

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

**Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), councillor Sarah Northcott, councillor Lesley Mason, councillor Kaitlyn Roper, Scottish Borders Councillor Willie Archibald and 9 members of the public.**

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

**01.01 APOLOGIES**

Treasurer Brian Bushell and Police representative Nicola Craig

**02.01 MATTERS ARISING**

**None**

**03.01 WHITELAW BRAE WINDFARM**

The chairman reported that the council had contacted the Scottish Government to confirm that it would like to take part in the public enquiry and pre-examination meeting as outlined in a letter to the council from the government's planning and environment appeals division. The secretary also said he had spoken to Mr Scott Mackenzie, of the Scottish Government, and he had outlined what would now happen regarding the windfarm application:

- 1 A Reporter would be appointed
- 2 The Reporter would arrange the pre-examination meeting when a timetable for submissions to the enquiry, including any from the Tweedsmuir Community Council, would be set.
- 3 A date and venue would then be arranged for the public enquiry.

**04.01 GRITTING AND SNOW CLEARING**

The secretary reported that a meeting had been held with Mr David Richardson and Mr Colin Ovens, of Scottish Borders Council, over the downgrading of the village from secondary to tertiary with regard to gritting and snow clearing. The secretary represented the TCC, with residents Mr Rod Sibbald and Ms Lynn Palfreyman also present.

The secretary said the meeting had been both informative and constructive, with the following items raised.

**Short Term Measures**

- SBC agreed to supply a new gritting bin on Kirk Road. The TCC would provide a plan and a photograph for SBC and formally request the new bin.
- The community council would request from SBC, through Resilient Communities, the equipment for hand gritting (ie grit spreaders, shovels)
- SBC would ensure that Tweedsmuir Community Council receives SBC weather alerts.

- The TCC would set up an "On Demand" system for contacting SBC when Tweedsmuir, Talla and Fruid have excessive snow or ice and would like to request that the designated tertiary routes are treated.

### **Long Term Measures**

- Contact Oxon Community Council to find out about their "DIY" scheme funded by electricity company SSE. Also check with SBC about their issues with the Oxon Plan (the do's and don'ts)
- Make enquiries about the Borders Machinery Ring and what local farmers / estate owners can provide. Discuss BMR with Scottish Borders Council and SSE

The meeting agreed to the above points and also to site the aforementioned gritting bin halfway down Kirk Road. Councillors also voted to ask for a bin to be sited along Fruid Road.

During discussion of the the gritting and snow clearing issues, local resident Tony Hope thanked villagers - and, in particular, TCC chairman Mr Gavin Parker and Mr Ralph Glatt - for coming to his aid during the recent flooding. Mr Hope had requested sandbags to protect his property, and Mr Parker and Mr Glatt had kindly delivered some, around 50 in total, from stores in Peebles. The secretary reported that Mr Glatt had also offered a building to store sandbags on a permanent basis, and the meeting agreed that this should be explored once the resilient communities programme was up and running.

### **05.01 TREASURER'S REPORT**

A microgrant application from resident Lesley Kirkwood was approved for the establishment of a bike mechanic course in the village.

### **06.01 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

Councillor Lesley Mason reported that 41 people had responded to the survey, and that this would, in all probability, rise to around 50. Lesley explained that numbers were important in that the more people involved meant more equipment for the village. Lesley highlighted the need for a place to store the equipment, and noted Ralph Glatt's offer, but added that another option might be to fund a shed at the village hall through windfarm monies.

Resident Kirsty Stephens asked if the siting of the village's defibrillator could be advertised. It was agreed to include this information on the website/facebook page, and include it in the minutes (the bothy at Dykehead).

The meeting also agreed that more defibrillators were needed, but decided to organise first-aid training, including how to use a defibrillator, in the first instance.

### **07.01 COMMUNITY WEBSITE**

Councillor Sarah Northcott gave a presentation of progress on the establishment of a new website for the village (see files attached). Sarah said a sub-group had been established, and that the intention was to obtain windfarm funds to put the website into operation. She also said that, as part of the website development, a competition to come up with a logo for the village,

open to both adults and children, should be run. The meeting congratulated Sarah on all her work, and agreed that the project should continue as outlined. The meeting also agreed that the TCC would look into ways of funding the suggested logo competition.

#### **08.01 LAMPING**

Resident Kirsty Stevens complained that there had been shots fired across her land by people hunting at night. There had been other complaints, and councillor Northcott added that she had been in contact with police representative Nicola Craig to clarify the law about shooting in areas around the village, but had received no reply.

Councillors agreed that the situation was totally unacceptable, and voted to contact police about the matter. The chairman explained that this was, in all probability, lampers, and knew of the company that organised this hunting. He agreed to supply contact details in order that the company could also be contacted.

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

Councillor Archibald reported that the B712 was now clear after recent floods, which had cost the Scottish Government £700m. Peebles had been flooded, including the evacuation of the old people's home in the town, but Mr Archibald described the response from the emergency services as 'fantastic.' Mr Archibald also said that the SBC budget was due to be set in February, with council chiefs warning of cuts to a wide-ranging range of services. This, said Mr Archibald, reflected the reduction of grants from Westminster to Holyrood.

#### **10.01 CROOK INN**

The chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, Duncan Davidson, reported that the TCC was about to hand in an application to the Big Lottery for £1m to help fund the redevelopment of the Crook. Mr Davidson explained that the total cost of the project would be around £2.5m, with the additional funding coming from the Scottish Government regeneration fund, and other charitable bodies. Mr Davidson added that news of whether the Big Lottery and Scottish Government fund applications had been successful should come in around two months. The chairman thanked Mr Davidson for all his efforts on behalf of the Crook and the community.

#### **11.01 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**a Grant application** Councillor Mason confirmed that the plan to access windfarm funds to pay for courses for children in the village was going ahead, and that an application would be made, through the auspices of the community council, by the deadline of 29 January. Lesley asked any parent who would like their children to take part in the scheme to contact her as soon as possible.

**b Christmas party** Councillor Mason, part of the Christmas Party committee, wondered whether the community council would like to contribute to the funding of the party. Councillors agreed in principal, but asked councillor Mason to provide more details.

**c Photographic competition** It was agreed that the competition, first suggested at the December meeting, should be held later in the year.

**c Fruid Road** The meeting heard that the road was again in terrible condition, and the secretary agreed to contact Jason Hedley, of the Scottish Borders Council, with regard to repairing it.

**The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on February 4, 2016, 7.30pm.**

Listed below are Tweedsmuir Community Council dates for the coming year:

Thursday March 3

Thursday April 7

Thursday May 5

Thursday June 2

July no meeting

Thursday August 4

Thursday September 1

Thursday October 6

Thursday November 3

Thursday December 1