

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir
Village Hall, on Thursday, 5 October 2017 (7.30pm)**

Present: Gavin Parker (GP, chairman), Brian Bushell (BB, vice-chairman and treasurer), Paul Greaves (PG, secretary), Lesley Mason (LM), Lesley Kirkwood (LK), Ralph Glatt (RG). Eric Small (ES, Scottish Borders Councillor) 6 members of the public.

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

01.00 APOLOGIES

Police representative Nicola Craig

02.10 MATTERS ARISING

Fruid Road: PG reported that work would begin on the Fruid Road repairs on October 16, as outlined in an email from Scott Learmouth, assistant engineer, at Scottish Borders Council: *As you may be aware Scottish Borders Council have been given substantial funding from the STTF (Strategic Timber Transport Fund) to carry out road improvement works on roads that have been significantly damaged due to timber haulage. The D53/1 at Fruid is one of the roads that have been awarded significant funding.*

Our proposal is to carry out extensive preparatory works to improve drainage and existing passing places, followed by the installation of a new bituminous surface course. The proposed works include the formulisation of existing and construction of new passing places, which will help alleviate further potential verge damage and assist the passage of all vehicles on the road. The proposals also includes the improvement of the existing surface water drainage systems by renewing roadside ditching, relocating existing ditches and installing a number of new road crossings. The extents of the above works are shown on the attached plan.

SBc Contracts, on behalf of Scottish Borders Council, will be carrying out the preparatory works. As part of these works a new kerb line will be installed at the C8 junction to separate the existing unbound car park and the public road.

These works are due to commence week beginning 16th October 2017 lasting approximately 5 weeks. During the works access will be maintained to all properties.

Once the preparatory works are completed the resurfacing works will then be carried out. This element of the works has yet to be fully programmed, but we will notify you as soon as this is finalised. Unfortunately some access restrictions will need to be put in place during the surfacing works.

A letter outlining the above was issued to all residents on the D53/1 today. 04/10.17. I have also consulted Scottish Woodlands and Scottish Water regarding the works.

I hope the above information is helpful, however if you wish to discuss it further please don't hesitate to contact me.

0310 BROADBAND

GP said Rod Sibbald had decided to step down as coordinator of the broadband scheme, and also as a community councillor, which he described as a 'great shame'. GP thanked Rod for all

the hard work he had done on the broadband project, and said it had would not have been so advanced without all his help and guidance. PG said he had now become the contact for BT, and was expecting a price from them to bring superfast broadband to all properties in the Tweedsmuir area on 17 October. The meeting decided to set up a committee to take the project forward, with BB and residents Andrew Mason and Phil Rees volunteering to join the committee, along with PG.

ES reported that Scottish Borders Council were in discussions with EE with regard to the R100 scheme, which aims to bring superfast broadband to areas not covered by the government roll-out. ES suggested that TCC contacted SBC chief executive Rod Dixon for more details.

Action: Once BT submits its quote, a meeting of the new committee should be set up to take the project forward. PG should also contact Mr Dixon for details of SBC's involvement in the R100 scheme and whether this would be applicable, and suitable, for Tweedsmuir.

03.10 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT PG said, following an appeal for volunteers for a committee to take the crossroads development forward, resident Mr Eric Stephens had come forward. GP said he would also be part of the committee, and would contact resident Gill Rees, who had also expressed an interest, to see if she would also join it. The Tweedsmuir Community Company had also sent to PG a copy of its memorandum and articles of association, which did seem to indicate that it would be able to take the matter forward on behalf of the community council. Resident Kirsty Stephens, who has expertise in this field, offered to look at the the articles, which PG agreed to send on to her.

04.10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

04.10 MICROGRANTS

There were no new microgrant applications, but BB reported that he had paid out the sums outlined at last month's meeting.

Grants:

GP said that the village had been successful in two bids to e windfarm funds:

A grant for the village hall to replace windows and doors.

A grant to the Crook Inn, to fund architects' plans for the development of a new cafe/bunkhouse and camping facilities.

Panel:

GP said he had been on the Glenkerie panel, latterly as a community council representative, for four years, but, under panel rules, will now have to step down. GP suggested LM should replace him on the panel. LM agreed to this, and the meeting voted in favour of the appointment.

Community Company:

LK reported that a SSE representative had said there would be no a conflict of interest if the Tweedsmuir Community Company applied for funding for more than one cause. At last month's meeting, the community company had been suggested as the vehicle to take the broadband and crossroads developments forward, particularly as the community council does not appear to have the legal capacity to do so, following correspondence with SBC. Worries were, however,

expressed that the community company might not be able to bid for funding for other projects if it was also bidding for funding for its main cause, the Crook Inn development. The SSE representative, however, had said there would be no problem for the community company bidding for more than one project.

