

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) on Thursday 6th May 2021 (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), and 6 members of the public.

01.05 WELCOME and APOLOGIES

Eric Small, Scottish Borders Councillor

02.05 MATTERS ARISING

None.

03.05 BROADBAND

MC and **GP** confirmed that the Community Fibre Broadband Project will not be able to proceed. **GP** reported that the monies received from SSE have been returned. As noted at the last Community Council meeting, Tweedsmuir will be covered by the R100 project. However, this is not currently scheduled to be rolled out to Tweedsmuir until 2024. The list of properties covered by the project and exclusions can be found on the TCC website.

04.05 UPDATE OF THE TCC INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION LIST

- **DC** reported having received responses from 50% of the residents on the existing email distribution list and 2 responses from residents who had been receiving hand delivered information. Four residents have been identified who do not appear to be on any existing contact list. A final reminder will be sent to those residents who have yet to respond. As TCC is not able to retain the details of residents without their permission, residents who do not respond by the specified date will be removed from the list.

Action:

- **DC** to -
 - send a final reminder to residents on the current email distribution list, with a deadline to respond of Monday 17th May 2021
 - send a final reminder, by post, to those previously receiving hand delivered information and those residents yet to be contacted, with a deadline to respond of Friday 21st May 2021.

05.05 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications made during April

- **Erection of Agricultural Building**
Hearthstane Farm Tweedsmuir Scottish Borders, Ref. No: 21/00658/FUL
- **Formation of Forestry Track**
Land East Of Hearthstane Farmhouse Tweedsmuir Scottish Borders
- **Formation of Forestry Track**
Land North East Of Stanhope Cottage Tweedsmuir Scottish Borders
Ref. No: 21/00604/PN

06.05 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

None received.

07.05 SCOTTISH BORDER COUNCILLORS' REPORT

None available as Councillors not present.

08.05 POLICE REPORT

Copy attached.

09.05 CROOK INN

Duncan Davidson, Chair, Tweedsmuir Community Company, reported there was nothing to update.

10.05 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

LM reported on -

- the plans for recruiting volunteers to undertake work in relation to the Heritage Database
- the potential for working with 'Youth Borders' and local High Schools to provide volunteering opportunities for young people in the 'Outdoor' working groups on the Crook site.
- the ongoing work of the 'Interpretation Group'. The panels for the Crook are nearing production, those for the Kirk are in their first draft and a 'You are Here' board is being planned
- a grant application made to fund gates along the Logan Walk
- the forthcoming relaunch of the Volunteer Transport Scheme

Caroline Mathias and Adrian Randles, members of the Productive Gardening working group, reported on plans for the siting of a 'hot composting' facility on the Crook site. This would enable vegetable, garden waste and cooked food to be composted. The compost produced would be used on the Crook site with the potential for any surplus to be made available to the community. The next step will be to canvas residents regarding the potential use of such a facility. The Community Council gave their support to this initiative.

11.05 LITTER

Thanks were extended to everyone who participated in the recent litter pick. **LM** reported that approx. 100hrs were contributed by 40 residents. **BB** requested an update on the placement of a bin at Gameshope. **LM** reported having attempted to follow up on this with the contact provided by **BB** but had yet to receive a response. **BB** also queried SBC delay in collecting the bags arising from the litter pick. **GP** reported that as the litter pick had taken place over a number of weeks rather than a single weekend SBC had not been asked to make the collection until all the picking had been completed and had responded promptly once contacted.

12.05 CONSULTATIONS

Visitor Management – **LM** and **DC** reported on a virtual meeting that had taken place with Kenny Harrow (**KH**), Locality Development Co-ordinator at SBC regarding the potential impact of an anticipated increase in visitor numbers over the coming months. A number of issues were discussed.

- **Litter** – Work already undertaken by the community to manage was outlined. **LM** asked if it would be possible to have bins installed and serviced by SBC at the 4 designated Parking Places along the A701 south of Tweedsmuir and at Fruid Reservoir.
- Lack of consideration for livestock and wildlife – **KH** was asked if he was aware of any SBC or South of Scotland signage initiative to inform visitors about responsible access. **LM** reported on signage available from the NFU that could be used if there is no wider campaign.
- **Traffic** – **DC** outlined the ongoing concerns of residents regarding the speed of traffic through the community, where the national speed limit applies. Safety concerns prevent residents from accessing amenities such as the village hall on foot or by bike. It was suggested that if it were not possible for the speed limit to be reduced, signage alerting drivers to pedestrians and cyclists would improve safety. **KH** agreed to make contact with Phillipa Gilhooly Road traffic and safety lead at SBC regarding speeding concerns. **KH** subsequently contacted to inform that any decision regarding traffic calming rests not with SBC but Police Scotland.
- Electric vehicle charging points – **KH** reported that a scoping exercise is planned to look at potential charging points across Southern Scotland, anticipated to report in about 12 months.
- Concern was expressed about visitors apparent lack of awareness regarding the use of passing places, some even using them as parking places. It was suggested that signage such as that used in the Highlands would be helpful. **KH** to investigate.

- Unauthorised camping – **KH** indicated that SBC maybe seeking to identify some areas where people could camp but without establishing formal camp sites.
- Public toilets – The lack of any public toilets in the locality was highlighted. **KH** reported on SBC intention to discontinue their funding for public toilets, looking for communities to take on responsibility for such facilities. **KH** subsequently informed that the toilets at Broughton will not be reopening.

BB expressed concern that during a conversation with a fishing permit holder, he had been informed that those dispensing fishing permits had indicated it was permissible to camp along Fruid reservoir.

Actions:

- **KH** had agreed to –
 - explore the possibility of bin provision and servicing at the designated parking places as discussed
 - to make enquires regarding signage re: responsible access and safe driving on single track roads

13.05 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

None noted.

14.04 A.O.B

LM informed of the opportunity for an Artist in Residence. Info attached.

Annual General Meeting

Chairman's report

Copy attached.

Treasurer's report

Copy attached.

1. Apologies

None received.

2. Order of Business

As per agenda

3. Declaration of Interest

None declared.

4. Code of Contract

All Councillors confirmed having read and understood the Code of Conduct and confirmed their adherence.

5. Any other items

None.

Next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council will take place on Thursday 3rd June 2021 (7.00pm) Via Zoom