

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir
Village Hall, on Thursday, 7 December 2017 (7.30pm)**

Present: Gavin Parker (GP, chairman), Brian Bushell (BB, vice-chairman and treasurer), Paul Greaves (PG, secretary), Lesley Kirkwood (LK), Lesley Mason (LM), Ralph Glatt (RG). Eric Small (ES, Scottish Borders Councillor), Pip Tabor (PT) of Southern Upland Partnership and 6 members of the public.

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

01.11 APOLOGIES

SBC councillors Heather Anderson and Kris Chapman, and Police representative Nicola Craig

02.11 MATTERS ARISING

Whitelaw Brae windfarm PG reported that the Scottish Government had notified the community council that the application to construct Whitelaw Brae windfarm had been approved. The community council had opposed the application and had taken an active role in the public enquiry last year, but the meeting agreed that there was little the council could now do as there was no right of appeal, except on legal grounds, which the CC could not afford. GP said it was now imperative that the community received the benefits promised by the Whitelaw Brae developers in the run-up to the enquiry last year.

03.11 WILD LAND

Pip Tabor, of Southern Upland Partnership, attended the meeting to discuss the promotion of the Tweedsmuir area as a wild land area. PT said a few years ago Scottish Natural Heritage was tasked with identifying areas in Scotland that could be designated as wild land. SNH came up with two in southern Scotland - Galloway and Talla Fell/Tweedsmuir. PT explained that Southern Upland Partnership was keen to use this designation to boost tourism to the area. This would potentially help businesses in Moffat, Ettrick and, once open, the Crook Inn in Tweedsmuir. As part of the promotional plans, SUP had held discussions with an organisation called Rewilding Britain, which had offered to pay for a report into the benefits of the wild land area to southern Scotland, and in particular the two designated areas. The report would help when SUP had to approach the Scottish Government for monies to develop the wild land areas. Community councillors agreed that this was an excellent idea and fully supported SUP's work to develop the wild land area. GP thanked PT for his attendance.

04.11 DEFIBRILLATORS

LK reported that the CC was awaiting a decision regarding its application to SSE windfarm fund for monies to pay for two outdoor casings for the defibrillators available in the village. LK added that Peebles Cycling Club had agreed to meet the running costs, including the cost of a new set of pads, for one of the defibs.

05.11 BROADBAND

PG reported that Benjamin Campbell, of BT, had emailed to the TCC as follows:

Breakdown of Costs:

We are not able to provide a broken-down quotation for the various parts of the quotation. However, as I said on Thursday, if the civil engineering part is done by you, this will be beneficial on price.

Self-dig:

This would involve Tweedmuir Community Council performing the physical dig work. Openreach would provide the ducting material, junction boxes, and fibre. Openreach would blow the fibre (put it in the ducts). The costs of a civils contractor to Openreach would be saved. This option doesn't really work for the main road, as there are too many overhead to underground junctions, A-road closures required, etc. For both the Talla and Fruid farms, this would be a good option.

Can you please let me know which properties other than the farms at Talla and Fruid for which self-dig should be considered? I was thinking there may be some of the properties on the road to the Talla reservoir.

Timing and Next Steps:

Given that most of the design work has now been done, we would be able to turn around a quotation quicker than previously for this. However, it is in neither of our interests to go back and forward with many quotations. I realise though that we have to strike a balance, and make sure you get what you need. Please can you check on the attached list which properties would be suitable for self-dig, and then we can discuss getting a quotation to you.

Following this email, the council's broadband committee met for the first time, and decided that it would seek a new BT quote on the basis that the community would self-dig to all properties on the list. It was felt that this would keep the project simple, and Mr Campbell was notified of the decision. PG said since then he had not heard from BT, which he described as disappointing.

ACTIONS

PG promised to contact Rural North, a not-for-profit company in Lancashire which has connected a number of rural villages to superfast broadband there, for advice about self dig. Other companies should be contacted for quotes for the development as a whole.

06.11 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT

GP said the committee set up to further this project had now met and talks with the owner of the crossroads land were now underway to come up with an agreement for the development to take place. Once these were in place, plans would be drawn up and a planning application would be submitted to SBC.

07.11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

08.11 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

None. LM pointed out that monies were still available for the youth bursary. The deadline for applications was 31 March next year.

09.11 COMMUNITY PLAN

PG thanked BB for delivering the community plan brochures to residents in the area.

10.11 POLICE REPORT

No report was available, although the council heard that there had been a break-in at the Crook Inn, which had been reported to the police.

