

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir
Village Hall, on Thursday, 1 September (7.30pm)**

Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), community councillors Lesley Kirkwood, Lesley Mason, Ralph Glatt and Rod Sibbald, Scottish Borders Councillor Keith Cockburn and 4 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 4 August were approved

01.09 APOLOGIES

Treasurer Brian Bushell and Police representative Nicola Craig

02.09 MATTERS ARISING

Crossroads signage: The secretary reported that Jason Hedley, of SBC, had informed him that the matter was in hand and that a meeting at SBC on September 2 would discuss the sign, warning drivers of children in the vicinity, and the timescale for its erection.

Visit to Talla Reservoir: SBC has offered one community councillor the opportunity to join a visit to Talla Reservoir on 4 October (10.30am). Two councillors have requested to go, and SBC has confirmed both can attend should one of the community councils invited fail to take up the invite.

Resilient communities Councillor Lesley Mason reported that, as part of the scheme, a tool shed was due to be delivered to the village hall imminently. This would house all the resilient communities kit, with the delivery also likely to include sandbags. Lesley added that the SBC is offering free first-aid training through the Red Cross. The meeting agreed to take part in this, and thought a Saturday in November would be the ideal time. The village hall would be the venue.

03.09 WHITELAW BRAE WIND FARM

The chairman reported that the inquiry into 2020's application to build 14 wind turbines at Whitelaw Brae was now complete. Gavin said it had been an 'experience' and hoped the council, represented at the inquiry, had done all it could have done in opposing the plans. The chairman also reported that the TCC now had the opportunity of a final statement to the Reporter on 26 September. It was unclear what that statement should include, but the secretary said he would contact the government for clarification.

The chairman thanked resident Kirsty Stephens for all her help over the Whitelaw matter, while Mrs Stephens and resident Samantha Billingham expressed their gratitude to the council for all its efforts in opposing the plans.

04.09 BROADBAND

Rod Sibbald, chairman of the broadband sub-committee, reported that a quote from BT for fibre to premises as well as for fibre to cabinet would now be sent to the council on 20 September, a

delay from the original quote date of 6 September. The quote, part of the BT community partnership plan, would be valid for 90 days. Rod also reported that the community council would not have to confirm, or otherwise, its participation in the Ettrick and Beyond Community Broadband scheme until November 3. This had originally been set for 15 September. The delays now meant the council had more time to decide in which scheme, Ettrick and Beyond or BT partnership, to take part. Rod and the secretary had also visited Amanda Burgauer, head of a broadband project in Dumfries, to hear her experiences of setting up a broadband scheme - she has been attempting to do so since 2010 - while Rod has written an article for the latest edition of the Upper Tweed News, explaining the broadband issues. Rod also circulated to the meeting a list of the negatives and positives of the various options for broadband provision open to the community.

05.09 MICROGRANT APPLICATION

The chairman asked the secretary to minute that the meeting agreed that it would run the microgrant scheme for the Glenkerie windfarm.

Councillor Lesley Mason reported that a number of children who had received bursaries from Tweedsmuir Community Council via the SSE community fund, had been photographed at Broughton Primary School by SSE windfarm for use in their promotional material. Lesley said the scheme had been a great success and that SSE was looking into making the youth grants a permanent fixture in future, with a set amount of money split between the three councils - Skirling, Upper Tweed and Tweedsmuir - for the administration of grants for youngsters' educational and recreational courses.

06.09 POLICE REPORT

There was no police report available.

07.09 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

SBC councillor Keith Cockburn brought the meeting's attention to funding available at the council, which he said was being underspent. Funds were available through the Area forum and also through community grants (maximum £5,000). Keith said a community grant could be used for broadband provision, for instance.

Keith also reported that the council's scrutiny committee was looking into the impact of timber and windfarm traffic on roads in the Borders and ways to fund the repairs. Keith explained that if the committee decided there was an issue to be addressed, a working group would be set up to fully investigate the matter.

The chairman noted that Talla Linns and the road approaching it were being closed on 7-8 September, and wondered whether any provision had been made for children at Talla Farm to get to school on those days. Keith said the council should contact Philippa Gilhooley at SBC, and the secretary said he would do so.

09.09 CROOK INN

The chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company Mr Duncan Davidson said the company would very much like to hear from residents on how a reopened Crook could support activities in the community.

10.09 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bus matters event The secretary reported the SBC was holding the event at the Burgh Hall, Peebles, on Tuesday 6 September. The event was a drop-in opportunity for the public to come along and chat about public transport - or, in the case of Tweedsmuir, the lack of it.

Website Councillor Lesley Mason said minutes of recent meetings did not appear to be on the website. The secretary said this was because he had forgotten to ask website administrator Sarah Northcott to include them, and would rectify this as soon as possible.

Water supply Lesley reported that she was experiencing problems with her home's water supply, which comes off the hillside. This was the first time she had experienced difficulties, but, basically, there was now too much silt in the water. SBC had been notified.

Mobile Post Office Resident Samantha Billingham asked whether the area could be visited by a mobile post office now that the post office at Broughton had closed. The secretary said he would look into this.

Broughton Primary School Miss Catrina McKinnon has recently taken over as the school's new headmistress.

Halloween Party Tweedsmuir's Halloween party will take place at the village hall on 29 October. The meeting agreed to consider a microgrant application to help fund the party.

Layby bin Councillor Rod Sibbald reported that a bin situated in a layby south of the village was overflowing with rubbish. The secretary said he would contact the SBC to see if they would empty it.

Forestry Rod also reported that an area of felled trees, south of the village, was an eyesore, with too many raptor poles left standing. Rod agreed to contact Scottish Woodlands to see if more of the poles could be felled.

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on October 6, 2016, 7.30pm.