

## Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council 2015

- 29 Jan 2015
- 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015
- 2 April 2015
- 14 May 2015
- 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015
- 6 August 2015
- 3 Sept 2015
- 8 Oct 2015
- 5 Nov 2015
- 3 Dec 2015

## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

### Meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at the Village Hall, Tweedsmuir, on Thursday, January 29 2015.

**Present:** Community councillors Gavin Parker, Sarah Northcott, Brian Bushell, Kaitlyn Roper, Lesley Mason and Paul Greaves, and 15 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Kathleen Mason, of Scottish Borders Council, and SBC councillors Catriona Bhatia, Keith Cockburn and Willie Archibald.

**Item 1:** Mr. Rod Sibbald ( standing in for Ms. Kathleen Mason of the SBC who was unable to attend due to adverse weather conditions) opened the meeting and welcomed all. He explained the reason for a local person representing the SBC and declared that he would act as chairman and oversee the appointment of a chairperson from the six elected councillors of Tweedsmuir Community Council. Then he would step down and let the newly appointed chairperson conduct the meeting and appoint the other office-bearers.

**Item 2:** As all members of the local council were present, this was recorded.

**Item 3:** The chairman explained the process of electing the chairman to all assembled. This would involve a person nominating themselves and being proposed and seconded. If there were more than one nomination and attendant proposer and seconder, then it would proceed to secret ballot. If there was no overall majority, it would be decided by the nominees drawing from a pack of cards!

**Item 4:** In accordance with the rules, the chairman requested the six councillors declare any interests they might have which would have compromised their position on the community council. None were declared. This was noted.

**Item 5:** The chairman asked each of the six community councillors to introduce themselves; which they duly did in turn.

**Item 6:** Nominations were invited for the post of chairperson. Mr. Gavin Parker nominated himself and was proposed by Mr. Paul Greaves and seconded by Mrs. Lesley Mason. Mr. Brian Bushell also declared his interest and willingness but withdrew as he realised that ., this would make life awkward for the remaining four Councillors as there could be a perceived issue of divided loyalty. Mr. Gavin Parker was duly declared as chairman. Following this Mr. Rod Sibbald stood down. Mr. Gavin Parker then expressed his own thanks and was joined by the other councillors who thanked Mr. Sibbald for his willingness and assistance to facilitate the opening of the inaugural meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council.

**Item 7:** The chairman then sought nominations for vice-chairperson. Mr. Brian Bushell nominated himself and was proposed by Mr. Paul Greaves and seconded by Ms. Sarah Northcott. There were no other nominations. Mr. Brian Bushell was declared as vice-chairman.

**Item 8:** The chairman then sought nominations for secretary. Mr Paul Greaves nominated himself and was proposed by Mr. Brian Bushell and seconded by Mr. Gavin Parker. There were no other nominations. Mr. Paul Greaves was declared as secretary.

**Item 9:** The chairman then sought nominations for treasurer. As there were no nominations, Mr. Paul Greaves and Mr. Gavin Parker suggested that Mr. Brian Bushell be appointed ( given his experience). Mr. Brian Bushell agreed and was proposed by Mr. Paul Greaves and seconded by Mr. Gavin Parker.

A number of items were then discussed by the meeting:

#### **WHITEHILL BRAE WINDFARM**

The chairman said that an application for Whitehill Brae windfarm had now been lodged with the Scottish Government, and that the community council had until February 13 to send its response to Holyrood. He also brought the meeting's attention to an exhibition by 20 20, the company spearheading the windfarm development, at the village hall, on Monday, February 2. The chairman then asked for comment from the meeting.

Ms Kirsty Stevens, whose home is just 1300m from the proposed site, issued photo montages of how the turbines would affect the local landscape, and pointed out that from the head of Fruid reservoir all of the proposed 14 turbines would be visible. She urged people to object by writing to the government individually, but pointed out that there were specific grounds on which you could object. She offered to email these to anyone who wanted them.

Ms Stevens also pointed out that BBC Ceefax and the Peebleshire News had reported that the application included a new crossing at Carlowse. She said this was incorrect, and that a new bridge was due to be constructed further south of the village. This would mean there would be no windfarm traffic through the centre of Tweedsmuir itself.

Following further discussion, in which it was pointed out that the windfarm was in a special landscape area and that there were ospreys on the site, a straw poll was taken of those present. 14 members of the public voted against the application, with one abstention. All councillors voted to oppose the application.

The chairman said that the council would mirror the meeting's reaction and strongly object to the windfarm proposal.

#### **SBC WEBSITE**

## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

A Tweedsmuir resident brought the meeting's attention to an item on the council's website, detailing changes to land use in Tweedsmuir. She urged the council to look into this as some of the changes were significant.

### **BOUNDARIES**

Councillors approved the boundaries to the Tweedsmuir CC area, and circulated maps showing the geographical area of the new council to members of the public present.

### **COMMUNICATION**

The vice chairman proposed that a letter be sent to all Tweedsmuir residents to include contact details of all the councillors. The letter would also ask each resident how they would like to be informed of council business. Councillor Sarah Northcott said she was keen to set up a website for the council, on the lines of Moffat Online, but said she understood not everyone had access to the internet. The vice chairman said it was vital that people without internet access were

not forgotten, and that the council offered to supply information through the post. The meeting agreed that the vice chairman should compile the proposed letter, which will also include details of future CC meetings. The vice chairman said he would endeavour to send the letter to residents in the next fortnight.

### **MEETING FREQUENCY AND NAME**

It was agreed that council meetings should be held monthly, but the chairman said it was key to ask SBC councillors what days suited them before settling on any specific dates. The secretary agreed to contact the three councillors in question. Councillor Sarah Northcott said the initials of the Tweedsmuir Community Council were the same as another organisation in the village, Tweedsmuir Community Company, and that this could lead to confusion. She suggested that it might be an idea to change the name of the community council, but the meeting failed to come up with any viable alternatives. The chairman said, for the time being, Tweedsmuir Community Council would have to stay as the organisation's name until a better alternative could be found.

### **GRITTING**

The meeting was told that snow ploughs were not clearing or gritting the road from the village crossroads down to the church. It was pointed out that rubbish lorries would not come down the road during snowy periods which meant no rubbish collection for residents. The council agreed to write to SBC, urging them to look at this matter.

### **POTHOLE ON THE A701**

The vice-chairman said there was a large pothole near the Tweedsmuir turn-off on the A701 which needed urgent attention from the SBC. The council agreed to contact the roads department about the matter.

### **RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

The chairman said he was keen that Tweedsmuir join the SBC initiative, Resilient Communities, which, among many other things, helps communities prepare for emergencies, including bad weather. He said he would look into this possibility and report back to the community council.