Defibrillator:

PG reported that the community council had now received a new defibrillator, from SBC, which meant the village had two, with the original positioned in the bothy at the home of Gill and Phil Rees in the village. The new defibrillator would be housed on the outside of the village hall, which meant the need for a protective casing.

Action: The meeting agreed to seek a windfarm fund grant to buy the casing, which should be around £600. The meeting also agreed to check if the defib at Rees' household needed to be replaced given its age. If this was the case, an application for both casing and a new defib would be made. LK agreed to make the application on the community council's behalf.

05.10 COMMUNITY PLAN

PG said he needed access to the original community brochure in order to use the cheapest printer he had found to ensure the brochure meets that printer's specifications. GP agreed to look into this. BB explained that all bills needed to be sent to Cares, the funders for the community plan, before they would pay the grant, which meant there may be a problem using the printers as suggested because they needed to be paid up front.

06. 10 POLICE REPORT

26/09/2017 – A report was received regarding sheep on the road on A701 near The Crook Inn.

27/09/2017 A report was received regarding sheep on the road on A701 near Oliver Farm. Sheep returned to field prior to police arrival.

07.10 TREASURER'S REPORT

BB said there was no change from the last meeting, other than paying out the sums outlined then.

08.10 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

ES said the localities bid fund was now up and running and urged residents and the community council to bid for the £91,000 available. Details can be found at

www.scotborders.gov.uk/localitiesbidfund or by phoning 0300 100 1800 or 01835 826659.

ES said the A701 action group had not been set up yet, but agreed that a member of the Tweedsmuir Community Council should be represented on it. The group is being established in the wake of the latest fatal accident along the road.

ES also noted that work on the Fruid Road was due to start shortly.

09.10 CROOK INN

Mr Duncan Davidson, chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company, said the company was delighted to receive the windfarm grant that will now enable design work to start on the development of a cafe, bunkhouses and camping facilities at the inn.

10.10 AOB

Eastgate Theatre: Resident Christine Parker reported that she had been contacted by Eastgate Theatre, Peebles, to see if they could attend a TCC meeting to give a presentation of the theatre's work. The meeting agreed that the theatre representative should come along to the TCC's next meeting in November.

Halloween party The party will take place at the village hall on Saturday, 28 October

First Responders Resident Christine Parker reported that the Upper Tweed first responders group was now up and running.

Resilient Communities – Emergency exercise. As Resilient Communities co-ordinator, Mr. Andrew Mason was present at the meeting, BB asked him whether the proposed exercise discussed several months ago was still going ahead. Mr Mason replied that it had subsequently been decided that such an exercise was considered unnecessary by the Resilient Communities team. It was felt by the team that awareness of the local community that such an organisation existed - and that it was in a state of preparedness - was sufficient until action was needed.

Local community funding.

BB requested community council support for a case he was making to the S.S.E. for a fund to be set up to directly benefit individual households in the community. He has for some time thought about how the local community could benefit more from the funds available from electricity generating companies operating locally and an opportunity arose recently to discuss the matter.

He is a member of a panel formed by the S.S.E. which meets quarterly to consider and award/reject applications made by local organisations for expenditure up to £25,000 and was made aware that the current balance of the S.S.E.'s Community fund is £178,798 and set to grow to c. £250,000 this financial year. In view of this he raised the matter of another fund being set up to be used to directly benefit individual households. This fund would be an additional, not a replacement of the present funds and was being proposed to facilitate the expenditure of funds currently amassing at an exponential rate. BB argued that, as the S.S.E. state they wish to help communities then what better, totally inclusive way of benefitting the community than by making money available directly to households constituting the community. BB used a precedent set by another generating company operating in the Beattock area that does precisely this, but goes one step further by actually paying the eligible households' electricity bills direct. Although not wishing to go down this particular type of payment, which is contrary to the S.S.E.'s code of practice – as voiced by the S.S.E. representative, Mr. Gareth Shields – BB did express the ability for individual households to receive money. Mr. Shields said that this would be considered if the community council would formally request for this to be so. Accordingly, this was sought at the meeting. A general discussion followed which

reached a decision that it would not support this initiative for various reasons, eg. it would reduce the amount of money available for existing types of funds and new applications for grants operating under the present scheme, that it was seen as personal benefit rather than for the whole of the community. The point that it may be contrary to some form of legislation was also raised. BB was disappointed particularly as there currently existed a form of personal benefit in the form of the Youth Bursary awards, but undertook to look into the legislative aspect of such an award and the form of some community benefit to individual households eg. a form of insulation plan for all homes or subsidised tariffs.

The next meeting will be at Tweedsmuir Village Hall on 2 November (7.30pm).