

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir  
Village Hall, on Thursday, 1 June 2017 (7.30pm)**

**Present: Gavin Parker (GP, chairman), Paul Greaves (PG, secretary), community councillors Rod Sibbald (RS), Lesley Mason (LM), Lesley Kirkwood (LK). 3 members of the public.**

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

**01.05 APOLOGIES**

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

**02.06 MATTERS ARISING**

**Noticeboard** LM said, as requested at the May meeting, she had sought prices for a new noticeboard at the crossroads and said, for a metal construction, prices were between £250 to £300, although some were a lot more expensive. GP said a wooden noticeboard might be the cheaper option, and the meeting agreed he should seek a quote before deciding on the way forward.

**03.06 BROADBAND**

RS said he was still awaiting full costings from Robert Thorburn, of BT, but, in a recent email, he had suggested the figure would be lower than the £150,000 first mooted for the project to bring superfast fibre broadband to all properties in the Tweedsmuir area. Mr Thorburn had also suggested the costings would be available in the next two to three weeks.

**04.06 FRUID ROAD/PATERVAN BRIDGE**

PG said he had contacted James England, of the Scottish Borders Timber Transport Group, for an update over the application for funds to repair the Fruid Road. It appears no decision will be forthcoming until the week starting June 12. Regarding the new Patervan bridge, however, the Timber Transport fund has agreed to a grant, but not for the entire project. PG reported that the parties proposing the new bridge were still optimistic the project would go ahead.

**05.06 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT**

Councillors agreed that a committee should be set up to take this idea forward and would ask residents close to the crossroads if they would like to join. GP said he would chair the committee, and thought it should number around five to six.

**06.06 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

None

**07.06 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS/YOUTH BURSARY**

PG said BB, who unfortunately could not attend the meeting, had informed him that the cheque for the youth bursary - £2,500 - had arrived, and had also prepared a breakdown of amounts available for the SSE and Infinis funds as well as the youth bursary. GP also read out BB's suggestions regarding how to operate the funds:

- 1 TCC should make all residents, not only those on the secretary's mailing list, aware by a leaflet drop of the amounts available, the conditions, bid deadline and success/failure notification and the deadline for the expenditure.
- 2 The microgrants need to be bid for, rather than on a first-come-first served basis as previously operated.
- 3 Recipients of microgrants are bound by an application clause which excludes them from receiving a second grant within a 12-month period.

After discussion, councillors agreed that:

- 1 the community needed to be made fully aware of the funds and youth bursary, and that this should be done digitally via the council's database, with remaining households accessed via a leaflet drop. The website would also carry details.
- 2 Although councillors thought first come, first served was still the best policy to distribute the grants, it was agreed that the time period for applications should run from January to December, and that, in that timeframe, there would be a stipulation that recipients of microgrants could not receive a second grant, as per BB's suggestion.

**Microgrant application:** Parent Council of Broughton Primary School for sports equipment, including football goals, balls and bibs (£193.42). Decision: Refused

PG added that the SSE's Scottish Borders Sustainable fund, totalling £200,000, was now open for bids, with the deadline 10 August. Full details are available from the secretary.

#### **08.06 COMMUNITY PLAN**

GP reported that all forms had been distributed to the local community. PG said, so far, 39 questionnaires had been completed online, with 30 hard copies also submitted, and that organisers were delighted with the response. The survey is still open, and can be completed online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Tweedsmuirviews>

The questionnaires will be analysed by STAR, the organisation compiling the community plan, and representatives will present the survey's findings at a community event at the village hall on 1 July. Councillors agreed that Tweedsmuir Community Council's steering committee should meet on Sunday, 11 June, to prepare for the event to which all residents will be formally invited.

#### **09.06 POLICE REPORT**

A group of four men have been arrested in regard to break-ins in the Tweeddale area.

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

No councillor was present

### **11.06 CROOK INN**

Duncan Davidson, chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company, reported that the TCC was in ongoing talks with heritage consultants Jura with regard to the re-development of the Crook Inn as part of a plan to promote the River Tweed along its entire breadth. The Crook would form the hub for anyone wishing to visit the source of the Tweed, and the scheme would, hopefully, via a Heritage Lottery grant, fund conversion of the steading into a cafe, a new bunkhouse, camping and car park facilities.

### **12.06 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Speed limit:** RS said he had been extremely concerned over the speed of recent construction traffic building a new forestry bellmouth along the Talla road in the village. He had complained to Scottish Woodlands, the organisation undertaking the project, and asked councillors if they would agree that he should write to Scottish Woodlands, asking them to impose a speed limit on any vehicles involved in future construction work in the village. The meeting agreed to this. RS added that Scottish Woodlands could supply wild-flower seeds to plant at the bellmouth if the council thought this was a good idea. The meeting agreed that RS should ask Scottish Woodlands how much the seed would cost.

RS added that there would be no raptor poles left on the felled site - from the village crossroads to Menzion farmhouse - and that some of the area would be re-planted with broadleaf trees. He also reported that Scottish Woodlands had promised to protect the standing stones on the Fruid Road during felling.

**Bus service:** LM reported that her daughter - on her way to an exam at Peebles High School - had not been allowed onto the Broughton to Peebles bus because it was full. LM asked if the council would contact SBC to bring its attention to the problem. PG agreed to do this.

**Please note there is no meeting in July. The next meeting will be at the village hall on 3 August (7.30pm).**