

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) on Thursday 4th November 2021 (7.00pm), Tweedsmuir Village Hall and via Zoom

Present: Gavin Parker (GP, Chairman), Brian Bushell (Treasurer and Vice Chair), Debbie Cullen (Secretary), Lesley Mason (LM), Eric Small, (Scottish Borders Councillor), and 3 members of the public

01.11 WELCOME and APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Mark Cullen (MC), Ralph Glatt (RG) Heather Anderson (HA) (Scottish Borders Councillor)

02.11 MATTERS ARISING

Mobile Library – Further to the discussion that took place at the last meeting, it will not be possible for the mobile library vehicle to stop at the crossroads. The following response was received from **RG** *'Please be advised that this is private land, which needs to be kept clear for emergency vehicles and HGVs (including timber lorries) to make the turn onto and from the Fruid Road. Furthermore, if the mobile library service would park there it would require local residents to cross the road and/or park their own vehicles in the area, which would further obstruct the intersection. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.'*

LM reported that the Library Service is keen to work with the community to site the mobile library in a suitable position. It will therefore now park towards the top of Church Road, outside the Old Schoolhouse. It is hoped that a stop will also be made at the Village Hall once adjustments have been made to the width of the entrance/exits.

Action:

The visiting schedule for the mobile library to be printed and pinned on the noticeboards and in the Little Library (**DC**).

03.11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None received.

Oliver Field Planting Proposal – **GP** reported that an updated hydrology report had been received. A meeting to be convened to discuss the implications and formulate any response. The deadline for comments is 30th November 2021.

04.11 TREASURER'S REPORT

BB reported -

- there had been no expenditure since the last meeting
- the funds from SSE are still to be received, although microgrant spending to the value of £1,300 has been approved
- the invoice for £450 for pathway works from Tweedsmuir Community Company is still outstanding

BB suggested that the application form for £232 to be spent on Christmas related activities could be funded from the SBC grant rather than through an application to the SSE Clyde Borders Community Fund microgrant. The application to the latter to therefore be withdrawn.

A discussion took place regarding the status of other spending commitments already agreed for this financial year – Replacement notice board for the Crossroads & mobile data usage. Other potential items of expenditure were discussed e.g., outside lighting for the Village Hall, additional litter picking equipment and Christmas activities were discussed.

It was agreed to fund -

- the spending on Christmas related activities at a cost of £232 from SBC grant.
- a contribution to the Community Christmas Party @ £50 from SBC grant.

Actions:

- **BB** to contact SSE regarding the outstanding microgrant funding
- **LM** to follow up on the outstanding invoice from Tweedsmuir Community Company
- **LM** to check with RG that there are no issues with the siting of a new board at the crossroads and forward invoice for the provision and installation of the Board
- Frances Leckie to invoice **BB** for cost of mobile data
- Decisions regarding any additional items of expenditure for the current financial year to be taken at the next meeting

05.11 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

Orienting materials – An application had been made by **DC** to the SSE Microgrant Fund to fund the purchase of maps and compasses. This was agreed in principle subject to updating the costs, to cover the purchase of waterproof rather than paper maps and resubmission to the Ventient Glenkerie Fund.

Action:

DC to update costings and resubmit to the Ventient Glenkerie Fund

06.11 POLICE REPORT

DC to circulate when received.

07.11 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A report had been received from **HA** summarised below -

- **Budget setting** Discussions to restart again following the recent UK budget allocation.
- **Place planning** – agreement at Tweeddale Area Partnership that there will be a Tweeddale specific meeting on place planning with a workshop to clarify the aims and improve current planning processes.
- **Staffing issues due to covid** – The recycling centre at Eshiels has remained open, through great efforts by staff, but Borders Buses are cancelling some public bus services
- **Presentation by Donald Scott to Tweeddale Area Partnership re: roads** Key points –
 - SBC has 3,000 km of roads
 - 43.5% of our currently roads need attention (a score of 43.5 on the roads conditions Index). Only Argyll & Bute and Dumfries & Galloway have higher rates. The national average score is 29%.
 - to maintain the roads in their current condition would require £12m a year on planned maintenance – spending currently £6m
 - £3,000/ km spent on the roads – lower than our “family” group of rural councils average of £3,700/km. The national average spend is £6,000/km
 - The programme of works for next financial year is being drafted – the outline plan should be done by Christmas.
 - there are currently 300 live schemes being covered by 4 members of engineering staff. 2 new apprentice trainees have recently joined the team.
- **Forestry** – **HA** would welcome the suggestion that this be raised at future Area Partnership meeting.
- **20mph report** – a full report is due to be put before the council by the end of the year. General agreement from Tweeddale Cllrs to maintain 20s in Tweeddale and to undertake additional work to increase efficacy but the final decision is dependent upon the full report.