### **BORDERS FORESTRY TRUST/TOUR OF THE BORDERS CYCLE RACE**

The chairman also reported that Borders Forestry Trust, which plans to plant forestry at Talla reservoir, had contacted the Tweedsmuir Community Company, offering to give a presentation of its plans. This had been passed on to the community council by TCC chairman Duncan Davidson, who felt the CC would be a more appropriate forum for the presentation. The Tweedsmuir Community Company has also received correspondence from the Tour of the Borders cycle race, due in August. The Tour has also offered to make a presentation to villagers, and Mr Davidson had forwarded on the offer to the CC. In both instances, the secretary agreed to contact the organisations concerned to set up times and dates for the presentations.

### **HOSPITAL CAR PARKING**

A Tweedsmuir resident said she had been fined £140 while parking at Borders General Hospital in Galashiels. She said she had gone to the hospital for a scan, but could find nowhere to park. She faced the dilemma of either missing her appointment, or parking the car in an unauthorised spot. She chose the latter, but felt really strongly that she had no choice. The council said

they would forward to the resident contact details of the SBC councillors for the area, and also suggested the matter be raised at the next Tweed Forum meeting.

### **TALLA LINNS**

## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

Following a recent incident when two cars became stuck while attempting to navigate Talla Linns during a period of heavy snow, a Tweedsmuir resident at the meeting urged the SBC to put up signs advising drivers that the Linns were closed. The chairman pointed out that the SBC would probably require a local resident to put up and take down the sign. The resident who raised the matter agreed to carry out this duty, if required. The council agreed to bring this matter to the attention of the SBC.

The chairman then brought the meeting to a close by thanking everyone for attending on such a wintry evening.

## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

### **Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, March 5 (7.30pm)**

**Present: Mr Gavin Parker (chairman), Mr Brian Bushell (vice-chairman), Mr Paul Greaves (secretary), Councillor Ms Kaitlyn Roper, Councillor Ms Sarah Northcott, councillor Mrs Lesley Mason, Scottish Borders Councillor Willie Archibald, Mr Steve Sloan and Mr John Thomas, of Borders Forest Trust, and Mr John Wallace, artist. 11 members of the public were also present.**

**01.03 APOLOGIES** None.

#### **02.03 MATTERS ARISING**

**Minutes of the community council meeting on January 29 were approved.**

#### **Tour of the Borders**

Chairman Mr Gavin Parker said all residents should have received a letter indicating the times local roads would be closed when the tour takes place in August, although a number of people present said they had not received the letter. The secretary said this could be raised when a representative of the Tour visits the CC at its next meeting in April.

#### **Whitehill Brae Windfarm**

The secretary confirmed that the CC letter opposing the application by 2020 Renewables to build 14 turbines at Whitehill, now lodged with the Scottish Government, had been sent to the following: The Scottish Government, MSP Christine Grahame, MP David Mundell, local SBC councillors Keith Cockburn, Catriona Bhatia and Willie Archibald, and all members of the planning committee of the Scottish Borders Council.

Mr Greaves said he had received responses from Ms Grahame and Mr Mundell, acknowledging the CC concerns, but no response had been received from any members of the planning committee. The committee will shortly have to send its recommendation to the Scottish Government as part of the decision-making process.

SBC councillor Willie Archibald said councillors were unwilling to offer any response at this stage, but the vice-chairman said a simple acknowledgement of the email would have sufficed.

#### **Resilient Communities**

The chairman said he had attended a recent meeting of the Federation of Village Halls where the resilient communities programme was discussed. An offer was made there for a resilient communities representative to come to one of the CC's meetings to explain the programme. Councillors agreed that the secretary should arrange this.

#### **SSE windfarm**

The chairman said that representatives from the SSE Clyde windfarm had offered to come to the CC's meeting in April to discuss the windfarm fund and the latest on plans for the Clyde extension. The meeting agreed this should go ahead.

#### **Pothole on A701**

The chairman reported that the pothole had been filled in and offered a vote of thanks to the SBC for carrying out this work. However, a number of concerns were raised that the surface had deteriorated since the infill and the hole had reappeared. The secretary agreed to raise this with the council.

#### **Talla signs**

Following the recommendation of the CC last month, the chairman reported that the SBC had put up road-ahead closed signs at the Tweedsmuir crossroads during the recent heavy snow, warning drivers that Talla Linns was unsuitable for traffic. Councillor Sarah Northcott suggested that the signs had been left up too long and wondered if there was any mechanism by which they were put up or taken down, while the vice-chairman thought the signs should have been put up at the bottom of the Linns, rather than at the crossroads. The secretary added that the resilient communities programme would include this and the item could be raised again when a representative from the organisation visits the CC.

#### **Gritting**

The SBC has agreed to reinstate gritting from the crossroads to the church provided a number of overhanging trees are trimmed. The SBC appealed for residents to organise this, and Mr Rod Sibbald, who lives along the lane, said he was willing to

## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

*help undertake this. It was agreed that the secretary would contact the SBC to ask for a site meeting when the trees that need to be trimmed could be identified.*

### **03.03 BORDERS FOREST TRUST**

*Two representatives from the trust - Mr Steve Sloan, chairman, and Mr John Thomas - attended the meeting to outline and discuss the organisation's plans for its Talla/Gameshope site. Mr Sloan said the land was 'iconic and important' and that the trust had been delighted to purchase it in 2013 after an earlier attempt to gain ownership had failed two years earlier. He added that sheep had now been taken off the land in preparation for tree planting, which will be largely natural hardwoods, and the area had been fenced. He added that stiles would be included for access by members of the public as the trust was extremely keen to encourage walking and other leisure pursuits on the site. One of the points of the meeting, he said, was to discover what the local people wanted included at the site. Mr Thomas suggested educational classes, focusing on the vast diversity of plants on the land, could be held at the bothy on the site, while a member of the public suggested parking would be needed for visitors. Mr Sloan said one of the trust's ideas was to link the Talla site with two other pieces of land the trust owns nearby*

*to create a 'Wild Heart of Southern Scotland.' The secretary welcomed this idea as it would attract tourists to the area and, consequently, help plans to reopen the Crook Inn in the village. Following the discussion, it was agreed the trust would supply dates for a site meeting with any villagers who wanted to attend.*

*The chairman thanked Mr Sloan and Mr Thomas for their attendance.*

### **04.03 THE SAME HILLS PROJECT**

*Mr John Wallace, a filmmaker and video artist based in Annandale, attended the meeting to outline the project. He explained that the Same Hillside is a video art project, exploring the upland ecosystems around the headwaters of the rivers Annan, Tweed and Clyde, and the relationships humans have with these rivers. He said that during 2015 he would be filming and interviewing extensively in the area, and the resultant films would then be presented as an installation in Berwick, Annan and Glasgow, and near the sources of the rivers. In collaboration with Professor Pete Smith of Aberdeen University, he would be interviewing people who live*

*or work in, or visit the area, to gather their recollections of how things have changed over the years, how they've used the area for work or leisure, and their feelings about the rivers and 'wild places.'*

