

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) on Thursday 2nd December 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), Mark Cullen (MC), Eric Small, (Scottish Borders Councillor), Heather Anderson, Scottish Borders Councillor and 4 members of the public

01.12 WELCOME and APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Ralph Glatt (RG).

GP welcomed Dominic Ashmole (Scottish Green Party political candidate) to the meeting as an observer.

GP relayed the sad news of the recent passing of Tony Hope, a well-respected, longstanding resident of the community and avid local historian.

02.12 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Accepted as correct.

03.12 MATTERS ARISING

Oliver Field Planting Proposal – **GP** reported that -

- following receipt of an updated hydrology report, and after discussion with the residents affected, TCC had requested an extension to the consultation period. This had been sought to allow time to attempt to obtain a specialist independent view of the report. This request had however, been refused and the developers have stated their intention to forward the plans to Scottish Forestry on 17th December for submission to the Forestry Register.
- Following the last TCC meeting a letter had been sent to Christine Grahame (MSP) outlining the community's concerns regarding this development and seeking her support on a number of issues. An acknowledgement had been received.

Action:

- **GP** to recontact Christine Grahame regarding the issues outstanding from our initial correspondence.
- **HA** and **ES** to write to Scottish Forestry regarding the developer's refusal to grant an extension to the Consultation period
- **GP** to convene a further meeting of those affected to discuss next steps

04.12 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Whitelaw Brae Windfarm has obtained consent to extend the life of the windfarm from 25 – 30 years.

05.12 TREASURERS REPORT

Copy attached.

BB requested information regarding the costings and timescale for provision, for the new noticeboard proposed for the crossroads

Action:

- **LM** to follow up

06.12 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

Business development course – Application to the Ventient Windfarm Microgrant Fund for £250 from Helen Wood. **Approved.**

Orienteering materials – Application to the Ventient Windfarm Fund for £185.98 from Debbie Cullen. **Approved.**

07.12 POLICE REPORT

Report attached.

ES reviewed the summary statistics and highlighted the concerning increases in relation to certain categories of crime, particularly those relating to domestic violence and rape.

08.12 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

ES reported that discussions are ongoing regarding the opening arrangements for the public toilets in Broughton and West Linton. There has been a suggestion that they be opened only during the summer months but no decision has yet been made.

HA echoed **ES's** earlier concerns regarding the rise in reports of violence against women and girls, particularly as evidence suggests that the rate of underreporting of such crimes is significant.

HA reported on discussions taking place regarding the proposed development of a Care Village at Tweedbank for individuals with dementia. **HA** expressed concerns about the development, suggesting resources might better be directed to supporting people to stay within their own communities.

HA continues to raise concerns about the impact of Commercial Forestry across the area.

GP had recently received some information forwarded from **HA** regarding Participatory Budgeting and asked how this was being progressed across SBC. **HA** reported that progress to date has been slow but could be expected it was anticipated to become an area of greater focus going forward.

09.12 CROOK INN

LM reported –

- The Café development is progressing well and a number of enquires have been received regarding possible tenants to manage The Wee Crook
- Demolition of the extension at the rear of the Inn is almost complete
- Siting of the septic tank is underway
- Work is taking place to remodel the entrance to the site

10.12 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

LM reported that –

- the Ecomuseum will be launched on the 10th December – and there are now over 400 entries in the system, which have been entered by a number of volunteers.
- the Community News Photo competition has resulted in a Community calendar for 2022 being completed, and a successful microgrant application has resulted in Tweedsmuir being able to provide a copy for all residents. Additional copies can be purchased from Broughton Village Store.
- Logan Walk interpretation signs are now ready to be installed, and will be erected imminently. New pedestrian gates have also been erected. These renovations have been funded by Paths for All, and the Fallago Recovery Fund.
- plans are progressing to investigate the feasibility of a 'pump and jump' track at the Crook Inn and funding is being explored
- plans are being developed for a petanque court, hopefully to be completed Summer 2022.
- trees and hedging for the Crook Gardens have been received from Borders Forest Trust.
- work is taking place with the Eastgate Theatre to secure some music events in 2022, probably in Tweedsmuir Hall.
- Tweedsmuir Video Group is looking for new members – next meeting 16th January. If you would like to get involved please contact Lesley Mason or Duncan Davidson.

11.12 CONSULTATIONS

- *Scottish Parliament Committee inquiry into the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People. Your views are being sought particularly relating to:*
 - [Young people's health and wellbeing](#)
 - [Health and wellbeing in schools](#)
 - [Young people's mental health](#)*You can share your views online [HERE](#)*
- *South East of Scotland – Draft Regional Transport Strategy (RTS)*
A 'virtual' online exhibition has been created and can be accessed using this link [Online Exhibition](#). You can review the draft RTS, and all supporting documentation, in our 'virtual' online exhibition and provide feedback through our online survey, which closes on 11 February 2022.

12.12 EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

LM presented a draft inventory of equipment owned by TCC, Tweedsmuir Community and The Village Hall available for use within the community – charges may apply. Once finalised the inventory, along with a point of contact will be available to view on the TCC website.

BB raised the issue of training – initial and refresher for residents in use of the snow blower. Anyone who wishes to undertake or update their training should contact **BB** on 07815076732 or bkbushell@gmail.com

13.12 BUS SERVICE

Details of the new bus service now running between Moffat and Peebles, on the last Thursday of every month (except December) can be found on the TCC website.

