

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council (CC) on Thursday 5th November 2020 (7.00pm) via Zoom

Present: Gavin Parker (GP, Chairman), Brian Bushell (BB, Treasurer and Vice Chairman), Debbie Cullen (Secretary), Lesley Mason (LM), Mark Cullen (MC), Ralph Glatt (RG), Heather Anderson (HA, Scottish Borders Councillor) and 4 members of the public.

01.11 WELCOME and APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Eric Small (Scottish Borders Councillor)

02.11 MATTERS ARISING

GP reported on his recent meeting with Mr Mundell (MP). **GP** raised the ongoing issues being experienced with Openreach, in progressing the Tweedsmuir Broadband Project. Written information had been provided by **MC** and **BB** prior to the meeting.

GP had also raised concerns about the difficulties being experienced by local residents in accessing the Flu Vaccination. **HA** reported being happy to relay any specific concerns to colleagues at SBC.

03.11 BROADBAND

MC reported having been in communication with Mr Mundell's office but had yet to receive any feedback. No response had been received from Openreach in response to requests for an update. **MC** reported having made contact with 2 independent Broadband infrastructure providers. Unfortunately, neither had any plans to develop services in this geographical area.

Action:

MC to contact Duncan Nesbit (lead for R100 project) regarding ongoing frustrations with Openreach.

04.11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- Ref. No: 20/01156/SCR | Overhead Line connecting the consented Whitelaw Brae Wind Farm substation with the operational Clyde South Wind Farm substation.

If anyone has any specific comments/objections regarding the above planning applications please contact a Community Councillor.

05.11 TREASURER'S REPORT

BB updated, information attached.

BB reported that an application is being made to Glenkerie for the Covid Grant discussed previously.

06.11 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

Community Event on Christmas Eve at Crook Inn Car Park - Application to SSE Microgrant for £250 from Neil Robinson and Fiona Burnett.

This event is being funded equally between Skirling CC, Broughton CC and the Kirk Sessions. The application was supported by TCC. However, after discussion it was agreed that the community's contribution to this event should be funded from the Glenkerie Covid Fund rather than through a Microgrant. It was felt that the event, in place of the annual Christmas Eve Carol Service, was necessitated by Covid.

BB requested it be minuted that TCC would not be required to meet any costs in excess of the grant award. Christine Parker, local resident, reported that should this event be cancelled, for whatever reason, an event to a similar value would be provided during the following 12 months.

07.11 POLICE REPORT

Copy attached.

HA reported that Police representatives were now meeting each month with SBC Community Councillors. **HA** reported being happy to raise any issues of concern on behalf of the community.

BB raised the ongoing issue of speeding on the A701 through Tweedsmuir. **GP** reported having received a questionnaire regarding the 20 mph speed limits recently introduced in various towns/villages across the Borders. One response was requested per Community Council. The questions were discussed and a response made. SBC are updating their website as the project is rolled out and information can be found at <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/20mph> **HA** suggested that Philippa Gilhooly, Team Leader Traffic and Road Safety at SBC, be invited to a meeting in the New Year to discuss the ongoing concerns regarding speeding through the Community, as Tweedsmuir is not currently included in the 20mph project.

Action:

LM to obtain update from neighbour who had been in discussion with the Police regarding speeding related signage.

08.11 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

HA reported on meeting that had taken place regarding the development of Business Cases in relation to the Destination Tweed Initiative. One element involves the development of mountain biking activities in Innerleithen and the other on promoting the Tweed for tourism and leisure.

09.11 CROOK INN

Duncan Davidson, local resident, provided an update. Architects working on behalf of the Tweedsmuir Community Company and their design team are working to fulfil final planning agreements and to obtain construction contracts, to enable start of work on the proposed Crook Community Hub (cafe) by the end of March 2021. This process is being supported by SBC

The Community Company is also progressing the development of the Discover Tweedsmuir project, funded by the Heritage Lottery fund.

10.11 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

LM reported on a number of initiatives –

- A draft website including information about local paths and walks is under development and should be available for the community to view and input to in the New Year.
- Work is ongoing in the area of Mossfennan in conjunction with Biggar Archaeology Society to erect waymarked signage for routes giving access to archaeology in the area. Litter bins and a number of Kissing Gates to be installed.
- Discussions are underway with Whitelaw Brae Windfarm regarding the creation of walking/cycling routes as part of the windfarm development.
- Community Walks – SBC is looking at ways of encouraging access to walking. Looking at how this could be promoted in the community.
- Tweedsmuir Talks – the first talk, in October, was well received. The second, scheduled for 27th November at 7.30pm via Zoom will focus on the construction of Talla Reservoir.
- Menzion Walk – The volunteer work on the lower route has been completed and was used for the Halloween Event.
- Work on Tweedsmuir Little Library is nearly complete, details to follow.
- Standing Stones. After discussions with Scottish Heritage some basic work has been carried out to maintain the condition of the stones.

11.11 LITTER SIGNAGE

LM reported having selected 3 designs and suggested an initial purchase of 10 signs at a cost of £56 plus delivery and VAT, funded via the Covid Fund.

Action:

LM to purchase signs and circulate suggested sites for their use.

12.11 PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS

Planning is underway for a number of events/activities.

- A virtual Christmas party – Vicky White and Nicola Kotze to co-ordinate.
- Christmas Walk – **LM** to co-ordinate.
- A Christmas Drive-In Movie. Likely to be between Christmas and New Year at Crook Inn Car Park. Andrew Mason to co-ordinate.
- Christmas Eve Event in place of the Carol Service. Christine Parker to co-ordinate in conjunction with other Community Councils.
- A Christmas Surprise. **DC** and Frances Leckie to co-ordinate.

13.11 A.O.B.

None.

Next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council will take place on Thursday 3rd December 2020 (7.00pm) Via Zoom