

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council (CC) at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday 7th November 2019 (7.30pm)

Present: Gavin Parker (GP, Chairman), Brian Bushell (BB, Treasurer and Vice Chairman), Debbie Cullen (DC, Secretary), Mark Cullen (MC), Heather Anderson (HA, Scottish Borders Councillor), Eric Small (ES, Scottish Borders Councillor) and 6 members of the public.

Amendments to the minutes of the last council meeting on 3rd October 2019. Item 08.10. Transport for Poker group to a concert – Application to SSE for Micro-grant, not to SSE Youth Bursary.

01.11 APOLOGIES

Ralph Glatt, (Community Councillor), Nicola Craig (Police representative).

02.11 MATTERS ARISING

- Access at Hill House. **GP** reiterated that the Community Council were not able to comment until a determination had been made by Scottish Borders Council.
- Letter of complaint regarding potential Breach of Conduct by Community Councillors. **GP** reported having spoken with those concerned and reviewed the Code of Conduct. There was no evidence of any breach and the matter is therefore closed.

03.11 BROADBAND

MC reported that the progress anticipated following the previous meeting had not materialised. Consequently, **MC** wrote to the Head of BT Group outlining the situation and requesting his support to move things forward. **MC** received a response by return, informing that a member of Open Reach (OR) Executive Committee would make contact. A representative, Julie Baxendale, member of OR Executive Council for Infrastructure, subsequently made contact and apologised for the current situation and informed that she will now be managing the project. Ms Baxendale reported that the project had been resurveyed and is now with the contracts team. They are working on issuing a contract asap and **MC** expects another update from on 18th November.

In response to a request for an update from one of the wind farms **MC** produced an update briefing. This was circulated. It was agreed this update would be sent to both wind farms, attached to the meeting minutes (Appendix 1) and posted on the TCC website.

GP reported that local MP David Mundell had written to OR expressing concern at the ongoing difficulties being experienced with the Broadband Project. OR had declined to respond maintaining that **GP** referred to in Mr Mundell's letter, was not 'recognised' by OR as someone involved with the project.

04.11 CHRISTINE GRAHAME VISIT

Duncan Davidson (DD, local resident) reported that following the success of the Tweedsmuir Development Project Bid, Christine Grahame had expressed an interest in meeting to discuss the work of the Tweedsmuir Community Company and other local issues e.g. The Crook. A meeting has been arranged for 13th November at the Scottish Parliament.

05.11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

One application had been received. The replacement of a barn with a multi-purpose building.

Ref: 19/01505/FUL | Erection of agricultural building | Hearthstane Farm
Tweedsmuir Scottish Borders

GP reported having received notification of plans for the removal of timber at Cor Water. Link to details requested.

06.11 TREASURERS REPORT

BB updated, report attached. (Appendix 2)

07.11 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

- **Support for local fitness classes.** Application to Ventient Microgrant for **£250** from **Yvonne Waugh. Approved.**
- **Support for Physics tuition.** Application to SSE Youth Bursary for **£250.** From **Dirk Adrian Kotze. Approved.**
- **Support to maintain the defibrillation equipment.** Application to Ventient for **£142.59** from **Lesley Kirkwood. Approved.**

Thanks were expressed to Lesley Kirkwood for checking and maintaining the defibrillation equipment. There are 2 defibrillators, one located at the Community Hall and the other at the crossroads. In the case of an emergency, the ambulance service should be contacted on 999. They will then provide the code to access the equipment.

BB reported having received feedback from 2 recent grant recipients, Fergus Mason and Aiden Mason.

GP feedback regarding a recent meeting hosted by SSE to promote their new Borders Fund. **GP** took the opportunity to put in an application for funding for notice boards to promote SSE Grants, similar to those already in place to promote Ventient Grants.

GP tabled information from Ventient regarding local Grant Awards.

- Tweedsmuir Hall - £9,966.00 to fund connection of the Hall to mains water supply.
- Skirling Village Hall - £3,414.00, contribution to the modernisation of the hall.

08.11 POLICE REPORT

A report had been received. There were no reports of rural theft and the police and Safety Camera Partnership continue to give attention to the A701.

Rod Sibbald (RS, local resident) asked, given the recent recruitment of additional police officers as part of the Community Action Team, if periodic speed monitoring could take place along the Tweedsmuir section of the A701. **ES** suggested a request from the TCC to Councillor Turnbull, might be the best way forward. **HA** suggested that a request for a report about the time already spent by the team in this area might also be helpful. **GP** to action.

