

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir  
Village Hall, on Thursday, 6 October (7.30pm)**

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

**The minutes of the council's meeting on 1 September were approved**

**01.10 APOLOGIES**

Treasurer Brian Bushell, councillor Ralph Glatt and police representative Nicola Craig

**02.10 MATTERS ARISING**

**Post Office mobile service:** The secretary reported that he had contacted the Post Office to see if the Upper Tweed area could be serviced by the mobile service now that the PO in Broughton had closed. The secretary was waiting for a response from the PO.

**Waste bin south of the village:** The secretary said he had contacted the SBC to see if it would empty the bin, which had been full for some time, but was awaiting a decision.

**Crossroads signage** The SBC has said that they could not erect signs warning of children in the vicinity because there was no school nearby, but was still looking for alternatives. SBC councillor Keith Cockburn promised to look into the matter on the TCC's behalf.

**First Aid training** Biggar Patient Focus Group had been in contact to inform the council of a course for first respondents at the Corn Exchange, Biggar, on 29 October. The group is keen to increase the number of first respondents in the area, and anyone wishing to attend should contact the secretary for full details.

**Minutes** The secretary reported that all the minutes were now on the website.

**Forestry** Councillor Rod Sibbald said Scottish Woodlands had agreed to remove some of the raptor poles in a section of felled woodland south of the village.

**03.10 BROADBAND**

Councillor Rod Sibbald outlined the options available to the council:

**ETTRICK AND BEYOND**

This project is still at a very early stage. It is in the process of setting up a project team and management structure. They are targeting 90 per cent of their area for superfast broadband (30mbps and above) with the remainder getting a minimum of 10mbps. They are looking for the project to go live in 2018.

**BT COMMUNITY FIBRE PARTNERSHIP**

The community council is still waiting for an official quote from the partnership scheme despite frequent requests. A figure of between £200,000 and £250,000 has been discussed in a phone conversation but nothing has been forthcoming in writing yet.

## **STOBONET**

Gordon Hughes, of Stobonet CBS broadband scheme, has offered to come along and talk to the TCC about linking Tweedsmuir to the Stobonet radiowave broadband system.

### **R100%**

The forthcoming Scottish Government scheme of reaching 100 per cent of properties with superfast broadband is now known as R4 100% or Reaching for 100%. The scheme aims to deliver superfast broadband to all premises in Scotland by 2021,

### **COMMERCIAL ALTERNATIVES**

There is an option to explore 'commercial company' alternatives to all of the above to get quotes from a fibre-to-premises project on a similar basis to the BT partnership scheme. There are several commercial operators in Scotland.

After discussion, the meeting agreed to:

- 1** Continue with the BT Community partnership option - fibre to premises - and explore ways in which this could be funded by the community.
- 2** Withdraw from the Ettrick and Beyond scheme as this would be based on wireless technology as per Stobonet. If the council had to follow this route, councillors believed it would be better to join Stobonet as this was a scheme established already. Rod agreed to write to Ettrick, informing them of the CC's decision.
- 3** Invite Gordon Hughes, of Stobonet, to attend the council's next meeting in November. Rod said he would email Gordon.

Rod reported that he had attended the SBC's first digital forum in September, but would be unable to attend the next on 8 November. The secretary said he might be able to attend in Rod's absence.

## **04.10 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

The secretary reported that the council had received an invitation to the annual winter preparedness event for resilient communities coordinators at the SBC chambers in Newtown St Boswells on Tuesday, 15 November. The secretary agreed to pass to the invitation on to Tweedsmuir's chief co-ordinator Andrew Mason. The chairman added that all the equipment for the communities scheme had now arrived, with the exception of the shed to keep it in.

## **05.10 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS**

An application for £250 from Tweedsmuir resident Victoria White to help with funding for the Halloween and Christmas parties as well as the Young Burns supper - **Agreed.**

An application from Yvonne Waugh for £250 to help with funding for adult keep-fit classes held at the village hall every Tuesday - **Agreed.**

Councillor Lesley Kirkwood thanked the TCC for its help with funding towards the cost of attending a mountain leader's course at Glenmore Lodge, Aviemore. Lesley said she had passed the course and was now looking forward to organising guided walks in the area.

## **06.10 POLICE REPORT**

There was no police report available.

## **07.10 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

SBC councillor Keith Cockburn reported that the decision over whether to go ahead with the tapestry building in Galashiels had been put back to November, but that the council had decided at its last full meeting to abandon the 3G pitch plan for Peebles, with the money designated for that now going into road repairs. Keith agreed to look into whether SBC was still going ahead with a submission the Timber Transport fund to pay for the repair of Fruid Road, as intimated in an email to Tweedsmuir Community Council in May.

## **08.10 CROOK INN**

The chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company Mr Duncan Davidson said the company was seeking windfarm funding to repair the roof on one of the Crook's outbuildings with a view to turning it into a venue for the village. Work was still ongoing to prepare for applications to funders, including the Big Lottery Community Assets scheme, to pay for the Crook's refurbishment.

## **09.09 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Borders National Park** The secretary reported that the council had received notification of a stakeholder meeting for the planned park at Jedburgh Town Hall on Thursday, November 17, starting at 6.30pm.

**A701** Resident Christine Parker complained that the lack of white lines and collapsed verges meant many sections of the A701, from Tweedsmuir to the Dumfries and Galloway boundary, were in a dangerous state. Christine recalled that the SBC had promised to paint white lines along this stretch of road at the start of last winter, but had not done so. Keith Cockburn said he would ensure the A701 at Tweedsmuir was included in the annual review, and urged the council to send specific examples of the road's poor state of repair, including photographs, to the SBC roads department.

**BT** Councillor Lesley Kirkwood reported that she had contacted BT regarding rubble that had been left after recent work by the company, but was still awaiting a reply.

**The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on 3 November, 2016, 7.30pm.**

