

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir
Village Hall, on Thursday, 2 March, 2017 (7.30pm)**

Present: Gavin Parker (chairman) (GP), Paul Greaves (secretary) (PG), Brian Bushell (treasurer) (BB), community councillors Rod Sibbald (RS), Lesley Mason (LM), Lesley Kirkwood (LK) and Ralph Glatt (RG). Five members of the public

The minutes of the council's meeting on 2 February were approved

Apologies

Nicola Craig, police representative, Catriona Bhatia, SBC councillor

01.03 Matters Arising

Crossroads signage: PG reported that signs, warning of children at the crossroads, had been erected by Scottish Borders Council.

Sandbags: The sandbag store is now full, with GP reporting that the shed in which to house the resilient communities' equipment had also arrived.

02.03 Broadband

RS reported that he had attended a meeting with representatives of Skirling and Upper Tweed community councils to look at ways the three councils could come together to campaign for better broadband. He had also received an email from Robert Thorburn, of BT, regarding the council's plans to investigate whether the BT Fibre Partnership programme was possible in the area. Below is an extract from the email:

1. I am still waiting for a planner to officially confirm whether the conditions on the proposal initially changed due to new network which I fundamentally changes the costs – at present I am working in the hundreds of thousands which I know is completely out of reach, but am convinced we have found a way to bring this down – I need this ratified and have a call on Friday re this, but I am not confident I will have ratified this fully as it is complex.
2. Re Aspiring communities – my legal team have taken a look and we have also discussed this with Scottish Government at a high level - none of us is 100 per cent convinced the grant would be applicable for broadband for a number of state aid and legal reasons but it is worth pursuing to ask the question, but I would definitely not put all eggs in one basket. Whilst I do not think I will have anything tangible for tomorrow night, I will see what else I can provide asap. I appreciate this is taking time and as soon as I have something meaningful, I want to come back out to explain and discuss.

RS said he had contacted the Aspiring Communities programme to clarify whether the BT Fibre partnership would be something it would fund and had also invited Mr Thorburn to the TCC's next meeting on 6 April.

RS added that he was also investigating reports that the 02/Vodafone mast in the village had been upgraded, contacting the company tasked with the work for 02 and Vodafone, CTIL, for clarification on whether the mast is now 3G (2mbs), 4G (100mbs) or H+ (21mbs) enabled.

GP reported that the new manager at Stanhope, Mr Iain McIlroy, was experiencing broadband issues and had asked to join the council's database.

03.03 Whitelaw Brae wind-farm application

PG confirmed that the TCC's response to the additional documents produced regarding the application had been sent to the Government. GP and all other councillors thanked resident Kirsty Stephens for all her hard work in regard to this matter.

04.03 Council Insurance

PG reported that, following a meeting with BB and RS, the insurance documents had been completed and returned.

RS said that two things had emerged regarding the insurance:

- 1 That all recipients of microgrant monies should be made aware that any activities undertaken with said monies were not covered by TCC insurance, and that they had to provide their own cover.

BB said he would look into how best to facilitate this.

2 Any volunteers for the Resilient Communities programme should be given an information sheet of dos and don'ts. LM said she would pass this on to the chief Resilient Communities coordinator but thought such an information sheet might already be in the RC pack. Councillors thanked RS for all his work regarding the insurance.

05.03 Resilient Communities

GP thanked the RC chief coordinator Andrew Mason for arranging the first-aid training night at the village hall, which had been of real benefit and well attended. The first-aid trainer who had taken the session had also offered to give further training, if required, in particular in the use of defibrillators. RS suggested the council should look into purchasing more defibs and GP added that this could be done when the Tweedsmuir and Upper Tweed First Responders group was fully up and running.

In the short term, it was decided to publicise details of the location of the existing defib in the village - which is in the bothy of the Rees' household at Dykehead. It was decided that this should be done via inclusion in the minutes, an additional note using the council's database, and posters at the village hall and crossroads.

BB pointed out that there was also a British Red Cross app, available to download via Google, which is of great value in explaining the basics of first aid.

LK said that, as part of the RC programme, it was planned to hold a scenario day when a mock emergency would be staged in the village. LK was now looking to decide on what form this emergency should take and asked for anyone with ideas to contact her as soon as possible.