09.11 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- **HA** reported that there will be a consultation regarding the introduction of a bylaw regarding the consumption of alcohol in public places. Introduction of a bylaw will be piloted in several areas across the SBC area.
- There has been further discussion re: playpark provision. Decisions about any future closures have been returned to the Council for further consideration.
- **HA** highlighted the work of Peebleshire Charitable Trust – a Trust to support ill and elderly people in Peebleshire. Copy of information attached. (Appendix 3)
- Due to the election, budget setting for the UK, including the settlement for Scotland is likely to be delayed, impacting on financial planning/decision making for 2020/21.
- Funding has been secured from SBC to enable the Citizens Advice Bureau to

- be more proactive in supporting those eligible to apply for 'Settled Status'.
- **ES** reported the planning application for 11 dwellings in Broughton will be considered shortly.

10.11 CROOK INN

DD reported that the process of recruiting a new development officer should be concluded shortly.

11.08 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **GP** reported back on the recent Area Partnership Board (information can be found on the TCC website). The next meeting is scheduled for 14th Jan 2020, 6.30 for 7pm start. If anyone would like to attend with **GP** please let him know.
- Road closures on A701 for resurfacing, funded in part by the Timber Transport Scheme. Information previously circulated.
- A letter from David Mundell had been received confirming an ongoing commitment to maintain local health services at the Kello and Ladyholm Hospitals.
- **HA** to follow up regarding the lack of progress regarding local signage.
- People were once again encouraged to report any potholes online.
- SBC and Events Scotland are holding a free half day (1pm start) industry workshop on 21st November at Tweed Horizons, Newton St Boswells. Information can be obtained from Jane Warcup jwarcup@scotborders.gov.uk
- SBC have launched an interactive tool to enable residents to express their views regarding future spending priorities in their area. <https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/customer-communities/scottish-borders-budget-challenge/>
- **RS** requested an update regarding progress for the development of the Crossroads, as detailed in the Tweedsmuir Community Plan. **GP** confirmed that this project had been put on hold whilst funding was sought for the Broadband Project. Whilst happy to take the project forward, **GP** reported needing input and support from members of the community. There was discussion about the possibility of this development falling within the remit of the new development officer. However, regardless of how this project is taken forward community involvement will be crucial. Anyone interested in getting involved please contact **GP**.
- The Big Quiz 15th November in Tweedsmuir Village Hall – A funding event for RHET.
- **BB** to source and update email distribution membership form so it is available to new members of community

**Next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council will
take place on Thursday 5th December 2019 at the
Village Hall at 7.30**

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Gavin Parker – Chairman
Brian Bushell – Vice Chairman/Treasurer
Ralph Glatt – Councillor
Lesley Mason – Councillor
Mark Cullen – Councillor
Debbie Cullen – Secretary (Co-Opted)



Tweedsmuir Community Fibre Project – Update Nov 2019

Following the successful completion of the fundraising element of the project back in April 2019 the Tweedsmuir Broadband team have been liaising with Openreach to complete the necessary activities to enable Openreach to issue a contract for the works.

Unfortunately, the activities required by Openreach to enable them to issue the revised quotation and contract have suffered significant delays.

Openreach had a number of activities to complete before the contract could be issued: -

1. Re-survey the route for the Fibre to Premise installation
2. Obtain landowners details and consents for self-dig elements of project
3. Provide options regarding self-dig, including “armoured cable lay” and “wire on pole” options
4. Complete Technical assessment of proposed works
5. Produce project proposal document
6. Issue revised quotation and contract

There have been no delays on the part of the Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) in responding to any requests for information from Openreach. Unfortunately, despite this we have faced continuing delays, little or no communication or updates and no indication of timeline.

Because of this on Sunday 3rd November TCC wrote a letter of complaint to Philip Jansen, Chief Executive of BT Group, asking him to intervene and try to move our project forward.

TCC received a response the same day, apologising for the situation and informing us that our project would now be handled by a member of Openreach Executive Infrastructure Committee and they would be touch shortly.

On Monday 4th November Julie Baxendale, a member of the Openreach Executive Infrastructure Team contacted TCC to again apologise and inform us that she would be taking over responsibility for our project and would provide and update shortly.

We have now been given an update and below is summary: -

1. Re-survey the route for the Fibre to Premise installation - **Complete**
2. Obtain landowners details and consents for self-dig elements of project – **Complete**
3. Detail options regarding self-dig, including “armoured cable lay” and “wire on pole” options - **Complete**
4. Complete Technical assessment of proposed works – **Complete**
5. Produce project proposal document – **To be completed w/c 25/11/19**
6. Issue revised quotation and contract – **To be issued w/c 2/12/19**

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Whilst we are disappointed not yet to be in a position to sign the contract, we feel more optimistic that Openreach will now complete the outstanding activities in line with the timeline issued.

