

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir
Village Hall, on Thursday, September 3 (7.30pm)**

Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), Brian Bushell (treasurer), councillor Sarah Northcott, councillor Lesley Mason, councillor Kaitlyn Roper, Catriona Bhatia, Scottish Borders Councillor, and 6 members of the public.

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

01.09 APOLOGIES

Police representative Nicola Craig

02.09 MATTERS ARISING

Broadband: The secretary reported that the survey undertaken by the Ettrick and Beyond scheme had attracted 655 responses, 55 more than organiser Julie Nock had hoped for. There had been 76 responses from the Tweedsmuir area, the third largest number from a postcode in the survey. The secretary thanked everyone who took part and added that the survey will remain open for another month should anyone have missed the deadline. The secretary said that the next stage in the process was for Julie to submit a scoping document to the Scottish Government, outlining the need for superfast broadband in the area, which will be put out to public consultation. This process gives BT an opportunity to respond and say which postcodes its superfast rollout is going to cover.

Kirk Road: The secretary reported that a meeting had been scheduled with the contractor for Saturday, September 12, at 10am, at the village crossroads, to identify which trees need to be trimmed to enable snow clearing/gritting down the road this winter.

Borders Forest Trust: The secretary thanked the Trust for holding its site meeting at Talla/Gameshope with villagers on Sunday, August 16, which was both informative and enjoyable. Following the meeting, the Trust had sent an email to the secretary, appealing for volunteers to help with its plans for the area (please find this email attached to the minutes).

Map: Councillor Northcott said progress was being made regarding the creation of a map of the area to help delivery drivers find addresses. The meeting agreed that the map should also include grid references, which would be of benefit to the emergency services.

03.09 SCHOOL TRANSPORT

SBC councillor Catriona Bhatia reported that school transport times, from Tweedsmuir to Peebles High School, had been monitored at the start of the term by SBC. It was found that the bus was leaving Tweedsmuir too early in the morning, which often led to a wait of 15-20 minutes in Broughton for the connecting bus. Times had since been adjusted, which meant schoolchildren in Tweedsmuir were now catching the bus 10/15 minutes later. The meeting welcomed this, but decided to pursue the idea of a community bus to ferry the children to and from school, which would cut the journey times considerably. To that end, the meeting asked

Catriona if it would be possible to arrange a meeting with council officials dealing with school transport to explore the viability of this option. Catriona agreed to arrange the meeting. Councillor Mason raised the problem of schoolchildren not being allowed to eat on the bus, which means on Fridays children from the village could have nothing to eat from when they leave in the morning, around 7.15am, to when they arrive home at around 3.30pm. Because of changes to the school day, there was only a mid-morning break, of 20 minutes, on Fridays, and long queues formed in the school canteen, which means many children did not get anything to eat. The secretary agreed to take up this matter with the school.

04.09 CONSTITUTION

The treasurer reported that the constitution would be finalised by the Tweedsmuir Community Council meeting in October.

05.09 COMMUNICATION/WEBSITE

Councillor Sarah Northcott said that she had delayed putting up the survey to find out from residents what they would like to see on the recently launched Tweedsmuir Community Council website (<http://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/>). The reason was that she did not want it to clash with the broadband survey recently undertaken in the valley, but added that the questionnaire would be on the website in the next couple of weeks. Sarah was thanked by the meeting for the excellent website development.

06.09 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Councillor Mason reported that the the questionnaire, which will be delivered to all residents, had now been amended, and was ready to distribute. Lesley added that this would best be done on a one-to-one basis on the doorstep, and a team of volunteers would be needed to carry this out. The meeting also noted that there were a number of new residents in the area. The treasurer agreed to contact them to make them aware of the community council with a view to joining the council's database.

07.09 TREASURER'S REPORT/WINDFARM MICROGRANTS

The treasurer reported that he was waiting for final confirmation that the bank account had been opened, but, once that was received, he would contact the SBC with account details so that monies due to the TCC could be transferred. He added that he already had a cheque for £1,000 re the SSE windfarm fund and that he was in consultation with Glenkerie about monies due from the Infisis fund.

The meeting agreed to a grant application from Tweedsmuir Community Company for £200 in order to purchase two portaloo toilets. It was agreed that the Tweedsmuir Community Company would pay for the toilets and then invoice the community council once its bank account was up and running.

The chairman pointed out that these toilets would be available to hire by residents free of charge in future as was the case with previous acquisitions by the community company - a marquee and a full music/PA system.

08.09 DEFIBRILLATOR

Resident Lynn Palfreyman asked if the location of the defibrillator could be put on the village noticeboard and included on the website, particularly for new people to the area. She also wondered whether another defibrillator could be bought for Fruid. The meeting agreed that the location needed to be more widely known, and also that some refresher first-aid/defibrillator training would be beneficial. As for another defibrillator, councillor Mason suggested waiting for the resilient communities programme to get underway, under which the programme organisers would be able to highlight where best to position any new defibrillator.

09.09 POLICE REPORT

The secretary reported that the local police representative had been unable to attend as she had been seconded to another department, but had sent a report (please find attached).

10.09 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Bhatia reported that the road to Peebles, at Neidpath Castle, would be closed for five days from October 2-6 for repairs to the retaining wall there. She said the council would advise on diversionary routes, and that it had been unable to keep the road open during the repairs because of the limited road width. Catriona apologised for any inconvenience, but said the work needs to be done.

Catriona also said that a report into combining the social care and adult health care services in the Borders had been delayed, but should be available after October.

The chairman also said that residents were able to comment on the SBC's strategic transport plan on the council's website, but that the questionnaire was only open until 23 October.

11.08 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a Windfarm grant panel The meeting agreed to UTCC's proposal that the extended panel for windfarm grant decisions for the Infisis fund, from seven to nine, should be made up of one new extra member for the UTCC and one for Tweedsmuir Community Council. The new positions would be open to the public, and would be advertised shortly.

b Dog fouling The chairman reported that there had been complaints about dog fouling around the church area. The meeting agreed to put up notices warning against dog fouling and also provide dog litter bins. The secretary agreed to contact SBC to provide the warning signs and bins.

b Fly tipping Councillor Mason reported that there had been a number of instances of fly tipping in laybys in the area and suggested a litter pick-up might be appropriate. The meeting agreed to arrange this.

c Fairer Scotland The meeting agreed to issue the council's apologies for non-attendance to this day-long conference on Wednesday, 16 September, and to ask whether it would be possible for organisers to send a report of the day.

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on October 8, 7.30pm. Please note that this has been changed from the original date, October 1