

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir
Village Hall, on Thursday, May 12 (7.30pm)**

PRESENT

Community councillors: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), Brian Bushell (treasurer) councillor Sarah Northcott, councillor Lesley Mason, councillor Kaitlyn Roper
Scottish Borders Councillor Keith Cockburn
6 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on April 7 were approved

01.05 APOLOGIES

Police representative Nicola Craig

02.05 MATTERS ARISING

Fruid Road The secretary reported that temporary repairs had been undertaken, but residents had reported a number of potholes had been missed. The council has also been told that the Scottish Borders Council is planning to apply to the Timber Transport Fund for money to pay for a more permanent repair of the road.

Signage at the crossroads The secretary reported that, despite a number of emails to SBC, there had been no further news on the community council's request for signage warning drivers of children using the crossroads.

Planning: At the April meeting, concern was raised that there had been a number of planning applications on the SBC website of which the community council was unaware. The secretary reported that he had contacted Dorothy Aymes, of the SBC planning department, and she had informed him that only new applications on new sites would be sent to community councils for comment. However, she added that community councils were able to comment on any application on the website, but would have to monitor the website themselves. It was agreed that a councillor would be nominated to undertake this task.

03.05 WHITELAW BRAE WINDFARM

The council has been notified by the Scottish Government that one objection to the windfarm - by NATS, the air traffic services organisation - had been withdrawn. The secretary also reported that Ms Jilly Adams, of 2020 Renewables, the company behind the application, had requested to attend one of the community council meetings to discuss 'some ideas around community benefit.' It was agreed to invite Ms Adams to the TCC's meeting on June 2. The meeting was also told that local resident Ms Kirsty Stevens has agreed to join the sub-committee set up by the TCC to formulate its opposition to the plans at the public enquiry later this year. The first meeting of this sub-committee will be arranged shortly.

04.05 BROADBAND

Resident Rod Sibbald, part of a sub-committee set up by the TCC to look into broadband provision in the village, updated the meeting on progress so far:

1 Local Westminster MP David Mundell has replied to a letter from the sub-committee, asking to clarify the government's position on broadband provision to rural areas. Please find his response attached.

2 The sub-committee has applied to join the BT community fibre partnership. Under this scheme, BT will partner any community not included in the 95 per cent of areas already set to receive superfast broadband under the Scottish Government rollout. A survey of Tweedsmuir now needs to be undertaken to gauge demand for superfast, and Rod agreed to supply a form of words that could be sent out to residents. Once the survey is complete, it will be sent to BT, who will then provide an estimate of cost. This will be funded by the local community, which, in Tweedsmuir's case, would probably come from windfarm funds.

3 Rod and the secretary will attend a meeting with Community Broadband Scotland representatives in Glasgow on 18 May for advice on the best way forward for Tweedsmuir in regard to superfast provision.

4 An email has been sent to B4RN, an organisation in Lancashire providing superfast broadband to its local communities, asking for advice.

5 The Ettrick and Beyond scheme, of which Tweedsmuir is an interested party, held a meeting on 9 May. Please find the minutes attached.

05.05 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

Application by Megan Ellis, of Patervan, a Young Leader with the 1st Castlecraig Brownies, for £250 to help with the cost of an international trip organised by the Girl Guides. **Decision:** Approved.

Councillors also agreed to hold a brainstorming meeting, open to all villagers, to look into ways the community could use money now available from the various windfarms in the area. This will be held on 10 June, at the village hall, at 7:30pm. Details of the meeting will be sent to residents.

06.05 WEBSITE

Councillor Sarah Nothcott reported that the community council's application to Glenkerie windfarm for money to set up a village website had been rejected. Sarah said this was disappointing, and that it appeared that the windfarm panel had not fully understood the extent of the council's plans. She said an application to the SSE fund might be possible in September, and thought it might help any future application if the TCC put some of its own funds towards it. Councillor Lesley Mason added that she thought more evidence of the need for the website would strengthen any application. The chairman agreed to look into the possibility of any appeal to Glenkerie before deciding on the best way forward.