*As part of the presentation, Mr Wallace played two short films he had uncovered during his research. They showed Tweedsmuir in 1943 and 1951, and included shots of the source of the Tweed, Tweedsmuir school and Carlowse Bridge. Afterwards, Mr Wallace asked for anyone who knew some of the people featured in the films to contact him, and he was also extremely interested to receive any old photographs or other artefacts from local people to include in the project.*

*After a fascinating presentation, the chairman thanked Mr Wallace for his attendance.*

### **05.03 COMMUNICATION/WEBSITE**

*The vice-chairman read out a letter which will be distributed to all residents in the CC area, asking them how they would prefer to be contacted regarding CC business. After a number of suggested changes, it was agreed this letter be sent out, with a two-week deadline for responses. The letter would also include contact details of all councillors and the date of the next CC meeting.*

*Regarding the proposed new website for the CC, councillor Northcott said she had attended a digital engagement workshop at Napier University, which was attended by many other community council representatives. One of the things she had taken from the meeting was that it was vital to discover what the community wanted from the website, and how the CC should engage with other organisations, in particular with the Tweedsmuir Community Company. It was also important to discover what councillors were willing to contribute to it. With the busy nature of this month's agenda, Ms Northcott suggested the item should be discussed next month when more time would be available.*

### **06.03 GLENKERIE WIND FARM PANEL**

*The chairman said it had been suggested at a recent panel meeting that two representatives from the Tweedsmuir Community Council should join, bringing the village's allocation to four (Mr Gavin Parker and Mr Duncan Davidson sit on the panel at present as residents). The chairman said the CC would have to make an official approach to the Upper Tweed Community Council, which currently runs the panel, and the meeting agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr Chris Lewin, UTCC chairman, requesting this move.*

### **07.03 CONSTITUTION**

*The chairman said the CC had still not been constituted because Upper Tweed Community Council was still disputing the boundary of the new body. A meeting has been called by Scottish Borders Council with the UTCC and the CCT to resolve the matter, and the meeting agreed that the chairman should attend.*

# Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

## **08.03 CLEAN-UP**

*It was agreed that a clean-up of the area should take place on the weekend of April 11-12, and there were a number of volunteers for the litter collection from councillors and members of the public at the meeting.*

## **09.03 NAME OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

*It was agreed that the CC should be called the Community Council of Tweedsmuir to prevent any confusion with the Tweedsmuir Community Company. This would, however, require approval by the Scottish Borders Council.*

## **10.03 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

*Councillor Archibald reported that the Tweed Forum had met in Peebles on Wednesday, March 4, and had included reports from the police and the NHS. Mr Archibald urged the CC to attend future meetings and said the organisation was a great benefit to the company. He cited funds available for community projects and brought the meeting's attention to the £10,000 grant won by Clovenfords CC for play equipment. The secretary said the CC had not been notified of the meeting until the day of it, but intended to attend future meetings. The next one is planned for May 27.*

*Mr Archibald also reported that the SBC planned to install permanent traffic lights at the corner of Neidpath Castle, Peebles. There were temporary lights there at the moment.*

## **10.03 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Menzion Road**

*The vice chairman reported that the road was in poor condition, with many potholes, and said they had caused a broken suspension on his car, for which the SBC would be issued with a compensation claim. It was suggested that there should be a Tweedsmuir-wide review of potholes, while the secretary asked what long-term plans the SBC had for the Menzion Road, which is built on peat and is used by forestry trucks. The secretary agreed to contact the SBC's Jason Hedley regarding the road, while SBC councillor Willie Archibald agreed to bring the matter to the attention of the council.*

### **Carlowse Bridge**

*The secretary asked Mr Archibald if the SBC would, as promised at a meeting with the community in June last year, supply a full breakdown of all the costs in relation to the Carlowse Bridge repair. Mr Archibald agreed to raise this matter with the council.*

### **Community workshop**

*The chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, Mr Duncan Davidson, brought the meeting's attention to a community workshop set for the village hall on March 21. The aim of the meeting is to draw upon the experiences of individuals, rural groups or communities to inform and inspire residents of Upper Tweed and others on the scope for projects that can develop, invigorate and support the community. A number of speakers from other community groups will be present. The meeting begins at 10am.*

### **Broughton petrol**

*Councillor Mason told the meeting that there was now no petrol available in Broughton as the present owner of Broughton garage had decided to concentrate on repairs only.*

### **Police**

*It was reported that a community police officer, PC Nicky Craig, has been appointed for the area, and would take up her post on March 9.*

**The next meeting of the CCT is on April 2, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on April 2.**

## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, April 2 (7.30pm) 2015**

**Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Brian Bushell (vice-chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), councillor Kaitlyn Roper, councillor Sarah Northcott, councillor Lesley Mason, Scottish Borders Councillor Keith Cockburn, Cat Smith, Tour of the Borders. 4 members of the public were also present.**

**01.04 APOLOGIES None.**

**02.034 MATTERS ARISING**

**Minutes of the community council meeting on March 5 were approved.**

**Resilient Communities programme**

Chairman Mr Gavin Parker said a representative from the organisation had agreed to attend the community council's meeting on May 14 to give a presentation about the programme.

**SSE windfarm**

The chairman reported that representatives from the windfarm would attend the June meeting of the community council to give a talk about plans for the new extension at the windfarm site.

**Pothole on the A701**

The secretary reported that he had contacted the SBC about the pothole near the junction of the A701. This had been filled in once, but had since reappeared. The SBC had promised to undertake the work again, following an inspection.

**Gritting along Kirk Road**

Councillor Sarah Northcott said she and resident Rod Sibbald had met Jason Hedley, of the SBC, on site. She said a two-pronged attack had been agreed to solve the problem of the lack of gritting down the road (The gritting lorry cannot use the road because of overhanging trees.)

1 To contact the driver of the gritting lorry to ascertain which trees need to be trimmed. 2 To approach the resilient communities programme about the possibility of hand-held gritters for the village and also the installation of grit boxes along the lane.

**Fruid Road**

The secretary said he had contacted Jason Hedley, of SBC, about the state of the road, and that Mr Hedley had promised to carry out any patching necessary. Mr Hedley had also sent on a request by the secretary to Mr Douglas Scott, of SBC, for an indication of any long-term plans for a permanent solution to the problem. Regular repairs are needed on this road because of use by forestry logging traffic. Councillor Northcott added that at the Kirk Road site meeting, Mr Hedley had said there was very little he could do about the Fruid Road because of limited financial resources, but urged the community council to press the SBC councillors about the matter.

Councillor Cockburn suggested bringing the problem up at the petitions committee, the scrutiny committee, and writing to councillor Gordon Edgar, who is also a portfolio holder. He also urged the community council to write to the MSP and MP. Treasurer Brian Bushell thanked the councillor for his guidance, and the meeting agreed to follow up the SBC councillor's suggestions.

