

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir
Village Hall, on Thursday, October 8 (7.30pm)**

Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), Brian Bushell (treasurer), councillor Lesley Mason, Keith Cockburn, Scottish Borders Councillor, Gareth Shields, SSE, and 7 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on September 3 were approved

01.10 APOLOGIES

Police representative Nicola Craig, community councillor Sarah Northcott and Kaitlyn Roper.

02.10 MATTERS ARISING

Kirk Road/gritting/snow clearing: The secretary reported that Gus Swan, the contractor who carries out gritting/snow clearing for Scottish Borders Council in the area, had visited Kirk Road to identify trees that needed to be trimmed to enable his plough to grit/clear the road. However, the secretary informed the meeting of a development that threatened the guarantee of gritting and snow clearing in the entire Tweedsmuir village area this winter. According to an e-mail from Jason Hedley, of Scottish Borders Council, the village had been downgraded from a secondary route to a tertiary route. As Mr Hedley pointed out in his email: [“the village will become tertiary which means it will be visited where weather conditions persist and after all primary and secondary routes are dealt with and only where time and resources are available.”](#)

The secretary pointed out that part of the village was a route for school transport and that many of its roads were used by high-tonnage forestry vehicles. He added that the community council had not been consulted about this change.

Scottish Borders Councillor Keith Cockburn said he was also unaware of this matter, but would seek clarification from council officials.

03.10 SSE WINDFARM FUND

Gareth Shields, of the Clyde windfarm, made a presentation to the meeting regarding changes to the windfarm fund from SSE, the operators of the windfarm. With the onset of the Clyde windfarm extension, this would mean annual funding of £178,000 to be split between a regional and local fund. The local fund would be £120,000 a year and would be available to residents in the Tweedsmuir, Upper Tweed and Skirling community council areas.

Applications for microgrants, up to £250, can be made directly to each Community Council, who will administer the microgrant scheme in their areas, but larger sums - from £250.01 to £15,000 - will be considered by a panel made up of local residents. At the moment, Tweedsmuir has one representative on the panel, but Mr Shields said the plan was for two more, and asked anyone interested in sitting on the panel to contact him or the community council. The improved fund will be launched at Broughton Village Hall in November, which will be followed by meetings for the individual areas. Mr Shields added that further details and application forms were available on the SSE website.

The chairman thanked Mr Shields for his presentation and attendance.

04.10 TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer reported that a bank account for the community council had now been set up and that the Scottish Borders Council had been informed. Monies due from the SBC amounted to £720 - £540 for this year, and £180 for last. The community council, as a body, agreed that it will abide by the SBC code of conduct for community councillors, thereby meeting a requirement sought by SBC before any monies can be transferred.

05.10 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Councillor Lesley Mason said the questionnaires, asking residents to participate in the scheme, were being finalised and should be ready for distribution shortly.

06.10 COMMUNICATION

It was confirmed that the questionnaire asking residents how they would like to see the community council website developed had been sent out to the council's database. Details are also available on the website itself (www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk)

07.10 POLICE REPORT

The police representative was unable to attend but supplied a police report, which is attached.

08.10 BROUGHTON SCHOOL

Councillor Mason reported the Parent/Teacher Council's concerns that two vacant posts at the school - for a learner support teacher and an assistant classroom teacher - were not being filled. Councillor Mason said the SBC had not explained why, and described the move as 'a significant loss' to a school serving 100 pupils. SBC councillor Keith Cockburn said he thought this might be part of cuts to the education budget, but understood that his fellow councillor, Catriona Bhatia, was looking into this matter. Councillor Mason said the PTC had asked her if the community council would write a letter supporting its bid to reverse the SBC decision. The meeting expressed its concern over this matter and the secretary agreed to write the said letter.

09.10 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mr Cockburn said the A72 at Neidpath Corner was now open following improvement works, although the road would need to be closed again when permanent traffic lights were erected there. The councillor also informed the meeting of a closure of the C7 Kilbucho Road on October 20 from 8 till 4, and the A72 Blythe Bridge to Castlecraig road from October 19-26. This latter closure caused a number of concerns to be raised, in particular, that the road is used by school transport and by local residents working at Castlecraig. The secretary wondered if any arrangements had been made to ensure these groups were not adversely affected, and councillor Cockburn agreed to seek clarification from the council officers.

Mr Cockburn also informed the meeting that the SBC had agreed that all its museums and sports and leisure facilities would be run by an independent trust, with the council remaining its

main funder. Mr Cockburn said he thought this move would bring a more business-like approach to the running of the organisations.

10.10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Tweedsmuir to Moffat road The chairman pointed out that there were no verge or road markings on this road and that it posed a risk to drivers, particularly in foggy conditions. The secretary agreed to write to the SBC to raise this matter

Original Mountain marathon The chairman said that this event was being held at Hearthstones estate on October 23-24, and hoped as many residents as possible would attend to support a very worthwhile event.

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on November 5, 7.30pm.