07.05 POLICE REPORT

Police representative Nicola Craig was unable to attend the meeting but sent a police report for the area, which is attached. The treasurer reported that he had spoken to Nicola recently and that she was extremely keen to attend but found it difficult with work patterns and workload. The meeting agreed to write to MSP Christine Grahame about the TCC's concerns over policing in the area, in particular about lack of response to local queries and to calls to the 101 service.

08.05 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Keith Cockburn reported that the Tweeddale flood plan was due to be discussed at the next SBC meeting and that he was continuing to work as a member of the scrutiny committee to highlight the damage being done to roads and infrastructure by logging traffic. The meeting agreed that the community council should write to the scrutiny committee, highlighting its continuing disquiet over certain aspects of the decision-making process regarding the repairs to Carlowse Bridge. Secretary Paul Greaves agreed to formulate a letter. It was also agreed to ask the SBC how much public money has been spent to repair the Fruid Road since logging traffic started to use it.

09.05 CROOK INN

Duncan Davidson, chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, brought the meeting's attention to the community company's annual general meeting, which is on Friday, May 20, at the village hall, 7.30pm start,

10.05 TREE PLANTING

The meeting heard that Scottish Woodlands has revived plans to plant trees on the left-hand side of the A701 as you travel from Tweedsmuir to Broughton. When this was first mooted a few years ago, residents affected expressed concerns over their water supply, which comes off the hill, many believing any new planting could restrict it. A resident said she had been contacted with a request to meet to discuss the new revised plans, but wondered whether it might be best to hold a public meeting with Scottish Woodlands instead. The chairman said the village hall committee had not been contacted as yet (the village hall is in the area of the new planting), and the meeting agreed to contact Scottish Woodlands for more details and to ask for a public meeting about the issue.

11.05 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Coping stones on Carlowse Bridge The secretary said he had received no response from SBC regarding the need for repointing of the stones on the top of the bridge, but would contact SBC again.

Printer The treasurer asked if it would be possible to purchase a printer for community council use. The meeting agreed that prices should be sought in time for the next meeting.

Footpath Councillor Mason said she had been contacted by organisers hoping to construct a footpath from the village to the Crook Inn, asking if it would be possible for them to give a presentation to the TCC. The meeting agreed that this should go ahead.

Resilient Communities Councillor Mason said the community council had now joined the resilient communities organisation, but that we were still awaiting the promised equipment. The meeting agreed that, under the resilient communities scheme, a community grant should be sought from SBC for first-aid training, a new defibrillator, and a shipping container to store the equipment when it arrives.

Log-splitter Councillor Sarah Northcott suggested this could be purchased through windfarm monies and that, given the number of villagers with woodburners, this could be a valuable asset for the village. She added she would bring the matter up at the council's brainstorming meeting in June.

Peebles High School Councillor Lesley Mason said Tweedsmuir children now faced catching the bus 20 minutes earlier in the morning after the school stopped buses offloading and picking up pupils at its gates. Due to a recent fatal accident, the school has decided that buses should use Kingsmeadow car park, with pupils then having a 20-minute walk to school. Councillors expressed the opinion that this move may, in fact, be dangerous in itself, with pupils having to cross a busy road to get to school. The meeting agreed to write to SBC expressing its concerns.

ANNUAL MEETING

Election of officers:

Chairman: Gavin Parker was re-elected by councillors. Gavin was proposed by Paul Greaves and seconded by Lesley Mason

Secretary: Paul Greaves was re-elected by councillors. Paul was proposed by Gavin Parker and seconded by treasurer Brian Bushell

Treasurer: Brian Bushell was re-elected by councillors. Brian was proposed by Paul Greaves and seconded by Sarah Northcott.

The chairman said that it was with regret that he had to announce the resignation from the council of Kaitlyn Roper. Kaitlyn has decided to step down because she is leaving for university in September. Gavin thanked her for all her hard work over the last 12 months, and wished her well at university.

The meeting agreed to contact residents to see if anyone would like to join the community council.

Chairman's report: see attachment

Treasurer's report: see attachment

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on 2 June, 2016, 7.30pm.