**Carlowse Bridge**

The secretary said he had had no response regarding his request to SBC councillor Willie Archibald at last month's meeting for a full breakdown of the costs involved with the Carlowse Bridge repair. This had been promised to the community at a meeting with SBC in June. Councillor Cockburn said he would speak with Mr Archibald to determine progress on this matter.

**Police**

The secretary agreed to contact the new police officer for the area, Nicky Craig, to invite her to the community council's next meeting, as suggested by the treasurer, and to set up regular reports on any crime in the area in future.

**Borders Forest Trust**



## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

The secretary reported that he had received a number of provisional dates for a public site meeting to discuss the trust's plans at Talla. Following discussion, the meeting agreed that Saturday, May 30, would be appropriate, and the secretary agreed to contact the trust with the date.

### **03.04 TOUR OF THE BORDERS**

A presentation then followed by Ms Cat Smith, of the Hillside/Outside organisation, which is organising the Tour of the Borders cycle race this year. The race, on Sunday, August 9, will run through the Tweedsmuir area, and will necessitate the closure of the A701 between 6.30am-11.30am. Although no vehicles will be allowed, pedestrians will be able to use the road during these times. The treasurer thought the closure times coincided with a church service at Tweedsmuir, and Ms Smith took details of the church minister in order to make contact.

Ms Smith also said that any emergency calls should go through the usual 999 number, and would be dealt with by a central unit involving representatives from all the emergency services. In the event of an emergency in the village, she assured the meeting that the race would be stopped while it was being attended to.

Ms Smith also appealed for volunteers. She said there would be a feeding station at the Crook and volunteers were also needed for Talla Linns. Anyone interested should contact Ms Smith at 07856 267785 or by email at [community@tourotheborders.com](mailto:community@tourotheborders.com). Ms Smith added that a donation would be given to a local community project in lieu of the volunteering help.

The chairman concluded by thanking Ms Smith for her attendance and presentation.

### **04.04 TREASURER'S REPORT**

The treasurer said he had now been told by the SBC that the following monies would be accruing to the community council in due course: £540 per year, and a pro-rata amount of £180 to take into account of the fact that the community council formed before the end of the last financial year. The treasurer said, therefore, that once the constitution had been approved, the next financial year would see £720 lodged into the CC's account. The treasurer also reported that he was in the process of opening an account for the CC at the Bank of Scotland in Peebles. Each cheque would need two signatories, but there would be three signatories for the account. All needed to be office-bearers, and the chairman/secretary/treasurer agreed to carry this out.

### **05.04 SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

Councillor Lesley Mason, who has children at Peebles High School, highlighted the following problem with transport to and from the school.

Currently the first pupil on the minibus at Tweedsmuir boards at 7.25am, and the mini-bus collects pupils along the route (including travelling up Glenholm) and arrives at Broughton to transfer the pupils to the coach for 8.10 (pupils can sometimes reach Broughton at 7.50am and have to wait 20 minutes before the bus leaves Broughton). The journey from Tweedsmuir to Broughton of eight miles is, therefore, taking 45 minutes.

The bus from Broughton gets the pupils to Peebles for 8.50, so an 18-mile journey is taking 1 hour 25 minutes. The pupils are returned home from Peebles at about 4.50pm

This has been compounded by the introduction of the asymmetric week - with the days Monday to Thursday being longer.

On a Friday (as school finishes at 1.30) the children do not have time for lunch at school, and have been offered a slightly longer mid morning break. However this does not offer the children the opportunity to have anything to eat, as there is no place to sit down, and the canteen is not sufficient to cope with the demand. Unfortunately this means for pupils in Tweedsmuir who have had breakfast at 7am, and are not returning home until nearly 3pm, they may not have had the opportunity to have anything substantial to eat. They are not allowed to eat on the high school coach.

The meeting agreed to contact John Dellor, of SBC, to bring this matter to his attention, and also to Peebles High School. It was also agreed that contact should be made with Jean Robertson, of SBC, about the possibility of funding for a village minibus that could be used for the school run. The meeting also agreed to implement Councillor Cockburn's suggestion to take up the matter with the petitions committee and scrutiny committee at SBC. Councillor Cockburn promised to send details on how to do this.

### **06.04 MOBILE SIGNAL UPGRADE**

The secretary reported that the mobile signal in the area was due to be upgraded to G4 with work needed on the two base stations at Tweedsmuir (Fruid Road) and at Tweedhopefoot. Organisers of the upgrade had assured the secretary that this would bring mobile reception up to the standard of an urban, built-up area. It was, however, for only Vodafone and O2 customers, and it was unsure when the work would be started. The meeting unanimously agreed that this was a beneficial move for the community, and the secretary agreed to pass on the positive comments to the company involved.

### **07.04 COMMUNICATION**

## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

*The letter sent out to all residents recently, asking them to submit their details for the establishment of a communication database, had met with a resounding response, with 31*

*returned out of a possible 72, with the deadline for returns not until April 12. The secretary thanked the treasurer for all his work on this project. The meeting agreed to discuss the data-base, and its uses, once the deadline had passed and exact number of responses was known.*

*Regarding the website, it was agreed to purchase the domain name, [Tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://Tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk) for £6.98 for two years.*

*It was also agreed that a meeting with the Tweedsmuir Community Company, which is also setting up a new website, should be set up to discuss any interaction between the two sites.*

### **08.04 CONSTITUTION**

*The chairman reported that the boundary of the new CC had still to be finalised, but would, in all probability, be ready for the CC's next meeting. The secretary added that the amendments to the SBC's model constitution, which had been forwarded to the SBC, had been approved, while the treasurer offered to rewrite and condense the constitution as well as adding the CC's amendments. The meeting accepted this offer. It was also noted that all councillors had read the code of conduct and were willing to abide by it.*

*The chairman also pointed out that the next meeting in May would be the AGM.*

### **09.04 TWEEDSMUIR CLEAN-UP**

*This will take place on the weekend of April 11/12. It was agreed that councillors would undertake the following routes: Paul, Talla Road; Brian, Fruid Road; Sarah, Kirk Road; Lesly, A701, Tweedsmuir to Hawshaw; Gavin, Village Hall to Crook; Crook to Kingledores.*

### **10.04 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

*Councillor Cockburn brought the meeting's attention to an SBC scheme in Cheviot, which is piloting greater powers for the area forum there. The councillor said, in his view, that this was a good idea, and could have a major impact on the way area forums work in future.*

### **11.04 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Superfast Broadband**

*A member of the public asked what chances Tweedsmuir had of receiving superfast broadband under the new government-backed scheme. Councillor Cockburn said he did not know, but offered to forward on contact details for James Pocock, liaison officer for the project, to set up a presentation at a future CC meeting..*

