

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council (CC) on Thursday 3rd December 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), Eric Small (ES), Scottish Borders Council, Heather Anderson (HA, Scottish Borders Councillor) and 4 members of the public.

02.12 WELCOME and APOLOGIES

None received.

02.12 MATTERS ARISING

Corrections to the minutes of the meeting of 6th November

- **07.11** Police report. **HA** reported that SBC Community Councillors were meeting regularly (not monthly) with Police representatives.
- **12.11** Planning for Christmas. A virtual Christmas Party, Co-ordinators Nicola Kotze and Helen Wood (not Vicky White).

03.12 BROADBAND

MC informed that David Mundell is reported to still be pursuing our grievance with Openreach. **MC** reported on feedback from Openreach confirming that members of the community are no longer eligible for the Gigabit voucher scheme as Tweedsmuir is covered within the scope of the R100 project. Openreach have given no indication that there will be any flexibility in scheduling the roll out programme. Tweedsmuir is currently scheduled for roll out towards the end of 2021. After discussion it was agreed that the community would continue to pursue Openreach for an explanation and apology regarding their failure to provide a contract for and to deliver on the Community Broadband Project. It was also agreed that compensation be sought as this failure by Openreach has resulted in a delay of at least 18 months-2 years in the provision of Superfast Broadband to the community.

Action:

MC to draft a letter to the Chief Executive of BT Group regarding our complaint, case for compensation and intention to escalate to OFCOM should a satisfactory resolution not be achieved. To circulate to the Committee for comment prior to sending

MC to draft an update for the Community and Windfarms. To circulate to the Committee for comment prior to circulation.

MC to update Duncan Nesbit regarding the above actions.

04.12 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None.

05.12 TREASURERS REPORT

BB updated, information attached.

BB reported having received confirmation from Ventient Glenkerie of a £4000 grant for Covid related activities and £1,000 of microgrant funding.

Councillors agreed the transfer of £50 towards funding for the virtual Christmas party.

06.12 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

None.

07.12 POLICE REPORT

Copy attached.

08.13 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

HA reported on further work taking place regarding the Borderlands Deal, anticipated to bring significant future investment across southern Scotland including the SBC area.

ES reported on work taking place on the next Local Development Plan, due to be published shortly. The Plan can be viewed and comments made via the SBC website.

09.12 CROOK INN

Duncan Davidson, local resident, provided an update. Architects and the design team, in liaison with representatives from the planning department at SBC, are working hard to ensure construction can start on the Crook Community Hub in March 2021.

10.12 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

LM reported having recently reviewed the Community Plan and talked through the significant achievements of the last few years. Areas requiring attention were also noted.

Action:

CC members to make amendments/additions to the updated plan and return to **LM**.

Updated plan to provide the focus for a future Tweedsmuir Talk with a view to identifying/confirming priorities with associated lead(s) for the next/successor Community Action Plan.

11.12 LITTER

LM reported on the installation of one of the new 'Community' litter bins at Mossfennan. A bin is to be installed at Menzion Bridge. If anyone has any suggestions about the siting of the third bin please contact **LM**.

A member of the community has suggested a winter Community Litter Pick. To be discussed at next TCC meeting.

12.12 PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS

Planning is ongoing. Events include a virtual Christmas Party, Community lead walks and the Drive-In event on Christmas Eve. Booking is required for the Christmas Eve event, details can be found in the recently circulated Kirk Matters.

13.12 WEBSITE

LM and local resident, Frances Leckie to investigate a refresh of the CC website. It was noted that the interfunctional functionality of the website is quite limited and it is best suited as a repository for information e.g. Council minutes, Grant application forms etc. If anyone has any suggestions additional content please contact **LM**.

The importance of encouraging new residents to join the community council's database information for email circulation list was highlighted.

Action:

BB to progress updating the community council's database information for email circulation list.

14.12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- A701 - There have been several road closures over the last year and we now have a much improved surface with newly painted white lines.
 - Nov 2020 A701 road closure. **GP** confirmed that the Community Council had received no formal notification, that unlike during previous closures, there would be no access for local residents, post or deliveries. Following discussion, along with feedback received from SBC, it was confirmed that responsibility for notification of road closures lies with SBC.

It was agreed that **ES** would raise the issue of communication regarding road closures particularly where the closure is likely to cause significant detours for local residents.

- Information regarding any forthcoming road works is available on the SBC website and/or through local signage.

Action:

BB to forward recent email correspondence with SBC regarding communication of road closures to **ES**.

- Nominations are being sought for the Awards Panel for Ventient Windfarm. Please see attached flier.

**Next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council will
take place on Thursday 4th February 2021
(7.00pm) Via Zoom**

**Wishing you all a
Merry Christmas**

