**Tweedsmuir Community Council**

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 3rd August at 7.30 p.m. in Tweedsmuir Village Hall.

**Present**:- 5 Community Councillors: Gavin Parker (Chairman), Brian Bushell ( Vice-Chairman & Treasurer), Lesley Mason, Rod Sibbald, and Ralph Glatt; 2 S.B.C. Cllrs. Heather Anderson and Kris Chapman; Ben Campbell (BT Open-Reach) and 3 members of the public.

**01.06 Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Community Councillors Paul Greaves ( Secretary) and Lesley Kirkwood and PC Craig (Police Scotland).

**02.06 Matters arising.**

No matters arose from the previous meeting’s minutes.

**03.06 Broadband.**

Gavin Parker introduced Mr. Ben Campbell, BT (Open Reach) and asked to him provide an up-date on the status of its application to provide a quote for the provision of superfast broadband. He commenced by apologising for the inordinate delay BT (Open Reach) were taking to provide the quote and re-assured all that the matter would now receive more urgent attention under his direction. He did, however, state that the passing of time had, in fact, been to our advantage as some of the ground-work necessary for the cabling of the superfast broadband had already been done by mobile telephone companies O2 and EE to their respective mobile-telephone masts. This meant less ground-work having to be done by BT (Open Reach) which in turn would mean a lower quotation cost.

A lengthy and informative presentation provided scope for a wide-ranging discussion on several allied topics (summary below). Council requested Ben Campbell to give the meeting a ball-park figure for the provision of super-fast broadband speeds (more than 24 mbs) for the Tweedsmuir area. He obliged by stating a sum of between £80,000 and £100,000 based on 8 zones or clusters of dwellings. It would have been useful to obtain the names and quantities of houses in these zones but as time was against us. However, it’s the intention of Council to obtain this from Mr. Campbell before the next meeting, if only to avoid possible oversight and exclusion of premises from the quote. An example of this is the Fruid area, which when mentioned to Mr. Campbell received a vague response. **Action on Rod Sibbald.**

Some of the main topics discussed were:-

1. the Scottish Government’s plan to roll out super-fast broadband to 95% of Scotland’s population but unfortunately this excludes Tweedsmuir ,
2. R[egion]100 plan – Scottish Government’s stated aim NOT policy to reach 100% of Scotland’s population with future-proof, super-fast broadband, BUT only concerning infra-structure not broadband itself. It also comes with a £1,500 expenditure limit per premise (dwelling),
3. Universal Services Offering – a pre-emptive strike by BT Openreach to extend its existing scheme of delivering a ‘phone-line to every dwelling to include broadband – not future-proof!
4. Scottish Office assistance - a department exists to assist those who are interested using satellite for internet connection, because of inability to use ‘phone exchanges and lines, by arranging a 3rd party to supply equipment and to connect free of charge but with high on-going charges.

**04.06 Fruid road & Patervan bridge.**

Chairman Parker reported that re-surfacing work on Fruid road between the crossroads in Tweedsmuir and the Jubilee Road junction will commence upon the appointment of a clerk-of-works. The start-date and time-scale is unknown at present. Council felt that S.B.C. roads department should be aware of the possible likelihood of broadband cable ducts being needed in the future whilst undertaking this work and S.B.C. Councillors present undertook to do this. Patervan bridge is being re-built to accommodate timber-lorries and work is expected to start in 2 weeks and be completed by the end of September 2017. The Strategic Timber Transport Group is funding both projects. **Action on S.B.C. Cllrs Anderson & Chapman.**

**05.06 Crossroads development.**

Chairman Parker said that there had been no further development and is seeking volunteers from the community to assist himself with taking the plans forward. Anyone interested could contact himself on his land-line, 01899-880370. As it is still unclear and unknown whose responsibility it would be to conduct negotiations with the land-owner, Mr. Ralph Glatt and building contractor(s) any assistance from S.B.C. would be most welcome. S.B.C. Councillor Heather Anderson requested Chairman Parker to provide her with background information to assist her with looking into the matter. **Action on Gavin Parker.**