#### **Bullets**

*Councillor Northcott reported that she had found a round of bullets in the noticeboard at the crossroads in Tweedsmuir. She had removed them and contacted the police, who later came to collect them. She was particularly concerned because the crossroads is where village schoolchildren are picked up and dropped off by the school bus. The meeting agreed to send a letter expressing the CC's concern to the police's community inspector, Tony Hodge.*

#### **Pilot bus service**

*The chairman informed the meeting that the UTCC service is applying for a grant of £1670 from the Glenkerie Windfarm panel to meet the setting-up costs of a proposed pilot bus service to Edinburgh. If the grant application is successful, the bus service will run every second Saturday of the month from July to October this year, and would see buses travelling from Tweedsmuir (9.40am) and Broughton (10am) to Edinburgh. The return journey would be at 6pm. Tickets, £1 return, will be bookable in advance, although it will be possible to board on the day, subject to availability. The chairman thanked the UTCC for the information.*

**The next meeting of the TCC is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on May 14. This will be the CC's annual general meeting.**

## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

### **Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, May 14 (7.30pm)**

**Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Brian Bushell (vicechairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), councillor Sarah Northcott, councillor Lesley Mason, and 13 members of the public were present.**

**01.05 APOLOGIES Councillor Kaitlyn Roper.**

#### **02.05 MATTERS ARISING**

**Minutes of the community council meeting on April 2 were approved.**

#### **Constitution**

Chairman Gavin Parker reported that the issues surrounding the boundary of the new Tweedsmuir Community Council had now been resolved and he hoped the new constitution would be completed shortly.

#### **Communication**

Councillor Sarah Northcott said that a website for the new CC had been created, but that it was still a work in progress. She added that she had met with Duncan Davidson, chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, which is, at present, also constructing a new website. The meeting was constructive and, hopefully, will ensure no duplication of roles between the two sites. Vicechairman Brian Bushell reported that 43 households, out of a possible 80 (although only 70 currently occupied with the remainder either holiday homes or unoccupied), had responded to the CC's request for contact details in order to set up a communication database. That database had now been compiled, and was used to send out notification of the annual general meeting. The chairman thanked Sarah and Brian for their efforts, and also thanked Kaitlyn for setting up a Facebook page for the CC.

#### **Fruid Road**

The meeting heard that work on repairing the road had now started.

#### **Border Forest Trust**

The secretary said he had contacted the Trust to inform it of the CC's preferred date May 30 for a site meeting regarding plans to develop Gameshope, but had not, as yet, received any further details ie time and venue. When details are available, the secretary said these would be sent out via the new database.

#### **03.05 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME**

Ms Carol Turnbull, of Scottish Borders Council, attended the meeting to give a short presentation on the programme, which was set up in 2011. She said she hoped Tweedsmuir would join the scheme, and set out some of the advantages: The programme, which helps communities prepare for an emergency, offers a direct link to the 'bunker' SBC's 'crisis' hub. This would be via a main coordinator for the community appointed as part of the scheme.

There is also equipment on offer ie shovels, salt bins, crampons for shoes etc, and all community involvement in the scheme is covered by the Community Council's insurance. Following an agreement with the Red Cross, firstaid training is also available, usually taking the shape of twohour courses. Also, under the fiscal work order imposed by the judicial system, SBC has a department called the Criminal Justice Social Work department manager John Fyfe which can make manpower available for unpaid work on various community projects.

Ms Turnbull said the communities decided what emergency to prepare for. This could range from a missing person, forest fire, to a major road accident. Exercises are often held to ensure that the community's emergency plan can be worked out and is clear.

To take the scheme forward, a main coordinator and a couple of deputies would need to be appointed by the community. Leaflets would then be distributed, explaining the scheme and asking for more volunteers. Relevant equipment would then be given to the community and a plan worked out for future development of the scheme. This would include setting up a 'core tree' which is a list of telephone numbers to ensure as many people as possible are contacted in time of emergency.

Ms Turnbull said a number of schools throughout the region had become involved in the

scheme, and that groups in the programme also used the SB Alert scheme to communicate with one another and the council. She urged residents to look at the Alert scheme online. The chairman thanked Ms Turnbull for her presentation, and the meeting overwhelmingly voted to take the matter further.

#### **04.05 SUPERFAST BROADBAND FOR TWEEDSMUIR**

Following April's meeting of the community council, Mr Bob Murrison, of Community Broadband Scotland, had visited the secretary to outline ways forward re superfast broadband for the village. A summary of that meeting is attached at the end of

## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

the minutes.

The secretary then reported that he and the chairman had attended a meeting called by CBS at Eskdalemuir community hub on May 13, regarding the possibility of joining a multicommunity superfast broadband aggregate scheme, stretching from Yarrow and Ettrick to Tweedsmuir in the west. A similar scheme has already been set up in the Western Isles, offering residents there up to 30mg speeds. At the Eskdalemuir meeting, Mr Murrison said if all the areas agreed to go ahead, it would be around 12 months to get the scheme underway, and that the project would be headed by the Southern Upland Partnership. A steering committee of representatives from the areas involved would also need to be set up.

At the CC meeting, residents agreed that the project should be explored further, with the possibility of arranging a village meeting with Mr Murrison to further expand on the plans.

### **05.05 SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

The secretary said he had reported the CC's concerns over school transport to Mr John Dellow, of Scottish Borders Council. He had promised to look into the matter, and pass on our concerns to the bus inspector. Councillor Lesley Mason said the inspector had travelled with the Tweedsmuir schoolchildren recently and had agreed that the present arrangements were not acceptable (schoolchildren from Tweedsmuir spend three hours on the bus each day getting to and from the school in Peebles). The secretary said he was awaiting a reply from Mr Dellow on any progress.

### **06.05 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Concern was expressed that there was no SBC councillor at the meeting, and that no apologies had been given. The secretary agreed to look into this matter.

### **07.05 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Police**

The secretary said he had contacted the community police officer for the area with a list of dates of the CC meetings, but had had no reply, and, consequently, there was no police report to present to the meeting. The vicechairman asked the secretary to pursue this matter as it was important that the council receives updates from the police, and that it would also be beneficial for the community to meet its community police officer.

#### **Carlowse Bridge**

Councillor Lesley Mason reported that there were signs of masonry deterioration in the newly refurbished bridge, and that this should be reported to the SBC. She also pointed out that the nearby field and the footpath needed to be reinstated as agreed. Councillor Northcott added that the drainage system in place for the bridge did not seem to be working correctly, with large puddles appearing on it when it rained. The secretary agreed to raise these matters with SBC, and also ask why there had been no response to a request, made in January, for costings re the bridge's refurbishment. This had been promised at a meeting with the community in June last year.