Despite these delays, we still feel confident the project will progress and expect site works to begin in the new year. We will be able to issue another update during December, hopefully with a more positive outlook

Mark Cullen – Councillor, Tweedsmuir Community Council, Broadband Project Team

Contact:-

Telephone: 01899880259
Email: mark.cullen@me.com

Transactions for the period 1/4/'19 - 31/10/'19

	£
Carried forward from previous financial year	1,046.62
Income since 1/4/'19	
S.B.C. grant	540.00
S.B.C. hall hire	280.00
Ventient micro-grant	1,000.00
S.S.E. Youth bursary	2,500.00
<u>Sub-total</u>	<u>4,320.00</u>
Total	5,366.62
Expenditure since 1/4/'19	
From S.B.C. funds	
Printer toner	42.69
Web-site hosting	17.99
Donation to Christmas Party funds	50.00
Total	110.68
From S.S.E. micro-grant funds	
Contribution to youth football club	250.00
Contribution to Tweedsmuir book club	250.00
Contribution to Tweedsmuir Poker group	250.00
Total	750.00
From S.S.E. Youth bursary	
Hazel Mason	250.00
Fergus Mason	250.00
Ben White	245.00
Harry Stevens	250.00
Aiden Mason	250.00
Hannah Roper	250.00
Dirk Kotze	250.00
Total	1,745.00
From Vetient micro-grant funds	
L. Kirkwood - de-fib pads	142.59
Y. Waugh - fitness class	250.00
Total	392.59
From S.S.E. Community grant funds	
Snow-blower training & materials for shed to house same	400.00
Total	400.00
Total expenditure	3,398.27
Balance in bank	1,968.35

ABOUT THE TRUST

PEEBLESHIRE CHARITABLE TRUST

Since the Trust was established in 1962, Peeblesshire Charitable Trust have been dispensing funds to benefit ill and elderly people in Peeblesshire.

Funds are available to benefit residents of nursing homes in Peeblesshire, day care and in-patients of Peeblesshire hospitals and individuals who are being supported to remain within their own homes in Peeblesshire.

PROJECTS & PEOPLE IN PEEBLESHIRE

The purpose of any award is to support recreational and amenity provision, which complements but does not substitute for statutory NHS provision.

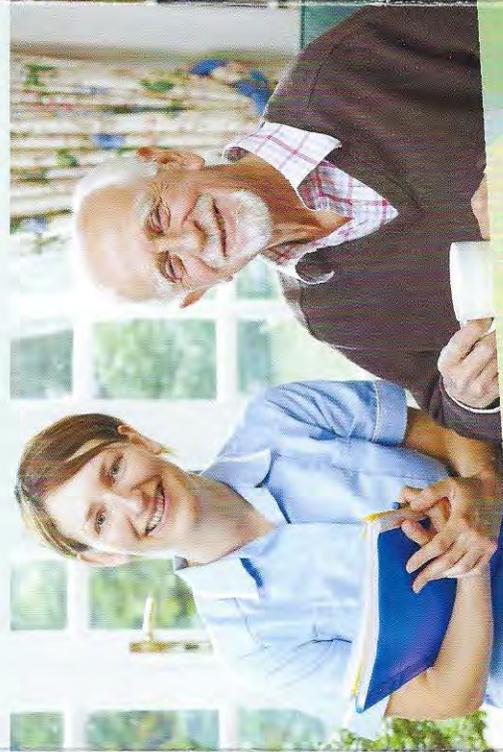
Beneficiaries have included Peeblesshire residents and patients of -

- Peebles Nursing Home
- Whim Hall Care Centre, Lamancha
- St Ronan's House, Innerleithen
- Hay Lodge Hospital, Peebles
- Castle Craig Hospital, Blyth Bridge
- Borders General Hospital, Melrose

PRACTICAL & RECREATIONAL SUPPORT

We are seeking applications from individuals and organisations in Peeblesshire. The Trust's focus is on supporting recreational and amenity provision, for example funds to assist with -

- ✓ The delivery costs of cooked meals
- ✓ Renewing furniture and facilities in group settings
- ✓ Landscaping or gardening improvements to shared spaces
- ✓ Provision of equipment or tools
- ✓ Support to provide opportunities for community engagement
- ✓ Transport or travel costs to reduce social isolation
- ✓ Meeting the costs of enhancing the quality of life of people in group settings or at home

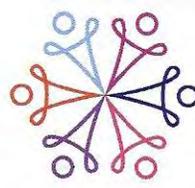


HOW TO APPLY

Applications are considered twice a year. To apply send a letter of application to the Trust Administrators, Cullen Kilshaw Solicitors in Galashiels. Applicants must clearly show in their letter of application how their requirements fit the criteria of the Trust.

Peeblesshire Charitable Trust

Trust Administrators, Cullen Kilshaw
Waverley Chambers,
Ladhope Vale,
Galashiels,
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