

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir
Village Hall, on Thursday, 2 August 2018 (7.30pm)**

Present: Gavin Parker (GP, chairman), Brian Bushell, (BB, treasurer and vice chairman, Paul Greaves (PG, secretary), Lesley Kirkwood (LK), Lesley Mason (LM), Ralph Glatt (RG). Duncan Davidson (DD, chairman, Heather Anderson (HA, SBC councillor), Eric Small (ES, SBC councillor), Tweedsmuir Community Company) and 3 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 7 June were approved

01.08 APOLOGIES

None

02.08 MATTERS ARISING

None

03.08 BROADBAND

PG reported that, as of 2 August, the community had raised £90,500 through the Gigabit Voucher scheme towards the cost of the BT Openreach superfast broadband scheme (£184,177). This sum is made up of the following:

25 business vouchers@£3,000 per voucher £75,000

31 residential vouchers@£500 per voucher £15,500

Total £90,500

Shortfall (to be raised from remaining 21 responses and from external funding) £93,677

PG also reported that the council's broadband sub-committee is currently:

a Regarding the self-dig element of the project (Fruid and Talla Linns), planning to obtain consent from the landowners for contractors to access their land to lay the ducting/fibre . We hope to have all permissions in place by 15 September

b Preparing a tender for the self dig to distribute to several contractors by 15 August. In discussion with BT Openreach regarding the tender spec.

c Preparing applications to go before SSE and Glenkerie windfarm funding panels in October, with decisions expected in December.

d Preparing a prospectus which will accompany all applications to grant bodies

PG asked both HA and ES if the SBC would consider undertaking the self-dig part of the project on behalf of the community. HA said she would contact the relevant department at SBC to investigate this possibility. HA also suggested that the new South of Scotland Enterprise Agency might be able to point the council in the direction of further funding opportunities.

04.08 SOURCE OF THE TWEED MONUMENT

HA reported that the SBC had no responsibility for the site, according to its legal department. HA said that this opened up options for the administration and improvement of the site, including the possibility of the community council adopting it. She added that an information board was required, perhaps to be sited at the back of the monument, and that a bin for rubbish collection should also be sited there. HA thanked the council for cleaning the monument, and said she would now investigate accessing the Scenic Route Fund for money to undertake improvements.

05.08 SNOW BLOWER

PG reported that he had forwarded on local resident Simon Goldfinch's credentials as a possible trainer in the use of the snow blower to the insurers, and that they had responded: **"Our policy will cover the Public Liability aspect of this Snow Blower. We would expect that any person using this has appropriate experience/training to use the equipment."**

Further help from the department that deals with insurance for community councils in the Scottish Borders, had suggested that :

- 1 Trainees should sign a waiver of any claim
- 2 All training should be documented
- 3 Simon Goldfinch should sign off on any training

PG also reported that he had attempted to find other options regarding snow blower training, and had found one from a company in England. They proposed training for eight residents, but at a cost of £3,500.

Councillors agreed to go ahead with an application to the windfarms for the cost of the snow blower and to accept Simon Goldfinch as trainer in the event of a successful bid.

RG, who has snow-clearing equipment on his farm at Hearthstanes, had also offered to help with snow clearance in the area and LM asked if the council could contact SBC to make them aware of this resource. PG agreed to contact SBC in this regard.

06.08 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT

GP reported that prices for the groundworks had been provided and that the project was close to an application for funding. GP also asked for volunteers to form a committee to help take the development forward.

07.08 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Blacklaw Cottage - Ref. No: 18/00631/FUL.- Approved

08.08 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

SSE, Youth bursary: Callum and Vicky White, Carlouse, Tweedsmuir, £75 for son to attend football camp: Approved.

09.06 POLICE REPORT

See attached

10.06 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A701: Cllr Heather Anderson led representatives from the four Community Councils in a round table Discussion on the state of the A701 with officers from the SBC roads department.

Cllr Anderson is also keen to attract funding to develop the A701 as a real tourist route to Edinburgh and create more jobs. "This road has a great story to tell and interesting places to stop – including the source of the Tweed and conservation villages like West Linton".

Village Centre: Following a shock announcement that West Linton Village Centre was to close, Cllr Anderson is delighted that a very active group of Lintonians are working to come up with a plan to ensure this much-loved hall remains a village asset.

Business development: Cllr Anderson is working with officers to try to secure more sites for businesses and economic development in Tweeddale West. If you are looking for work space or have space you can contact Cllr Anderson at 0300 100 0220 or

Heather.Anderson@scotborders.gov.uk

High School: In October Scottish Borders Council will decide which High Schools will be rebuilt or substantially refurbished. In the first round of consultation, Peebles came third despite being nearly at capacity. Cllr Anderson, who led the opposition budget team. said "We allocated £32.3m funds to ensure that at least 3 High Schools could be rebuilt over the next 10 years. Peebles has to be one of those schools. This shouldn't be a popularity contest – Peebles is a priority!"

Local bus service: Over 3,460 people signed Councillor Anderson's petition in support of the local 101/102 bus service connecting Dumfries, West Linton and Edinburgh – that's over 30% of the Tweeddale West population! Cllr Heather Anderson, explained "Scottish Borders Council reduced the bus subsidy by £100,000, but whatever happens, we will continue to fight to protect and improve, not reduce, vital local bus services".

Universal Credit: Cllr Heather Anderson and Christine Grahame MSP visited Job Centre Plus in Galashiels to find out if staff are prepared for the introduction of Universal Credit in Scottish Borders. Across Scotland people have experienced real hardship, with up to 52% being worse off. Every person who claims universal credit must travel to Galashiels for an Identity Verification Interview. Cllr Anderson is worried that people might not get the support they need to make the first on-line claim and manage to travel to Galashiels for the interview.

"Public transport from this side of the Borders is extremely limited and expensive and travel costs are not reimbursed. That's why we argued for new Universal Credit Officers to assist with claims and we will continue to campaign against Scottish Borders Council cuts to vital welfare rights and Citizens Advice services".

11.06 CROOK INN

DD, chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company, reported that a grant had been awarded to the TCC from the Holyrood government's Strengthening Communities Fund. This would be used to:

- 1 Contract Jura Consultants to help with the business plan and to raise funding for the new cafe and bunkhouse
- 2 To employ a part-time project manager for six months, although this may be extended.

12.06 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Windfarm: GP reported that he had received a letter from e.on regarding their plans to build a windfarm at Daer Reservoir, South Lanarkshire. E-on have now received planning permission to erect two masts at the site and again asked if anyone from the council would be willing to attend a proposed Community Liaison Group.

Village hall: A night of entertainment and food, featuring the group Jellyman's Daughter, was being arranged by the Tweedsmuir Community Company in conjunction with Eastgate Theatre for November.

**The next meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council will be held on
Thursday, 6 September, 2018 (7:30pm).**