#### **Whitehill Brae windfarm**

Resident Rod Sibbald said that the SBC was set to consider the planning application for Whitehill Brae windfarm in August, and urged the council/residents to ensure their concerns were raised again with SBC councillors before then. He also pointed out that the SBC's landscape officer had decided to oppose the Whitehill plans. The chairman thanked Mr Sibbald for his input. The secretary added that members of the public now had the chance to speak at SBC meetings considering planning applications, but would check with the SBC whether this was the case with the Whitehill application in August.

#### **Tweedsmuir litter cleanup**

The chairman thanked everyone who had taken part in the cleanup, which had been a great success.

### **Tweedsmuir Community Council logo**

The vicechairman suggested that residents should be contacted for any ideas for a logo for the new Community Council, which could be used on letterheads and on the website when established. The meeting agreed that this was a good idea and should be taken further.

### **08.05 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Although the CC had only been formed in January, the chairman explained that the annual meeting was being held due to SBC rules that stipulate that CCs must hold an annual meeting to coincide with the council's financial year. The SBC had informed the chairman, however, that there was no need for any election of officers.

The chairman reported that the Earlsbaugh windfarm project was planning to present its plans on how it intended to connect the windfarm to the grid. This presentation would be at Tweedsmuir Village Hall on Wednesday, 3 June (128) and Thursday 4 June (127). He also reported that the CC was now able to make microgrants up to £250 on behalf of Glenkerie windfarm community fund, and that details of how to do this would be circulated to the community by the secretary.

The chairman said windfarms were a major issue in the area, and reported that one of the CC's first tasks was to express its opposition to the Whitehill Brae windfarm proposed near the centre of the village. The chairman thought it would be a good idea to ascertain residents' views about windfarm development and proposed that the CC undertake a community consultation to that effect. He also promised that the CC would maintain pressure on the SBC over the issue of school transport, and would also continue to press the council for a full breakdown of the cost of the Carlowse Bridge repair. He also thanked, councillors Brian Bushell, Sarah Northcott and Kaitlyn Roper for all the work they had done in ensuring the CC communicated fully with the community. The chairman added that he thought the presentations at the CC meetings so far had been very informative, and also thanked everyone who had taken part in the recent litter collection in the village.

# Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

## **09.05 TREASURER'S REPORT**

*The treasurer reiterated what he had reported in April in that the following monies would be accruing to the community council in due course: £540 per year, and a prorata amount of £180 to take into account of the fact that the community council formed before the end of the last financial year. The treasurer said, therefore, that once the constitution had been approved, the next financial year would see £720 lodged into the CC's account. The treasurer also reported that he was in the process of opening an account for the CC at the Bank of Scotland in Peebles. Each cheque would need two signatories, but there would be three signatories for the account. All needed to be officebearers, and the chairman/secretary/treasurer agreed to carry this out.*

*The treasure explained that the CC had to appoint an independent examiner for its accounts, and resident Morag Roper kindly agreed to take on this role.*

***The next meeting of the TCC is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on June 4 , 7.30pm***

**Broadband meeting with Mr Bob Murison, of Community Broadband Scotland, at The Oak House, Tweedsmuir and Paul Greaves, secretary, Tweedsmuir Community Council, Duncan Davidson, chairman Tweedsmuir Community Company, and Andrew Mason.**

Broadband Community Broadband Scotland is an organisation set up to provide answers for broadband improvement to the five per cent of Scotland that will not be covered by the governmentbacked superfast broadband scheme ([www.digitalscotland.org.uk](http://www.digitalscotland.org.uk)).

Bob said it was unclear whether Tweedsmuir would be included in the scheme, although Broughton would be. BT were 'exploring solutions' for the Tweedsmuir area, but Bob suspected this would eventually mean no provision via the scheme.

CBS would be willing to look at possible solutions for the area. These may include:

1 Aggregate scheme: This entails CBS bringing areas together to form one large area, which makes it more viable for commercial companies to become involved. How the scheme works is simple. CBS puts the superfast project out to tender to the commercial sector. A supplier is agreed and then carries out the work, with residents paying a monthly amount to that supplier for broadband provision (this amount has to be competitive with rates on offer generally). All maintenance is carried out by the supplier. There is a project of this nature muted for the Yarrow and Ettrick area and Bob thought it might be possible for Tweedsmuir to join this.

2 DIY scheme. This is where the local community provides the scheme, with help from CBS. There is one already in existence at Stobo, and Bob thought it might be possible for Tweedsmuir to join this. Stobo's broadband is supplied by Edinburgh University via masts at various points from the city to the village. The scheme is being expanded, and Stobo already supplies broadband to Carlops and is looking to expand further into Midlothian. With a mast on top of Broad Law, it might be possible to supply Tweedsmuir.

3 BT provides the scheme, but the local community, with CBS help, pays for it directly. Bob was unsure how much this would cost, but thought it would be worth asking BT for a quote.

3 Campaign to have the area for the government scheme extended from Broughton to Tweedsmuir, writing to all councillors, MSP and MP as well as BT. Bob was unsure this would be successful and guessed all that might happen is a referral to CBS. This, however, might be worth doing in conjunction with exploration of the other options. If successful, this option would certainly be the most simple. We could argue superfast was vital for the development of the Crook Inn, local businesses and farmers, now that much of their administration work is online only.

Bob also thought it would be worth carrying out a survey of all residents' broadband reception at the moment. This, he said, would help when deciding what type of broadband would be best suited for the area. CBS would provide funds and forms to do this.

The types of broadband are:

Superfast: CBS would look into whether the area could tap into superfast facilities already set up at local windfarms and Scottish Water. Provision for the village would be via what's called a street cabinet. If, as one resident was told by a BT engineer, a fibre optic cable is going to be laid along the valley, this would obviously make life a lot easier. This, however, is not mentioned on the Digital Scotland website when you put in a Tweedsmuir postcode.

Wireless: With the upgrade of the area's mobile reception to G4, this could be an option.

Satellite: This would mean all properties would be covered, even the most remote, but the reception is not ideal and not up to superfast standard. Andrew said he had had satellite before and added that he would hate the idea of having to return to it.

Bob said he would be willing to attend a Community Council meeting, or a meeting set up specifically for broadband provision, at a later date.

## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

### Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, June 4 (7.30pm)

**Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Brian Bushell (vicechairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), councillor Sarah Northcott, councillor Lesley Mason, councillor Kaitlyn Roper, police officer Nicky Craig, four SSE representatives, and 7 members of the public were present.**

#### **01.06 APOLOGIES**

**SBC Councillors Catriona Bhatia, Keith Cockburn and Willie Archibald**

#### **02.06 POLICE REPORT**

The community police officer for the area, Nicky Craig, attended the meeting and presented a crime report for Tweedsmuir (attached). Nicky said that the best way to contact her was through the 101 telephone line. Residents should ask for Nicky Craig and quote her number, 5737. She was also contactable through her email address at [nicola.craig@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nicola.craig@scotland.pnn.police.uk). The chairman thanked Nicky for her attendance.

