

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, 12 January (7.30pm)

Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), community councillors Rod Sibbald, Lesley Mason, Lesley Kirkwood and Ralph Glatt. Scottish Borders Councillor

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

01.01 APOLOGIES

Police representative Nicola Craig, community council treasurer Brian Bushell, Scottish Borders Councillor Keith Cockburn

02.01 MATTERS ARISING

Tweeddale Community Council Network The secretary reported that the first meeting of the new Network was scheduled to take place at the Burgh Hall, Peebles, on Thursday, 26 January, starting at 7:30 pm. Organisers have asked if two members from each community council would attend, with Gavin Parker and Paul Greaves volunteering to attend for Tweedsmuir.

First Aid course The meeting decided that two dates - 23 February and 9 March, both Thursdays - should be submitted to Scottish Borders Council for its first-aid course planned to take place at the village hall as part of the Resilient Communities programme. The SBC would choose one of these dates. Councillor Lesley Mason said the course should be advertised widely in the community as it was important to get as many people along as possible.

03.01 BROADBAND

Councillor Rod Sibbald reported that Gordon Hughes, of Stobonet, was now happy to wait for the community to decide whether to go ahead with the Stobo service. This depended on a response from the BT fibre community partnership, the community council-preferred option, but Rod said BT was still to get back to him on costings and timescales.

04.01 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Councillor Lesley Mason confirmed that an emergency 'trial' was planned to be held in the area in the spring, but said that resilient community coordinators were in place to help with problems now. She said that, if any resident needed help, they should contact either Lesley Kirkwood or Andrew Mason

05.01 FIRST RESPONDERS

Councillor Lesley Kirkwood reported that she had attended a recent meeting of the Upper Tweed First Responders in Broughton when it was decided to set up the responders as a constituted group and to seek funding for equipment etc. They hoped to have the group set up officially by Easter. There were a number of representatives from Tweedsmuir, but Lesley said if anyone was interested in joining the group, they could see what was entailed at [Scottish Ambulance Service - Community First Responders](#)

06.01 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

The chairman reported that the council was still awaiting additional monies from SSE for its microgrant scheme and that SSE representative Gareth Shields had not been in touch so far regarding the induction of new members Brian Bushell and Lesley Kirkwood on to the SSE windfarm fund panel. Lesley offered to contact Gareth regarding this matter.

Councillor Lesley Mason said she was planning an application to help with funding for the 'Wool from the hill to the mill' production, an evening of music and poetry, to be staged at the village hall on 24 March. The meeting agreed in principle that this was a good idea. The application will be discussed in full at the next council meeting.

07.01 POLICE REPORT

The secretary reported that he had not received a police report.

08.01 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Keith Cockburn had been unable to attend due to the wintry weather.

09.01 PLANNING

16/01591/FUL: Erection of telecommunications pole and associated works on land at Quarter Hill, north-west of White Cottage, at Talla, Tweedsmuir.

The council had no objections but the secretary agreed to contact the council to point out that a number of residents had been missed off the 'neighbour contact' list.

10.01 CROOK INN

Tweedsmuir Community Company director Christine Parker said that a new, redesigned sign would be erected soon outside the Crook.

11.02 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Post Office The chairman reported that he had received a letter from the Post Office in regard to the temporary closure of the Broughton post office. Here is an excerpt from the letter, from Karen Bragg, Network Operations Manager:

I would like to assure you that we are working hard to keep any period of closure to a minimum and we are currently investigating the options available which will enable us to reinstate a Post Office service to the local community. In exploring this, it is important that any future service is sustainable for the person operating the service, and for Post Office Limited.

Railway path The chairman reported that he had been contacted by Mr Duncan Davidson, chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, to see if the council could help with the development of the walking/cycling path proposed by Upper Tweed Railway Paths to run from Tweedsmuir to the Crook Inn. One of the ideas would be for the council to lease the path from the local landowner and undertake any future maintenance. The meeting agreed to look into this and ask the advice of Scottish Borders Council on ways forward.

Archaeology night Dr Christopher Bowles, an archaeologist with Scottish Borders Council, is to give a talk on local heritage at Tweedsmuir Village Hall on Wednesday, 22 February (7:30pm). The talk is in aid of the Crook Inn Community Project. All welcome and please bring along photos or memorabilia of Tweedsmuir in the past to discuss over a cup of tea.

Family Scots night This will be held at the village hall on Friday, 3 February. Tickets can be purchased from councillor Lesley Mason.

Scottish Power The new number for outages of the power supply is 105. Councillor Rod Sibbald reported that he had complained to Scottish Power about dips in the power supply to the village. Scottish Power had undergone tests and had admitted there was a problem, which they are now investigating.

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on 2 February 2017, 7.30pm.