

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir
Village Hall, on Thursday, 3 November 2016 (7.30pm)**

Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), treasurer Brian Bushell, community councillors Rod Sibbald, Lesley Mason and Ralph Glatt. 6 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 6 October were approved

Before the meeting began, a minute's silence was observed for Tweedsmuir resident Mrs Morag Roper, who sadly passed away in October after a long illness.

01.11 APOLOGIES

Community councillor Lesley Kirkwood, SBC councillor Catriona Bhatia and police representative Nicola Craig

02.11 MATTERS ARISING

A 701: The secretary reported that he had received a reply from SBC councillor Keith Cockburn over concerns about the state of the A701 raised at last month's meeting. The secretary read out the response:

The Asset Manager has replied that the overall condition of the A701 between Broughton and the Dumfries and Galloway boundary is good. The council has a provisional surface dressing programme for next financial year, which includes two sites on the A701 at Glenveg and Tweedsmuir Hall, but at this time the list is provisional and further review will be required to prioritise the projected spend on the whole A class network to match the available budget. The Borders wide list of sites being considered for resurfacing has two on the section of the A701 south of Broughton, at Polmood and the Crook Inn, but these have not been marked as high priority at this time. However, the council is aware of an accident site half a mile south of Newbiggin, and this will need to be assessed and prioritised for possible future inclusion in the resurfacing programme. In conclusion, there are some sites on the section of road in question that are being considered for possible inclusion in the surface treatment programme for next financial year, but this has not been fully assessed at this time, or finalised.

The meeting heard that councillor Lesley Kirkwood was in the process of taking photographs of the worst parts of the road and would forward these to Jason Hedley at SBC.

Crossroads signage: The secretary said SBC had informed him that the signage was now being built and would be erected as soon as possible.

03.11 BROADBAND

A presentation then followed from Mr Gordon Hughes, chairman of Dwyck Community Ltd, which runs the Stobonet broadband service, on the viability of extending Stobonet into the Tweedsmuir area. Mr Hughes' presentation is attached.

Mr Hughes then answered a number of questions from members of the public and councillors. On the question of funding the overall cost, £58,946, Mr Hughe said the best option would be to apply to local windfarms, who, in his experience, were extremely keen to fund such projects. He also said that the relay system did not need planning permission as it was permitted development. Mr Hughes added that the monthly cost to a customer would be £30 a month, with a £90 installation fee. However, he pointed out that customers who signed up would not need a BT landline and could arrange a VoIP phone service at much lower cost.

Mr Hughes was asked what would happen if one of the relay stations broke down. He said Stobonet would fix the problem as soon as they could, but may need local assistance to do so. Replying to a question about speeds, he added that at peak times, when demand for the

service was high, speeds would be around 20gb, with 30gb the speed at all other times. Mr Hughes warned that the downloading of HD films may use up a significant part of a customer's monthly usage - limited to 200gb a month - and concerns were expressed at the meeting that this might be a problem in that most of the media on offer was now in HD format. Mr Hughes said customers could buy extra gigabytes if required, and there was a business package on offer that doubled the monthly limit to 400gb.

The chairman concluded by thanking Mr Hughes for his attendance at the meeting and for his in-depth presentation.

04.11 BORDERS FOREST TRUST

Mr Jon Thomas, of Borders Forest Trust, kindly attended the meeting to discuss the Trust's plans for Talla and Gameshope. He said that next October a new area of native woodland was due to be planted, using contract work. The area would not be fenced, but stalking would take place. Mr Thomas was asked if it would be possible to signpost when stalking was due to take place as a number of residents walked in the area, and he agreed to look into the matter. He added that the next volunteer planting would take place next April, and he hoped as many Tweedsmuir residents as possible would take part. Mr Thomas also said a gate, with pedestrian access, would be constructed at the start of a track at the top of Talla Linns to dissuade motorised vehicles from using it, which has been the case in the past.

The chairman said he thought the community really appreciated the work the Trust was doing at Talla and Gameshope and thanked Mr Thomas for his presentation.