#### **03.06 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME**

The chairman reported that since the CC's May meeting, resident Andrew Mason had come forward to volunteer as the village's main coordinator for the programme. Andrew then gave a report on progress so far: He had held a meeting with Carol Turnbull, of the programme, and, from that, it had become clear that the first step was to find a number of deputies in order that, at all times there was someone present in the village to contact in the event of an emergency. Andrew said four deputies were needed, and anyone interested should contact Andrew at [andrew@environit.co.uk](mailto:andrew@environit.co.uk). The secretary reported that he had already received two notes of interest from residents Molly Stephens and Lesley Kirkwood. Andrew proposed that, once the deputies were in place, a meeting should be held with the CC to identify the emergencies the new group should prepare for. This would be followed by a consultation with the community in the shape of a brochure and asking residents on the doorstep how they might be willing to help.

Andrew said he would then complete a core tree, a list of telephone numbers of people he would contact in the event of an emergency, and urged as many people in Tweedsmuir to sign up for SB Alert, the SBC's online contact scheme for residents. This could be found online at <http://www.sbalert.co.uk/>

#### **04.06 SSE PRESENTATION**

Four representatives from SSE gave a presentation outlining the extension to the Clyde windfarm, which was consented by the Scottish Government in July 2014.

Kirstanne Land, of SSE, said that work would commence later in June and was anticipated to last two years. The extension would form an extra 54 turbines, generating 172.8 MW. She added that a traffic management plan was being finalised and agreed with the planning authorities at SBC and South Lanarkshire Council. There would be two access points to the windfarm off the A702 above Abington Services and off the A701 via Moffat at an existing forestry track junction. The majority of traffic would use the Abington access.

Ms Land added that SSE planned to hold an open day for the public at its existing Clyde windfarm site and that a community council liaison group with two community councillors from each council would get underway in July. This would allow any feedback regarding the extension development.

Ms Ciari Wilson then outlined details of the Clyde Borders Extension Community Fund. Scottish Borders will receive 20% of the overall Clyde Extension Community Fund. South Lanarkshire will receive 75% of the fund and Moffat CC will receive the final 5% share (based on construction disruption).

The fund will benefit from SSE's current policy to provide £5,000 per installed MW. This will be split 50/50 between Local fund and Regional fund.

The total installed capacity for the project is 172.8 MW. This equates to an annual Scottish Borders Fund of £172,800. This will be split £86,400 into a Local Fund shared between Upper Tweed, Tweedsmuir and Skirling Community Councils and £86,400 into a regional Scottish Borders wide Sustainable Development Fund.

##### **Local Fund**

Skirling, Upper Tweed and Tweedsmuir Community Council areas will be eligible for the local fund, as with the existing Clyde fund. The two funds will be amalgamated bringing the total annual pot to £125,400 approximately. The administration of the local fund will be managed by SSE with decisions made by the local funding panel. Representation on the panel will be increased to 9 members; 3 from each CC area. We will be holding a fund workshop in the coming months to find out what projects are in the pipeline locally and how the fund may be used strategically moving forward.

Any unspent annual funds will roll over to the following year.

##### **Microgrants**

Each CC will be entitled to an annual microgrant allowance of £2,000. This is a fund for the CC to manage directly, issuing small grants of up to £250 to small or unconstituted groups in the community. Individuals can also be supported through the microgrant scheme.

##### **Regional 'Sustainable Development Fund'**

## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

The Borders Sustainable Development Fund will be open to communities within the Borders council area and will be managed by SSE with an independent expert panel making funding decisions. The fund supports projects which deliver social, economic and/or environmental changes in the community. The three current outcomes for the fund are as follows:

- Increase job opportunities and employment in Scotland – through activities or support focused on increasing an individual's chances of entering employment, remaining in employment and/or progressing further in employment.
- Enable communities to develop renewable energy schemes – which are of benefit to the local community and could generate social, environmental or economic benefit.
- Enhance Scotland's natural and built environment – for the benefit of local people and the attraction of visitors; activities that retain, enhance or build upon natural and/or local heritage.

Extra weighting will be given to projects that are closest to the wind farm. We expect the regional fund will open in 2016 with an initial pot of £260,000. The regional fund will open every three years.

### 05.06 MATTERS ARISING

**Minutes of the community council meeting on May 14 were approved.**

#### **Carlowse Bridge**

Secretary Paul Greaves reported that he had received an email from Mr Philip Barr, deputy chief executive of the SBC, in answer to the CC's concerns over the bridge. Mr Barr's email read:

Dear Mr Greaves

I refer to your enquiry sent to Ward Councillors of Tweeddale West regarding the recent repair works to Carlowse Bridge. In the points raised in your enquiry and would respond as follows:

It has been identified that some mortar between the copstones has suffered from frost damage which seems to be worse at the ends of the bridge. Remediation work to replace this mortar has been agreed with the contractor and it is hoped that this work will be carried out during the next 46 weeks.

The pooling of water on the carriageway surface has been noted. The contractor proposes to complete a level survey of the surfacing to identify how and where to carry out their remediation works to the carriageway surface. Again, it is hoped that this work will be carried out during the next 46 weeks.

It has always been the intention to stone pick and seed the river bank area, however, the contractor has been waiting for a warmer period of weather to carry out these works and intends to do this at the same time as the remediation works detailed above. At the same time we will also be seeding the adjacent field and Old School House garden.

Finally, I confirm that your previous request, made to Councillor Archibald during March of this year, for the relevant repair costs to Carlowse Bridge was initially actioned by Officers of the Council, however, due to an oversight the final figures were not sent. I can confirm that these figures have now been sent to Councillor Archibald and that he should be making these figures available to you shortly.

Regarding the overall cost of the repairs, the secretary reported that SBC councillor Willie Archibald had since written to inform the council of the overall cost of the Carlowse Bridge repairs, which was £567,000, a figure which did not appear to include the work identified in Mr Barr's email. The secretary also pointed out that there was no breakdown of the costings, just an overall figure.

#### **Borders Forest Trust**

The secretary said that the Trust had regretfully postponed its proposed site meeting re its plans for Talla and Gameshope, but had asked the CC for a new date. After discussion, the CC agreed that it should be Saturday, August 1, and that the date should be relayed to the trust by the secretary.

#### **Superfast broadband**

The secretary reported that Community Broadband Scotland had earmarked the Southern Upland Partnership to spearhead the aggregate broadband scheme as highlighted at the CC's meeting in May. A project manager was being sought, and, once appointed, CBS proposed a meeting in Tweedsmuir for residents to raise any questions about the proposed project. The CC welcomed this.

### 06.06 CONSTITUTION

## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

The treasurer said he was in the process of rewriting the constitution and the draft would be available for councillors at the CC's next meeting in August.

### **07.06 SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

The secretary said he had contacted Mr John Dellow, of Scottish Borders Council, re an update over concerns the CC has raised over school transport, but had, as yet, not received a reply. The treasurer said that, ideally, this matter should be resolved for when the schoolchildren return to Peebles High School in September. The secretary added that he would contact the three SBC councillors to ask them to raise this issue on our behalf.

