

Tweedsmuir Community Council - Village Hall – 7.30pm

Minutes of meeting held 06 April 2017

Present: Chair, Gavin Parker (GP), Lesley Mason (LM), Treasurer, Brian Bushell (BB), Rod Sibbald (RS), Ralph Glatt (RG), Lesley Kirkwood (LK), (six members of public)

Apologies: Paul Greaves (Secretary).

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising. Previous minutes accepted.

Broadband: RS provided an update of latest developments. Predicted costs have still to be confirmed but recent developments around the 4G mobile reception and potential to use fibre optic cables servicing those units in the area have presented further delays in getting finalised costs. These will be required before taking this further on a community wide basis. RS helpfully provided a summary of 4G mobile broadband coverage in the Tweedsmuir area – attached. Thanks for RS for his work in exploring this. It is possible to purchase standalone packages which could potentially offer mobile tethering to access higher speed broadband. Individuals would have to enquire directly to providers for advice on the package that would best suit their needs. There are still issues in accessing reliable Broadband (of any speed) in some areas of the community. All of this will have to be taken into consideration as we seek the best Broadband solution for the community. **Action:** RS will pass on information, to interested residents, for potential partial funding for satellite Broadband. It is up to each individual householder to take this further. RS will also invite BT representative to attend CC meeting when finalised costs are available.

Fruid Road: Scottish Borders Council has applied to the Strategic Timber Transport Fund for monies to repair the Fruid Road. There is concern amongst the community about this bid being rejected and what plan does Scottish Borders Council have to remedy the situation. The STTF bid should be clarified in early May along with local council election results and it was agreed that Community Council will await the outcomes of both before decided on our course of action.

Resilient communities: LM informed the group that both the sandbag store and equipment stores are in place at the village hall. The sandbag store will remain unlocked. The equipment store is locked and key holders are Andrew Mason and Lesley Kirkwood. Agreed that contact numbers of key holders will be placed on the shed door. Any equipment borrowed will have to be signed out.

A training scenario has been put forward to SBC for consideration and further details will be publicised, on our website and Facebook page, once known.

Action: LM to laminate information sign for equipment shed door.

Community Planning Group: GP advised that following a successful tending application the Small Town and Rural (STAR) Development group will

be appointed to carry out engagement activities and produce the Tweedsmuir Community Action Plan. The Steering Group welcomes residents across the community to get involved. Further details of engagement events/activities will be forthcoming. The planned timescale for completion is late summer 2017. The funding bid to Foundation Scotland is due to be submitted.

This is a great opportunity for everyone to have their say and share their ideas about what they would like to see developed in our community over the next 10 years or so. Tweedsmuir Community Council urges people to get involved in these discussions and activities to get the most out of the process.

Action: Community Plan Steering Group meeting **Tuesday 11th April 2017 at 7.30 pm.** Venue: Carn Gorm – house nearest the village hall. **New members welcome.**

Planning Applications: One application received for comment on by TCC. Agreed that some information needed clarification and amended. Also notification to neighbours needs to include all affected parties.

Action: PG to contact SBC for clarification around the points raised.

SBC Energy Report Draft: Agreed to acknowledge receipt of the document but as there is little change included in the draft we will not offer comments at this point.

Action: PG to respond as above.

Scottish Ambulance Service – Day of Action: PG had circulated information about the recent SAS day. Attached information documents are available to residents electronically and hard copies can be circulated to residents who wish those.

Public Access Defibrillation Scheme – Tweedsmuir defibrillator is already registered on SAS database. Anyone requiring access to this, having called 999, would be directed to it. Ownership needs to be clarified and who will take responsibility for checking the unit.

Action: Resident John Burnham agreed to check the unit and liaise with property owners where it is currently housed. LK to check registered ownership on SAS database. BB to establish who/how many hard copies of information leaflets required and distribute as necessary.

Treasurer's Report: BB updated Council on current balances (£721.79) and that accounts are currently being prepared for audit before the AGM in May.

Post Office: PG to submit an enquiry on behalf of TCC regarding the possibility of the mobile Post Office van visiting the village. This could offer alternatives for many residents as an increasing number of banks have negotiated arrangements for customers to use PO outlets. Individuals will have been notified directly about imminent branch closures which may affect them.