05.11 WHITELAW BRAE WINDFARM

The secretary said that a letter to one of the community councillors had seemed to suggest that the Whitelaw Brae windfarm had been given the go-ahead by the Scottish Government. On seeking clarification, the government had confirmed that no such decision had been made and that it would probably be January before any news on the windfarm application.

06.11 FRUID ROAD

SBC had been in touch to say that its application to the Timber Transport Fund for money to repair the Fruid Road had been unsuccessful. However, the secretary said that, although SBC councillor Catriona Bhatia had been unable to attend, she had sent details of where the extra money recently allocated to improve the roads infrastructure in the Borders would be spent. Fruid Road is included in this spend as a short overlay scheme, which, in effect, means the worst-affected parts of the road will be resurfaced, although not the entirety of it. The meeting welcomed this news.

07.11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

16/01339/FUL. Applicant: Mr Ralph Glatt. Proposal: Upgrade of layby/bellmouth to forestry entrance and upgrade of forestry track. Site: Land South East Of The Oak House, Tweedsmuir.

Councillor Rod Sibbald said he thought the line of sight from the entrance was restricted by nearby trees but that, if the trees were felled, this would negate the problem. The secretary said Scottish Woodlands plans were to fell all of the trees along the road, but agreed to contact the SBC to make it aware of the situation. The meeting was asked whether some of the trees at the back of the crossroads could be left to form a wind barrier for children using the school bus there. Mr Ralph Glatt, the applicant who was present at the meeting, said he would look into this, but said it might not be possible because of the danger the trees might fall down in heavy winds.

08.11 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Chief coordinator Andrew Mason confirmed that he would attend the winter preparedness session at SBC headquarters, at Newton St Boswells, on 15 November, and added that the store for the resilient equipment should be arriving shortly. Andrew had put forward

Tweedsmuir to be part of the SBC's first-aid course, but was still awaiting a response. He added that a meeting of potential first responders in the Upper Tweed area was being held on 23 November at Broughton Village Hall.

09.11 MICROGRANTS

The treasurer confirmed that monies from Glenkerie community windfarm fund had now arrived, and that the process to acquire further funding from the Clyde fund had begun. The chairman said there were vacancies for Tweedsmuir residents to sit on both the Glenkerie and Clyde panels and urged anyone interested to come forward. Councillor Lesley Mason asked whether it would be possible to notify applicants within 24 hours of any meeting whether their applications for a microgrant had been successful or not. The secretary agreed to take this on.

10.11 ACCOUNTS

The treasurer reported that Ms Katie Miller, of Skirling, had agreed to be the independent examiner of the community council's accounts.

11.11 POLICE REPORT

See attached

12.11 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

See Fruid Road

13.11 CROOK INN

Mr Duncan Davidson, chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company, said the TCC was in the process of formulating a community plan to form part of any future application for funding to refurbish the Crook Inn, and asked whether the community council would like to be involved. The secretary said he thought this was a good idea, as it would form a focus point for the many ways people in the area were attempting to improve it. Mr Davidson said he was, at the moment, looking into how to fund the plan, and would give more details at the next meeting.

14.11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Help to Adapt: The chairman said there was now help, via Scottish Borders Council, to adapt homes for the disabled in the area, and that anyone requiring more details should contact the secretary.

Christmas market: The Bridge, a voluntary organisation in Peebles, was holding its Christmas market in Peebles on 19 November.

Bus: There will be a return bus service from Broughton to Edinburgh on Saturday 10 December.

Christmas party: The Tweedsmuir Christmas Party will be held at the village hall on Saturday 17 December.

Sign: The meeting heard that the River Tweed sign at Carlowse Bridge was now missing the letter T, which had worn away. The secretary agreed to contact SBC for a replacement.

Multi-use sports facility: During a meeting of residents this summer called to come up with ideas on how to improve the Tweedsmuir community, resident Kirsty Stephens said that she had offered to look into the possibility of a multi-use sports facility in the grounds of the Crook Inn. Ms Stephens said, as part of that, she planned to send a questionnaire to residents, asking for their thoughts on the project. The secretary said he thought the plan was a great idea and the meeting agreed that the community council's database should be used to contact residents in this regard .

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on 1 December, 2016, 7.30pm.