arrives at Broughton to transfer the pupils to the coach for 8.10 (pupils can sometimes reach Broughton at 7.50am and have to wait 20 minutes before the bus leaves Broughton). The journey from Tweedsmuir to Broughton of eight miles is, therefore, taking 45 minutes.

The bus from Broughton gets the pupils to Peebles for 8.50, so an 18-mile journey is taking 1 hour 25 minutes. The pupils are returned home from Peebles at about 4.50pm

This has been compounded by the introduction of the asymmetric week - with the days Monday to Thursday being longer.

On a Friday (as school finishes at 1.30) the children do not have time for lunch at school, and have been offered a slightly longer mid morning break. However this does not offer the children the opportunity to have anything to eat, as there is no place to sit down, and the canteen is not sufficient to cope with the demand. Unfortunately this means for pupils in Tweedsmuir who have had breakfast at 7am, and are not returning home until nearly 3pm, they may not have had the opportunity to have anything substantial to eat. They are not allowed to eat on the high school coach.

The meeting agreed to contact John Dellor, of SBC, to bring this matter to his attention, and also to Peebles High School. It was also agreed that contact should be made with Jean Robertson, of SBC, about the possibility of funding for a village mini-bus that could be used for the school run. The meeting also agreed to implement Councillor Cockburn's suggestion to take up the matter with the petitions committee and scrutiny committee at SBC. Councillor Cockburn promised to send details on how to do this.

06.04 MOBILE SIGNAL UPGRADE

The secretary reported that the mobile signal in the area was due to be upgraded to G4 with work needed on the two base stations at Tweedsmuir (Fruid Road) and at Tweedhopefoot. Organisers of the upgrade had assured the secretary that this would bring mobile reception up to the standard of an urban, built-up area. It was, however, for only Vodafone and O2 customers, and it was unsure when the work would be started. The meeting unanimously agreed that this was a beneficial move for the community, and the secretary agreed to pass on the positive comments to the company involved.

07.04 COMMUNICATION

The letter sent out to all residents recently, asking them to submit their details for the establishment of a communication data-base, had met with a resounding response, with 31

returned out of a possible 72, with the deadline for returns not until April 12. The secretary thanked the treasurer for all his work on this project. The meeting agreed to discuss the data-base, and its uses, once the deadline had passed and exact number of responses was known.

Regarding the website, it was agreed to purchase the domain name,

Tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk for £6.98 for two years.

It was also agreed that a meeting with the Tweedsmuir Community Company, which is also setting up a new website, should be set up to discuss any interaction between the two sites.

08.04 CONSTITUTION

The chairman reported that the boundary of the new CC had still to be finalised, but would, in all probability, be ready for the CC's next meeting. The secretary added that the amendments to the SBC's model constitution, which had been forwarded to the SBC, had been approved,, while the treasurer offered to rewrite and condense the constitution as well as adding the CC's amendments. The meeting accepted this offer. It was also noted that all councillors had read the code of conduct and were willing to abide by it.

The chairman also pointed out that the next meeting in May would be the AGM.

09.04 TWEEDSMUIR CLEAN-UP

This will take place on the weekend of April 11/12. It was agreed that councillors would undertake the following routes: Paul, Talla Road; Brian, Fruid Road; Sarah, Kirk Road; Lesly, A701, Tweedsmuir to Hawshaw; Gavin, Village Hall to Crook; Crook to Kingledores.

10.04 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Cockburn brought the meeting's attention to an SBC scheme in Cheviot, which is piloting greater powers for the area forum there. The councillor said, in his view, that this was a good idea, and could have a major impact on the way area forums work in future.

11.04 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Superfast Broadband

A member of the public asked what chances Tweedsmuir had of receiving superfast broadband under the new government-backed scheme. Councillor Cockburn said he did not know, but offered to forward on contact details for James Pocock, liaison officer for the project, to set up a presentation at a future CC meeting..

Bullets

Councillor Northcott reported that she had found a round of bullets in the noticeboard at the crossroads in Tweedsmuir. She had removed them and contacted the police, who later came to collect them. She was particularly concerned because the crossroads is where village schoolchildren are picked up and dropped off by the school bus. The meeting agreed to send a letter expressing the CC's concern to the police's community inspector, Tony Hodge.

Pilot bus service

The chairman informed the meeting that the UTCC service is applying for a grant of £1670 from the Glenkerie Windfarm panel to meet the setting-up costs of a proposed pilot bus

service to Edinburgh. If the grant application is successful, the bus service will run every second Saturday of the month from July to October this year, and would see buses travelling from Tweedsmuir (9.40am) and Broughton (10am) to Edinburgh. The return journey would be at 6pm. Tickets, £1 return, will be bookable in advance, although it will be possible to board on the day, subject to availability. The chairman thanked the UTCC for the information.

The next meeting of the TCC is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on May 14. This will be the CC's annual general meeting.