

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir  
Village Hall, on Thursday, 7 February, 2019 (7.30pm)**

**Present:** Gavin Parker (GP, chairman), Brian Bushell (BB, treasurer and vice chairman), Paul Greaves (PG, secretary), Mark Cullen (MC), Lesley Mason (LM), Lesley Kirkwood (LK), Heather Anderson (HA, Scottish Borders Councillor), Eric Small (ES, Scottish Borders Councillor), Duncan Davidson (DD, chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company), and 3 members of the public.

**The minutes of the council's meeting on 6 December were approved**

**01.02 APOLOGIES**

Community councillor Ralph Glatt and police representative Nicola Craig

**02.02 MATTERS ARISING**

**Snowblower:** PG informed the meeting that the snowblower had now arrived and training would be arranged shortly.

**Signage:** ES said £325 had been allocated from Scottish Borders Council's small grant scheme for the erection of take-your-litter-home signage at the Source of the Tweed monument on the A701 as per the suggestion of community councillor Lesley Mason last year.

**03.02 BROADBAND**

PG said the application to Glenkerie for £69,000 had now been submitted and the broadband committee had since undergone a question-and-answer session with Foundation Scotland, who run the scheme for Glenkerie. Foundation Scotland was expected to give a recommendation to the local panel at the end of February before the panel meets on 13 March for a decision. It was decided to send out brief newsletter to the community council's database to bring everyone up to date with the latest developments.

**04.02 CHANGE WORKS**

PG apologised for not contacting Change Works to see if a public meeting could be arranged in Tweedsmuir as per the December meeting, and said he would contact them shortly.

## **05.02 BUS SERVICE**

GP reported Tweedsmuir Community Council had sent a letter (see below) to Scottish Borders Council (SBC), supporting Upper Tweed Community Council's bid for an allocation of £300,000 from the SBC budget towards providing a better bus service in the Upper Tweed area.

*Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing on behalf of Tweedsmuir Community Council to support Upper Tweed Community Council's request that consideration be given to the allocation of £300,000 in 2019/20 and subsequent years to finance those areas at present "public transport deprived."*

*We offer our support for the following reasons:*

*1 Tweedsmuir, just 35 miles from a capital city, has **NO** public transport provision at all.*

*Residents expressed their dissatisfaction with this state of affairs most forcibly when the community council canvassed views for its community plan, and introducing some sort of transport provision to the village is high on the council's list of aims.*

*2 Although the UTTC's request is to improve services in Broughton, any improvement there would be of immense benefit to Tweedsmuir residents, who we are sure would travel the six miles to Broughton to make any bus connection. TCC, therefore, would welcome any pilot schemes, as identified in the UTTC letter, and feel sure they would be well used by residents of both Broughton and Tweedsmuir.*

*3 Any additional bus services would encourage tourism and help regenerate an area that has witnessed steady decline over the past 20 years, with the closure of Broughton village shop the most recent example of a distressing trend.*

*It is high time that the present deplorable lack of public transport is tackled, and we would urge the budget team to support the allocation of £300,000, as requested by UTCC, for an improvement that would have real and tangible benefits for the communities of the Upper Tweed valley.*

## **06.02 STATE OF THE A701**

Resident Rod Sibbald said he regularly travelled on the A701 to Moffat and complained that the road had deteriorated to such an extent that it was now in a dangerous condition and required urgent repair. He said drivers often drove in the middle of the road to avoid the potholes at the edges and that along large parts of the roadway there were no white lines at all.

ES said residents should complain as individuals by using the SBC website as per the link below:

[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/site/xfp/scripts/xfp\\_form.php?formID=297&language=en](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/site/xfp/scripts/xfp_form.php?formID=297&language=en)

PG also agreed to contact SBC with a formal complaint.

## **07.02 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT**

GP said this would be developed once the broadband scheme had gone through the windfarm funding scheme.

## **08.02 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS**

**Ballet lessons:** Application to SSE youth bursary scheme for £200 for ballet lessons for Carla Kotze - **Approved.**

**Horse riding:** Application to SSE youth bursary scheme for £250 for horse riding lessons for Christian Kotze - **Approved.**

**Dyslexia support:** Application from Nicola Kotze to SSE for £250 for course to teach dyslexia support - **Approved.**

**Laptop purchase:** Application to SSE youth bursary for purchase of laptop for Aidan Kotze - Declined pending further discussion/clarification

## **09.02 POLICE REPORT**

### **Rural Thefts**

Between 1410 and 1730 hours on 31st October a red Honda Quad bike was stolen from a shed at Tweedshaws Farm. On 21st November a report was received that the Crook Inn had been broken into and a quantity of copper and lead stole.

### **Speeding/Road Traffic**

There have been no reports of speeding or accidents since your meeting in November meeting. Road Policing Officers and the Safety Camera Partnership along with local officers continue to give attention to the A701.

### **Incidents of Note**

Between 5th and 7th January a unit at Mossfennan Lodge was broken into and attempts made to steal a generator battery. A £1000 worth of damage was caused.

Between 30th December 2018 and 26th January 2019 a quantity of power tools were stolen from Broughton Knowe.

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

HA reported that the budget process at SBC was now well underway, with the budget due to be decided on 25 February. She added that SBC had also initiated planning to cope with a no-deal Brexit.

ES reported that the council had voted in favour of dialogue with Midlothian council with regard to improvements at the Leadburn junction, near Penicuik. Although the junction was in Midlothian, the number of people using it from the SBC area was significant and, therefore, made it imperative that improvements be carried out there.

ES also reported that the Dreva Road, Broughton, would be closed for drainage repairs on 25 February.

### **11.02 CROOK INN**

DD said that the work of groups set up to look into ways of marketing the area and the Crook was ongoing, with an emphasis on ideas for walking, cycling, heritage, landscape and business aspects of running the planned bunkhouse and cafe. Bruce Clarke, the new project officer for the Crook, had asked whether the community council database could be used to disseminate information about the project. Councillors agreed that, once approved at a monthly meeting, an attachment could be included with the minutes, which would give residents the option of not opening the attachment if they so wished.

### **12.02 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Sports equipment:** LM asked whether the council would support a project to buy sports equipment for the community and the purchase of a new storage unit to house the equipment. Councillors agreed that this sounded a good idea and agreed it should be developed.

**Dog fouling:** Resident Rod Sibbald said there had been a number of incidents of dog fouling in Kirk Road from the crossroads down to the church. Mr Sibbald agreed to purchase signage to ask dog owners to clear up any mess, with the council reimbursing Mr Sibbald for the cost.

**Tree planting:** Mr Sibbald applauded the planting of hundreds of trees in the village recently. He had been told by one of the planting team that this had been paid for out of the forestry owner's own pocket and that the trees would, when mature, offer an array of autumn colour. PG agreed to contact the forestry owner/agents to thank them.

**Next meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council will be held on 7 March at the village hall (7:30pm)**