14.12 QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE

LM reported that an area within the Crook Garden has already been identified for planting of trees to commemorate the Jubilee. Applications can be made to SBC, early next year, for Grant monies to support events etc. **GP** reported that discussions are underway regarding the potential for some joint celebratory events across the Upper Tweed.

Action:

LM to investigate the cost of benches for the Crook Garden to complement the proposed commemorative tree planting

15.12 CONTACT EMAIL FOR TCC

A dedicated email has been established for the TCC Secretary. This will enable all email correspondence to be received and stored in a dedicated account and will be used for TCC business in conjunction with the recently purchased dedicated laptop. Residents and others e.g. SBC will be notified.

The new address is **Tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com**

16.12 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tweedsmuir Talks

Friday 10 th Dec 2021	7pm Village Hall	Launch of Ecomuseum
Friday 21 st Jan 2022	TBC	TBC
Friday 18 th Feb	TBC	TBC
The above two events are either Vicky Davidson from Ettrick Valley, on the development of their steading for business units and affordable housing – and Phil Rees, Dark Skies in Tweedsmuir		
Friday 18 th March	Hall or Zoom	Destination Tweed Development
Friday 22 nd April	Hall or Zoom	Richard Crichton – Merlin in Tweed

Garden Group : Contact Lesley Mason to book places

Wed 8 th Dec 2021	Hall	Willow wreath making (places available)
PM in Christmas holidays (TBC)		Dying flags for bird scarers
Wed 12 th Jan 2022	Broughton Hall	LM, CM & FL Updating Rural on Crook Garden
Wed 9 th Feb	Hall	Seed swap evening
26 th or 27 th Feb	Hall	Workshop - Apple tree grafting
10am -3pm		
March - TBC		Launch of Tattie competition
Wed 9 th March		Hilltop Herbalist Talk
March- TBC		2 days for community tree and hedge planting at the Crook
March/April		Cutting collection from Ann Davidson's Walled Garden
Tues eves from 5 th April	Crook garden	Weekly gardening
14 th April		Pruning workshop
Easter - Sunday 17 th April	Church car park	Natural egg dying & rolling
		Community picnic

Other Diary Dates

Sat 18 th Dec 2021	Church car park	Community Christmas Party
2pm		
Fri 24 th Dec 2021 - 6pm	Tweedsmuir Church	Christmas Eve Service
Monday 27 th Dec 2021	Hall	Christmas Jigsaw - athon
Wed 29 th Dec 2021	Logan Walks	Grand opening (mulled wine & mince pies)
Date TBC	Hall	Christmas board games eve
Sat 22 nd Jan 2022	Hall	The Scots Night

17.12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Concerns have been raised by a resident concerning the condition of Talla Road at the entrance to the Forestry track. Due to the volume of traffic the road is frequently covered with mud. Ahead of today's meeting **RG** had, on behalf of Heathstanes notified TCC that the current haulage traffic will continue until late spring. They are regularly sweeping the road and the road condition is being monitored. Concerns had also been expressed regarding the excessive speed of some vehicles travelling along the Fruid Road.

Action:

- Residents with concerns about vehicles regularly driven at excessive speed should inform the Police.
- GP** to contact Phillipa Gilhooly at SBC regarding the possibility for speed reduction measures on both Talla and Fruid Roads.
- GP** reported that Tweedsmuir, Broughton and Skirling and working with SSE Windfarm to establish an Endowment Fund to safeguard future grant monies. After discussion **MC** volunteered to attend these meetings, as a representative from Tweedsmuir alongside **GP**.
- There are currently 2 vacancies for panel members on the Ventient Glenkerie Windfarm Panel. Details and an application form can be found at - <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/about-us/our-news/ventient-energy-glenkerie-wind-farm-community-fund-panel-recruitment>
- Following the last meeting of TCC **GP** and **LM** met with STAR Consulting regarding the possibility of commissioning a new Community Action Plan to succeed the current plan which expires next year. STAR have subsequently submitted a quote for £11,00 to undertake this project. After discussion it was agreed that it is important for a new plan to be developed and that STAR would be the preferred provider as they already have data about and an understanding of the community. However, in order to try and secure funding for the project other tenders would be sought.

Action:

- GP** and **LM** to seek alternative quotes
- Citizen of the Year – nominations are being sought. Information attached.
- Residents are reminded of the Resilient Communities initiative available to support members of the community in adverse circumstances e.g. bad weather, power failure etc. Anyone requiring assistance should contact Lesley Kirkwood, Resilient Communities Coordinator on 07919107273 or 01899 880256.
- It was agreed the possibility of developing a Grant application to fund the sourcing of smoke and CO2 alarms for residents requiring them, be developed.

Action:

- MC** to draft application
- The next Tour of The Borders will take place on Sunday 4th September 2022.
- It was agreed that TCC Facebook page would not accept posts for Commercial businesses.

**The next meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council will take place on
Thursday 3rd February 2022 (7.00pm) Tweedsmuir Village Hall
& Via Zoom**

Any potential agenda items can be forwarded to The Secretary –
Tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com



**Wishing you a Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year
From all your Community
Councillors**

WWW.TWEEDSMUIRCOMMUNITYCOUNCIL.ORG.UK **CONTACT:** TWEEDSMUIRSECRETARY@OUTLOOK.COM

Chair: Gavin Parker Treasurer: Brian Bushell Secretary: Debbie Cullen
Other Councillors: Lesley Mason; Mark Cullen; Ralph Glatt;
Resilient Communities contact Lesley Kirkwood