Brian Bushell enquired whether it would be possible for S.B.C. to provide ( free of charge) a reasonably sized (eg. 4 sq. feet) glazed notice-board (to enclose several A4 sized notices) and was informed by the councillors that it should be possible if such a request were to be made. **Action on Brian Bushell.**

**06.06 Planning applications.**

Cllr. Sibbald up-dated Council on its comments made to S.B.C.’s Planning department regarding a planning application to build in the grounds of a local property, Tweedside. Following Council’s comments about possible damage to nearby trees, both above and below ground level (root systems ) caused by building work and any possible impact on adjacent properties, the department is seeking provision by the agent of a tree plan of the site to ensure no adverse effects, before proceeding with granting permission.

**07.06 Micro-grants.**

There was one application to the S.S.E. Youth Bursary Fund, from a resident, Ms. Hazel Mason for the sum of £250 towards riding lessons. This was unanimously approved and a cheque will be written shortly. S.B.C.Cllr. Chapman was interested in matters concerning youths in the area and requested a copy of the 2016 end-of-year report which was submitted by the Community Council to S.S.E. Treasurer Brian Bushell will comply on obtaining a copy from the instigator of last year’s fund, Mr.Andrew Mason. **Action on Brian Bushell.**

**08.06 Community plan.**

Gavin Parker announced that a draft copy of The Community Plan has been prepared and has been approved. The final version is in the process of being printed and should be distributed to every household as well as to the 3 councillors in the Tweeddale West ward in the coming fortnight.

**09.06 Police report.**

Gavin Parker read aloud the Police report (appended to minutes) adding that there was much to be grateful for that apart from the road accident, without injury to any person, there was no other incident locally.

**10.06 Scottish Borders Councillor’s report.**

Of the 3 Tweeddale-West ward councillors:- Heather Anderson (SNP), Kris Chapman (LibDem) and Eric Small ( Scottish Conservative & Unionist), the former 2 were present. As both had much to say at their ‘inaugural Tweedsmuir Community Council meeting’ Brian Bushell requested, in the interest of accuracy of what was stated, that each provide a written synopsis of their report. This was to graciously agreed to by both Cllrs. (reports appended to minutes)**.**

**11.06 Crook Inn – update.**

Dr. Duncan Davidson - Chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company thanked all those who were involved in the production of “The Crook Inn Plan”, particularly Paul Greaves who was so instrumental in its actual production in print form. Copies of this have been distributed to all the households in the area.

**12.06 Any other business.**

Telephone fraud - Mrs. Parker (local resident) reported she had been the victim of a hoax telephone-call from a person posing as a bank employee seeking details. It was detected immediately and the conversation terminated. It was, however, a matter of equal, if not greater concern, that neither the Police telephone number 101, or the on-line Action-Fraud computer link were able to be contacted to report the matter. It is hoped that these minutes will come to the attention of the appropriate person to enable resolution and further Police reports will be scrutinized to see what action, if any, has been instigated.

Wool to the Mill - This event will occur on Saturday 9th September 2017 at 7 p.m. (poster appended to minutes).

Tour o’ the Borders - This event will occur on Sunday 3rd September 2017 and details have been posted to all households in the area. A link to the web-site will be supplied by Mrs. Christine Parker. Volunteers are keenly sought to assist in this area and may contact Mrs. Parker by land-line 01899-880370.

Tweedsmuir Community Company - Membership. Anyone wishing to join may use the form appended to minutes.

Tweedsmuir Resilient Community Group - Membership. Anyone wishing to be more aware of this group may use the form appended to minutes.

Tweedsmuir Community Council – Database. If anyone wishes to be part of the data-base which is used solely for the purpose of contacting residents and circulating minutes/notices please use form appended to minutes. NB. Information held will notbe disclosed to anyone other than the community council councillors unless permission is granted by the person on whom the data is held. The data-base is also subject to the Data Protection Act.

**Next meeting - Thursday 7th September at 7.30 p.m. Tweedsmuir village hall**