11.11 TREASURER'S REPORT

See attached.

12.11 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

ES reported that there had been a good response to the first round of the new Localities Bid Fund. ES added that the first meeting of the Area Partnership, which is replacing the Tweed Forum, would be held in Peebles on 10 January with the theme of economy, skills and learning. As part of the new Partnership set-up, four community council representatives would be present from the 12 community councils in the area. ES said it was up to the community councils how to operate this system. Partnership meetings will also be open to the public.

ES reported that talks with the SBC roads department were still ongoing regarding the establishment of a group to look into the state of the area's roads.

Action: The council agreed that a letter should be written to SBC to urge that the roads group be set up as soon as possible.

13.11 CROOK INN

Duncan Davidson, chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, said WTA architects had now completed the first draft of plans for a new cafe and bunkhouse on the Crook Inn site, which had been presented before the community council meeting. WTA was now attempting to cost the plans, which, once approved by the community company, would be the subject of a planning application to SBC. DD added that a meeting with Big Lottery was also scheduled shortly.

14.11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Fruid Road: PG reported that the council had received the following update from SBC:

Following on from my previous email, sent to you on the 4th October 2017, I can now confirm that SBC Contracts have now completed the preparatory drainage and passing place works and are now programmed to start the kerbing and further drainage works at C8 junction.

The kerbing and drainage works are due to take place from Wednesday 10th January to Friday 19th January 2018. During the works access will be maintained to all properties.

Once the preparatory works are completed the resurfacing works will follow starting Monday 22nd January for a duration of 7 days. The extents of the resurfacing works are indicated on the attached plan.

To comply with current Health & Safety Legislation, it will be necessary to close this section of road from 08:30hrs to 16:00hrs daily, Monday 22nd January to Tuesday 30th January 2018. Excluding weekends.

It is anticipated that the resurfacing works will start from the second access to Menzion forest and proceed down the hill towards the car park at the C8 Junction. Throughout the closure periods pedestrian access will be maintained to all businesses and properties. Unfortunately vehicular access will not be maintained during working hours. Although, it is the Contractors intention to open the road for a 30 minute window between 12:30 and 13:00hrs daily to help with access requirements. However, this may alter slightly due to unforeseen circumstances.

In the event of adverse weather it may be necessary to temporarily postpone the works.

I have liaised with our refuse team and Royal Mail to ensure any deliveries or collections will be made on the normal dates however, these will be made out with the working times.

A letter outlining the above will be issued to all residents on the D53/1 tomorrow, 8th December 2017. I will also contact Scottish Woodlands and Scottish Water to update them.

Tour of the Borders: GP reported that he had received the following email from race organisers:

We are writing to you from Hillside Outside, organisers of the award-winning [TweedLove Bike Festival](#) and [Tour O The Borders](#). We are always keen to keep Community Councils informed of our event plans, establish a point of contact should it be needed, and highlight the positive effects and economic impact our events have on the local community/economy. This year, our events had a total economic impact of well over £1 million in the Scottish Borders.

Tour O The Borders (the mass-participation closed-road sportive) with over 2000 riders taking part, is taking place on Sunday 2 September 2018. The event will start and finish in Peebles. Please see attached route map, which is unchanged from this year. We have only recently had confirmation that we can go ahead with this date (the preferred weekend as specified by SBC) as Pedal for Scotland/Cycling Scotland and Contraflow have confirmed date clashes can be avoided. We have moved quickly to get the event on sale and initial take-up is good.

We will now publicise this date information throughout the region as widely as we can, and planning will aim to restrict any road closure times to the minimum possible. Arrangements will be shared through local media, social media channels, online through web forums, and through community networks.

Every business and household around the route will also be sent road closure information by post early in 2018. Plans will also be published online, in local media and sent to communities as early as possible, as soon as logistics have been worked out and proposals checked by the Safety Advisory Group, traffic management and SBC officials.

We hope to continue to grow and develop our events, and with continued support from SBC and the local community, we believe that we can continue to put the Tweed Valley and Scottish Borders on the world cycling map.

If you have any questions or would like any further information, please let us know.

Action: To write to Hillside Outside to point out problems regarding this year's race, which, hopefully, can be avoided in 2018.

Village hall: Councillors were told that improvements to the village hall, including new doors and windows, had now been completed. The annual meeting of the village hall committee will be held at the hall on 1 February, and residents were urged to come forward to join the committee.

**The next meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council will be held on 1 February, 2018.
Please note there is no TCC meeting in January.**