Micro-grant applications: No current applications. The previously awarded grant for the 'Wool to the Mills' evening (which has been postponed until later in the year) will remain in place.

INFINIS: GP advised that he will remain on the panel until April next year when he will have to step down. Tweedsmuir will then only have one representative on the panel. Any interested residents can apply to join the panel and if done before April 2018 they will not be subject to the usual application procedure. Beyond that date the normal route for selection will resume. This panel considers applications for the Glenkerie Wind Farm monies.

Action: Any interested residents please contact INFINIS or GP for further details.

Police Report: A written report was received and detailed the recent successful rescue of a dog from Talla Reservoir.

There have been reports of poaching in the Fruid area. Residents are asked to remain vigilant and report unusual/suspicious activity through the '101' number or directly to PC Craig (**do we have contact number/email details to add here?**)

RS has trialled the use of a small camera on the Fruid road in response to previous reports of vehicles in the area and reports of poaching.

Action: RS will consult with Fruid residents regarding the potential use of a camera/sighting etc. And how this might be taken forward with a micro-grant application.

Councillors and residents commented on recent sightings and visits to properties by a 'white van' and driver offering to tarmac driveways. Again please keep an eye out for activities and report through '101' if there are any concerns.

SBC Councillors report: No report due to upcoming elections.

GP advised that there will be a presentation on the Community Empowerment Act on 8th June 2017 at the Chambers Institute in Peebles. Interested Councillors invited to attend. Contact GP for further details.

Crook Inn update: Duncan Davidson advised that there is a focus on getting a smaller initial venture set up and running in the former Craft works building/steading which is currently being reroofed. The details of the development are not finalised but will potentially offer a café/toilets facilities. An application is being submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in the near future to fund the appointment of a specialist in this area to carry out a feasibility study in the development of the Crook Inn and surrounding area.

AOCB:

Welcome: A welcome was extended by Community Council to newer residents of Tweedsmuir.

Annual Community Litter Pick: Agreed that this will be carried out over the next 2 weeks (7 April to 21 April). Individual residents have volunteered to clear sections. **I don't take a note of who is doing what but could we put that on website/Facebook so there's no doubling up?** Litter pickers, gloves, black bags, high-viz vests are available to all. Please contact Andrew Mason or Lesley Kirkwood if access to equipment is required.

Fly-tipping has been noted on the roadside near Tweedhopefoot. SBC to be advised.

Also noted that contractors working in the area are leaving rubbish behind eg Scottish Woodlands on the Talla Road.

Action: SBC to be contacted re fly-tipping and request for more bins in the area to encourage visitors to deposit rubbish there rather than roadside. Scottish Woodlands to be contacted to request their support for rubbish to be removed. **I hadn't noted who would do these. Paul or anyone else if you have contact details I'm happy to do so.**

Tour of the Borders: All residents should or will have received notification of the event in September 2017. This details road closures and arrangements for contacting emergency services if required during these times.

Volunteers from local communities can contact the organisers if they wish to help. Each volunteer/marshal is paid and can opt to donate this to a local cause if they wish.

Action: LK to contact organisers to ask if the newly formed Tweedsmuir and Upper Tweed Community First Responders Group could be included as one of the groups to benefit from these donations.

Communications and Tweedsmuir Community Council website: RS proposed a community newsletter be produced to give more details around work of Community Council and to direct people toward the website and Facebook page thereby increasing traffic to these pages. Local residents would welcome more regular updating of information. Now that Hazel Mason is working on the website this can be taken forward.

Action: RS and PG to pass information to Hazel as appropriate.

Proposed crossroads development: RS and RG have worked together to devise improvements to the crossroads. The proposal would address issues such as road conditions around that area; provide designated car parking whilst still allowing access for lorries using the turning area; opportunity to provide information on the local area; and a shelter, particularly for children waiting for school transport. General consensus was that this would be a welcome development.

Tweedsmuir Community Council Minutes

Action: RS and RG to continue discussions and seek further clarification from SBC planning around the proposal to decide on next steps.

Church: Christine Parker advised that due to the recent retirement of the Minister there is a temporary arrangement in place to ensure services can continue. Further details are in the Kirk Matters.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be the AGM on 11th May 2017. This will be held at the Village Hall and start at 7.30pm. All residents welcome to attend. (are these details correct?)

Meeting Closed.