

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir
Village Hall, on Thursday, 7 September 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 Tweedsmuir Community Company) , Heather Anderson (HA, SBC councillor), Eric Small (ES, SBC councillor), and 3 members of the public.

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

01.09 APOLOGIES

Community councillor Mark Cullen and police representative Nicola Craig.

02.09 MATTERS ARISING

None

03.09 BROADBAND

HA reported that she had been in conversation with Bryan McGrath, head of economic development at Scottish Borders Council. Mr McGrath, who is also in charge of broadband development in the region, had given Tweedsmuir's scheme the thumbs-up, describing the community partnership route as a 'great deal and the right way to go.' Mr McGrath had also suggested getting in touch with Duncan Nisbet, the head of the Scottish Government's R100 programme, for further support. PG asked HA if it would be possible for McGrath to write a letter of support for the scheme, which could accompany the proposed bids to the SSE and Glenkerie windfarms. HA said she would ask Mr McGrath for such a letter.

PG reported that the Gigabit Voucher scheme had now raised £96,000 and that there had been a further meeting with Steve Johnstone, of BT Openreach. During that meeting, Mr Johnstone had suggested the council should keep back a certain number of vouchers to be able to replace any residents or businesses who drop out once the contract is signed. In the event of that happening, the council becomes liable for any shortfall. After discussion, councillors agreed that it would be prudent to hold back £10,000 in vouchers, leaving £86,000 to go towards the overall cost. PG said a list of voucher pledgers would be going to BT Openreach shortly. BT would then forward this on to Westminster for verification. PG added that residents who had pledged would receive an email from the government to verify their details and their acceptance of the scheme's terms. PG confirmed that a newsletter would go out to let people know the procedure as soon as possible.

HA said SBC was not in a position to carry out the self-dig work, but suggested that monies could be raised via the Localities Bid fund. She also suggested that advice was available at SBC regarding other funding routes and promised to send contact details of the person to talk to about this at SBC.

Councillors also decided that any application should be joint between Tweedsmuir Community Council and Tweedsmuir Community Company.

04.09 SOURCE OF THE TWEED MONUMENT

HA said she was still awaiting a response with regard to accessing Scene Route Fund monies to undertake improvements at the monument. GP said that the council would be willing to keep the site clean and tidy but were reticent about adopting it and having the responsibility of more wide-scale development at the site.

05.09 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT

GP said he had received one quote for undertaking the development at the crossroads and added that an application to the windfarms was imminent. However, GP added that priority was for the broadband applications and it was imperative to ensure that an application for crossroads monies did not clash with those for the broadband scheme.

06.09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

07.10 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS/WINDFARMS

SSE, Youth bursary: Kirsty Stevens, Blacklaw Cottage, Tweedsmuir, £50 for son to attend rugby camp: Approved.

Broadband costs: Councillors agreed that any expenses incurred re the council's broadband applications to the windfarms - ie the cost of printing the brochure - should come out of community council funds.

Windfarms: GP said there were three places available on the Glenkerie panel and urged Tweedsmuir residents to take them up. GP added that there are four meetings a year and full training would be provided. The application process was now open and details could be found in the latest edition of the Community News.

08.10 POLICE REPORT

See attached

09.10 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Buses: HA said the Edinburgh bus service cuts were still a major issue. She had attended a meeting in West Linton when residents vented their anger that Stagecoach was finishing its service to Edinburgh at 7:30pm. HA added that an evening shuttle service, run by the community, was at the moment being costed.

Localities Bid Fund: HA said that all applications should be in by the end of September.

Windfarm: ES reported that a windfarm application for a site near Hawick had been rejected by the SBC planners.

Scottish Borders Police Community Action Team: ES said this had been set up in April to tackle local issues across the area. The team had now produced an impact report from April to June, which can be accessed via xxxxxxxxxxxx

10.11 CROOK INN

DD reported that a project officer - Bruce Clarke - had been appointed to take the Crook Inn project - and wider community development - forward. Mr Clarke would take up his post later in September.

11.12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Broughton shop: A meeting will be held regarding the re-opening of the village shop at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, September 12 (7pm).

Visit: MP David Mundell will hold a surgery at Tweedsmuir Village Hall on Monday, September 17 at 9:30am.

Tour of the Borders: LM said the Tour of the Borders had been a great success and had gone off without incident. However, LM asked if organisers could be asked if it would be possible to open the section of the road from the A701 down to the village crossroads at the same time as the main A701 is opened. It is always opened later, which means villagers have to wait for access on to the A701, although it is, in fact, open.

Layby signs: LM suggested that SBC should erect a sign at their laybys, pointing out that there was no litter bin and urging people to take their litter home. LM said she had seen such signs at laybys outside Scottish Borders, and they seemed a good idea. HA said she would raise this with SBC.

Mobile post office, Broughton: It was pointed out that times for this service had now changed to 10-10.30am every Friday outside Broughton school.

**The next meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council will be held on
Thursday, 4 October, 2018 (7:30pm).**