06.03 Community plan

Cares, the group organising the community-plan process, had sent an email explaining details of the way forward. Once the TCC had approved the schedule, tenders would be sent out to consultancies and the work would start on the community plan in April and finish in July. The plan, which will entail communication with residents over ways to improve the area, will provide - through a final document - a focus for community development - in particular, broadband and transport - and should help with future bids for funding. GP pointed out that the Tweedsmuir Community Company was also formulating a community plan for the development of the Crook Inn.

07.03 Database

PG reported that the database, with telephone numbers and emails, had now been updated and brought into one document.

08.03 Treasurer's Report

BB circulated a paper (copy attached) detailing the monies received and spent from the S.S.E. and Infinis since the community council's inception in 2015. There have been 2 awards by the S.S.E. of £1,000 each for 2016/17 and 2017/18 respectively and 1 award by Infinis of £1,000 for 2017/18. In addition, the SSE launched the Youth bursary grant in 2016/17 and following a successful bid the community council was awarded £2,862.80p. At present there is £324.80p remaining from the Youth bursary grant which requires spending before the 31st of March, and £477.11p from the S.S.E. and Infinis grants to be spent upto and including the financial year 2017/18.

BB reminded the meeting that if the monies received from the SSE and Infinis for each financial year were not totally spent in the time allocated then this would have a "knock-on" effect for the subsequent financial year ie. the subsequent grant would merely top-up the under-spend to £1,000.

BB also informed the meeting that the S.B.C. grant for 2015/16 was still awaited and that this was due to the TCC omitting to minute at the last AGM that its councillors agreed to abide by the SBC's Code of Conduct. This undertaking has to be done each year by all CCs to enable them to draw down their grants from the SBC and this was overlooked; a mistaken assumption that, as it had been done once, it was not required again. It was noted that this will be done at the next and future annual meetings. However, to facilitate receipt of the grant for 2015/16 before the cut-off date on the 14 March this year, that this meeting's minutes record that all the councillors of the TCC agree to abide by the Code of Conduct of the SBC.

09.03 Website

Resident Hazel Mason was about to start work on updating the website and a progress report would be issued at the TCC's next meeting.

10.03 Post-office provision

The meeting was told that a mobile post office had been introduced, stopping in Broughton every Friday from 1.30pm-2pm. The meeting decided that PG should contact the post office to ask if the mobile service could be extended to Tweedsmuir

11.03 Microgrant applications

There were none this month, but GP said that Glenkerie was still looking for new members from Tweedsmuir for its funding panel. BB said he had applied some months back but had heard nothing since. GP promised to investigate the situation.

12.03 Police Report

See attached

13.03 Scottish Borders Council

There was no councillor at the meeting, but GP said he had attended the SBC's Tweed Forum on 1 March, and a number of matters had been raised.

Windfarms: Anyone with queries over any windfarm application can contact Mr Charles Johnston on cjohnston@scotborders.gov.uk or 01835 826671

Pension Wise: The forum urged people to use Pension Wise, which offers free advice on the pension laws for anyone over 50. Your first point of contact is your local citizens' advice bureau, while Mr Ian Heard, Roxburgh and Berwickshire Citizens Advice Bureau, is the chief coordinator for Pension Wise in the Borders.

Police: Residents should be aware that there are a number of phone scams operating in the area.

14.03 Crook Inn

Duncan Davidson, chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, said the community plan for the Crook was almost ready. The building at the back of the Crook was being re-roofed - plans for it may include a community cafe and activity space - and that new signage had been erected.

15.03 Any other business

Retirement of Minister: Minister of the parishes of Upper Tweed Bob Milne is retiring at the end of this month and his last service will be a joint one at Broughton on 26 March after which soup and sandwiches will be provided. All welcome

Forthcoming Event: The Wool to the Mills production at the village hall has been postponed by the performers from 24 March until 31 March.

Fruid Road: RS said the state of the road was now 'ridiculous' and 'dangerous'. Councillors agreed that something must now be done and agreed:

To ask the new councillors after the May elections to attend a site visit.

Contact the Press to publicise the state of the road.

Contact Jason Hedley, of SBC, to ascertain the council's plans for repairing the road.

Poaching: The meeting heard that there had been two reports from residents in the village of illegal lamping near their homes - - on Sunday, 28 February and Wednesday, 1 March.

Councillors agreed to contact the police on behalf of the residents and also inform Mr Doug McKenna, who has the stalking rights for the area in question, of the incidents.

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on 6 April 2017, 7.30pm.