ES reported that –

- Skirling and Broughton Community Councils are planning the joint purchase and subsequent use of a mobile 'traffic calming policeman' (a static 2-dimensional figure holding a speed gun)
- despite local lobbying to have them reopened, the 'pay to use' public toilets in Peebles, are to remain shut
- West Linton Community Council has been suspended until the New Year due to insufficient numbers of Community Councillors.

08.11 CROOK INN

Duncan Davidson, Chair Tweedsmuir Community Company reported that the next stage of work will be to demolish the extension to the rear of the Crook.

09.11 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

LM reported on –

- the progress of the eco museum. A community event to launch the website is being planned. A number of other local community groups have expressed an interest in developing similar databases for their areas.
- a day of tidying and bulb planting recently took place at the Crook
- for a small donation 'The Friends of Dawyck' have donated a number of plants to the Crook Garden
- a new information board has been erected at the Crook, inviting expressions of interest in running the Wee Crook
- a number of large grant applications have recently been submitted to progress work on the Crook site

10.11 CONSULTATIONS

GP reported on his recent attendance at the proposed Greyside Windfarm Development Event where he had raised concerns about the cumulative visual effect of additional windfarms. The developers undertook to pull together and forward **to GP** a panoramic view of the existing and proposed windfarms to help convey the visual impact.

11.11 VILLAGE HALL

LM reported having been made aware of a scheme to place performing artists, impacted by COVID, in touch with venues where they can now perform and is exploring the potential of the Village Hall as one such venue.

12.11 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Following on from the success of the previous set of talks, **LM** is seeking suggestions for any future topics/speakers for a winter season of 'Tweedsmuir Talks'. Please forward any ideas to **LM** - lesleymtweedsmuir@icloud.com

12.11 CENSUS 2020

Attached is a brief presentation containing information about the forthcoming census. Opportunities to work for Census Scotland and support participation can be found via the link below -

<https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/about/taking-part-in-the-2022-census/work-with-us/>

13.11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- South of Scotland Enterprise First Engagement Tour. Information attached.
- Development of a new Community Plan. **GP** and **LM** to meet with Star Consulting regarding the potential for developing a new Community Plan.

- **BB** queried that as winter approaches what was the situation regarding resident's awareness of and ability to use, the Snow Blower, purchased some time ago. This led to a broader discussion regarding 'Community Assets' – what they were and who was responsible for maintenance etc.
- The New Minister for the Kirk. Tweedsmuir Kirk, together with the congregations of Broughton, Glenholm & Kilbucho, Carlops, Kikurd & Newlands, Skirling and St Andrews, West Linton, are delighted to announce from 25th October 2021 the appointment of a new minister - The Reverend Dr Thomas Anthony Foley - 07793294000
- Christine Parker, local resident, reported on use of the website fixmystreet.com to report potholes, which feeds information entered onto the SBC website. Using the website it is possible to indicate the exact location of the pothole/problem and the user is notified when the problem has been fixed.

Action:

- **LM** to pull together a list of 'Community Assets'. This may include assets purchased by TCC or other bodies e.g. Tweedsmuir Community Company, that might be available for use by the community. To discuss under the agenda item of Resilient Communities at the next meeting.

**The next meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council will take place on
Thursday 2nd December 2021 (7.00pm) Tweedsmuir Village Hall
& Via Zoom**

WWW.TWEEDSMUIRCOMMUNITYCOUNCIL.ORG.UK CONTACT: DEBBIE.CULLEN@ME.COM

Chair: Gavin Parker Treasurer: Brian Bushell Secretary: Debbie Cullen

Other Councillors: Lesley Mason; Mark Cullen; Ralph Glatt;

Resilient Communities contact Lesley Kirkwood