

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir
Village Hall, on Thursday, 5 April 2018 (7.30pm)**

Present: Gavin Parker (GP, chairman), Paul Greaves (PG, secretary), Lesley Kirkwood (LK), Lesley Mason (LM), Ralph Glatt (RG). Eric Small (ES, Scottish Borders Councillor), Heather Anderson (HA, Scottish Borders Councillor), and 4 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 8 March were approved

01.04 APOLOGIES

Brian Bushell, treasurer and vice chairman, Nicola Craig, police representative.

02.04 MATTERS ARISING

Website updates: PG reported that the windfarm guidelines had been updated on the community council website to reflect that foreign travel was not allowed under the schemes.

03.04 BROADBAND

Resident Mark Cullen, who has joined the CC's broadband committee, reported that he had received the following email from Ben Campbell, of BT, regarding the promised quote for a superfast broadband installation where the village would commit to doing most of the self dig.

I have been pressing to get confirmation of a date for your quotation, but I am sorry to say I have not been successful to date. The only date I have been given is the due date for the proposal, which was two weeks ago, but with no sign of a proposal. I have escalated this internally, and have been told there is a national 30-day backlog of work coming from our planning department. I'm not at all happy about this and will continue to press for completion and release of your quotation at the earliest opportunity.

The meeting agreed that this situation - it has now been six months since BT first promised the revised quote - was unacceptable, and that a letter of complaint should be sent to the head of BT Scotland. It was also agreed that copies of this letter should be forwarded to the three Scottish Borders Councilors, and that, in future, they should be kept abreast of any developments.

PG reported that he had made contact with a community in Balquhiddier, in Stirlingshire, who have recently completed a superfast installation of 200 homes for £300,000. The project was a community self dig and did not involve BT. PG said the community had agreed to meet with Tweedsmuir representatives to offer guidance and advice. PG was in the process of trying to set up a meeting.

04.04 SNOW BLOWER/GRIT BIN

PG reported the following re the proposed purchase of a snow blower for the village.

1 Insurance: Having checked with Zurich, the snow blower would be covered by the £5m public liability insurance that is in place for all community councils in Scotland. The insurers, however, insist on training for anyone operating the blower, and would have to approve the qualifications of any trainer before training goes ahead. There would also have to be risk assessments carried out.

2 Funding: It is envisaged that the cost of the snow blower will be covered by windfarm funding. In this regard, SSE has intimated that it would consider any application, while Glenkerie has said it would also do so, provided the snow blower is not used for duties already carried out by Scottish Borders Council.

The meeting agreed that a survey of residents along Kirk Road, where the snow blower would be most beneficial, should be undertaken to gauge whether all were in favour of the idea and whether residents would be willing to help with the operation of the snow blower. PG agreed to carry this out.

LK reported that SBC had agreed to site a grit bin along Kirk Road, but were awaiting notification of the chosen site.

05.04 STATE OF THE ROADS

GP thanked SBC for carrying out the repairs to Fruid Road.

PG reported that BB had written to David Richardson, head of roads at SBC, asking him if it would be possible to carry out other repairs needed in the village while the Fruid Road was being relaid. Mr Richardson replied to say that the damage referred to by Brian had been identified and that repairs would be carried out in the next four weeks.

GP said that no date had been arranged yet for a meeting with SBC re the state of the A701.

GP added that the establishment of a steering group for the A701 had also been abandoned.

HA explained that the area forums could set up steering groups but the organisations that succeeded the forums, the area partnerships, do not have the right to do so.

05.04 COMMUNITY PLAN

LM said one of the things the CC was not addressing, which was part of the plan, was transport and the possibility of a community bus. GP said work had been done on this in the past, but that it had been put on the backburner with everything else that was going on. He suggested that the council could look into the possibility of a community bus, which would also vie for the schools contract. This would make the operation of the bus sustainable.

LK said she had been talking with Simon Goldfinch, a local resident, re the possibility of using renewable energy in the village, and reported that he would be willing to come along to a council meeting talk to the council on the subject. The meeting agreed that this should be arranged for June. LK added that an electric car, linked with the village's renewable energy project, might be a way forward.

06.04 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT

GP said he had spoken to the crossroads landowner and the area needed for development had been agreed. GP added that legal documents were in the process of being drawn up.

07.04 PLANNING APPLICATION

New forestry planting at Hearthstanes:

RG explained that Hearthstanes farm has plans for new planting at Snout Hill, around 190 hectares, of a mix of commercial and broadleaf trees. Felling of the commercial trees would be around 2055 and it had been agreed that the exit for the timber would be at Patervan, north of the village. Councillors approved the plans.

08.04 POLICE REPORT

Rural Thefts

15/03/2018 – A report was received regarding theft of various items within an insecure property which is under renovation at Stanhope, Tweedsmuir, enquiry is ongoing.

Speeding/Road Traffic

08/03/2018 - A report was received regarding a single vehicle accident, whereby a vehicle struck a wall causing damage, details were later exchanged in respect of damage caused.

12/03/2018 – A report was received regarding a collision between a car and a lorry, north of Broughton on A701, causing serious injury to a male, enquiry ongoing with Roads Policing.

24/03/2018 – Report received regarding a single vehicle colliding with a fence 1 mile north of Crook Inn, Tweedsmuir A701, minor injury.

29/03/2018 - A report received regarding 2 vehicle accident on A701 outside Broughton, where a vehicle collided with a BT pole, causing the pole to fall onto the following vehicle, minor injuries.

09.04 SBC COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

At the council's last meeting, HA reported that the council ruling parties had been asked to review the £11,000 cut planned for the Citizen's Advice Bureau in light of the introduction of universal credit.

A motion was also raised that SBC write to the PM urging Scotland to stay in the single market. It was also asked that a survey be carried out into the impact of Brexit. HA said 23 per cent of Scotland's CAP subsidy comes to the south of Scotland and that the impact of Brexit would be huge. HA reported that the South of Scotland Alliance was also in the process of carrying out a survey into the impact.

LK urged the council to look into the online voting process for their Localities Bid Fund. LK said she had voted, but there had been no confirmation and therefore wondered whether her vote

had been registered. HA said that there was going to be a review of the scheme before the next round of funding next month

10.04 CROOK INN

GP reported that the planning application for phase one, a new cafe and bunkhouse, was due to go to the SBC shortly, and that funding was also being sought for a project officer to help with funding applications.

11.03 AOB

Litter collection: The meeting arranged for volunteers to carry out the collection over the weekends of 14-15 and 21-22 April. It was agreed an invoice for £26.50 for equipment/gloves etc for the litter collection would be submitted for payment from the TCC's funds.

GP reported that he had received a complaint about the amount of litter on a layby on the A701 near the source of the Tweed. GP had contacted SBC to ask if a litter bin could be placed there and at other laybys along the road. The council replied that there was not enough capacity in the bin lorries to empty litter bins. PG agreed to write to the council again to lodge our request.

Talking pictures: Award-winning local photographer Kenny Martin has agreed to give a talk on photography at the village hall on 27 April (see attached poster)

The next meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council - the council's AGM - will be held on Thursday, 3 May, 2018 (7:30pm).