Councillor Mason said that the children had now been banned from eating on the bus on its return journey from the High School. This meant that, on Fridays, it was possible for children to have nothing to eat from 7.30pm to 2.30pm when they return to Tweedsmuir after the school day. Lesley pointed out that there was a 20minute brunch interval, but the demand on the school's facilities at that time meant many children missed out. The secretary suggested a letter should be sent to the school, pointing this out and asking for a response.

### **08.06 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Concern was expressed that there was again no SBC councillor at the meeting. The chairman added, however, that he had attended the May meeting of the Tweed Forum when the Tweedsmuir Community Company had given a presentation of its plans for the Crook Inn. The chairman said this had gone very well. Although there was not much discussed to do directly with Tweedsmuir, the chairman pointed out that all car parks in Peebles would shortly have a 20p charge for the first four hours. He also reported that work on repairing 52 metres of wall at Neidpath Corner was due to start, after which permanent lights would be erected there.

### **09.06 COMMUNICATION AND WEBSITE**

Councillor Northcott said that progress was being made with the website, with emails for the three officers of the council now available. She also reported that resident Rod Sibbald had

kindly offered to provide photographs for the site and Facebook page. Sarah was also underway with a draft survey to ask residents what they would like to see on the website in the longer term, while, re the chairman's request to consult villagers over windfarm development, Sarah said that she had drafted a form of words for approval. The treasurer assured residents that anyone without internet connection would receive a hard copy of the survey.

### **10.06 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Renewable project**

Resident Simon Goldfinch offered to look into the possibility of setting up renewable generation for the village in the light of the extra funding now available from the Clyde windfarm. He said this could of great benefit to residents of Tweedsmuir, and would represent something tangible from the windfarm development along the valley. The chairman welcomed Simon's offer.

#### **Upcoming events**

The meeting's attention was brought to the following events being held in Tweedsmuir.

**For all tractor enthusiasts** Tweedsmuir Tractor run! 14th June organised by David Paton, Moffat (01683 220025) tractors will be leaving from next to The Crook at 10am going up towards Fruid and going around the Silver Jubilee road. After lunch they will leave about 2pm to go north over Patervan bridge and around the hills back to Stanhope.

This is the same day as Moffat Mountain Rescue are organising walks in the Tweedsmuir hills.

#### **W a l k o n e T h i s i s a l e d w a l k .**

Leaving Tweedsmuir village hall at 11.00 you will follow the route of the old railway to the dam at Talla reservoir where a small picnic lunch will be offered. Returning back to the village hall via the dismantled railway. 5km. Easy walking suitable for families & buggies.

#### **W a l k t w o T h i s i s a m a r k e d & m a n n e d w a l k .**

Departing Tweedsmuir village hall at 10.00am you will be transported to Polmood, after a short walk through woodland, you will gain height onto Little Knock 552m, site of air craft wreckage, before back tracking to a forest track which you will follow back to Heartstane farm before returning to village hall approx 10km moderate height gained mostly on forest track little on open hillside. This is a moderate walk.

#### **W a l k t h r e e T h i s i s a m a r k e d & m a n n e d w a l k .**



## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

Departing Tweedsmuir village hall at 9.30am you will be transported to Polmood, after a short walk through woodland you gain height to Little Knock, air craft wreckage site, onto Great Knock then onto Broad Law 840 m, turning right you head back to Heartstane farm via the service track before returning to the village hall. Approx 15 km a steady climb to the summit on open hillside before returning on a vehicle track. A more challenging walk. A little previous walking experience required

### **Walk four This is a marked & manned walk .**

Departing Tweedsmuir village hall you will be transported to Polmood, after a short walk through woodland you gain height to Little Knock, site of aircraft wreckage site, onto Great Knock, Broad Law 840m, then turning left we follow ridge to Camalt Craig 831m, Dun Law 788m, Dollar Law 817m. You will then drop down into Stanhope valley & walk out to pick up point on the A701 where you will be transported back to village hall. Approx 18km strenuous walking for more experienced walkers.

Full details of all the walks are also available on Tweedsmuir Community Council's facebook page.

### **Fruid Road**

A resident had expressed concern that, although some repair work had been done, there were still large potholes on the road, with one of them 'now over a foot long and over 8 inches deep'. In an email to the secretary, Ms Kirsty Stephens added that 'The state of the road remains in extremely poor condition and I wonder what further representations can be made to SBC to ensure they comply with their statutory obligations to maintain this road. SBC cannot surely be proposing that these are the sole repairs to be carried out this year to the road?'

The secretary agreed to take this matter up with the SBC.

It was also agreed to bring the SBC's attention to the state of the small bridge between Polmood and the Crook Inn on the A701.

**Please note there is no meeting of the TCC in July. The next meeting is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on August 6 , 7.30pm**

# Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

## Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, August 6 (7.30pm)

**Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), councillor Sarah Northcott, councillor Lesley Mason, councillor Kaitlyn Roper, Julie Nock, of Southern Uplands Partnership, Keith Cockburn, Scottish Borders Councillor, and 11 members of the public.**

**The minutes of the council's meeting on June 4 were approved 01.08 APOLOGIES**

Vice chairman Brian Bushell

### **02.08 SUPERFAST BROADBAND**

Ms Julie Nock kindly attended the meeting to give a presentation on 'Ettrick and Beyond' a scheme, sponsored by Community Broadband Scotland and run by Southern Uplands partnership, to enable superfast broadband in areas, including Tweedsmuir, where it seemed the BT rollout of superfast broadband would not include. Ms Nock is the project officer of the 'Ettrick and Beyond' scheme, and full details of her presentation are attached.

Following the presentation, Ms Nock urged residents to take part in the scheme's survey to find out broadband speeds in the area. She said this was vital to illustrate the need for a new level of broadband in Tweedsmuir. Ms Nock said residents could access the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ettrickandbeyondoremailjulienock@sup.org.uk>

Ms Nock said all survey responses needed to be in no later than Wednesday, 2nd September, 2015.

Later, it was agreed that the council should encourage everyone to fill in the survey via a post on the website and distribution of the leaflets left by Julie. It was also agreed to contact BT to try to establish a definitive answer as to whether the BT service would include Tweedsmuir.

### **03.08 MATTERS ARISING**

The secretary reported that Borders Forest Trust had invited Tweedsmuir residents to an onsite meeting at Talla Linns on Sunday, August 16 (2pm), when the trust would outline its plans for the Talla/Gameshope area. The secretary said he would send out details to the council's database.

### **04.08 SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

The secretary reported that the SBC had now responded to the community council's concerns regarding the time children spent on the bus that ferries them to and from the high school in Peebles (around three hours a day). Mr John Dellow, of SBC, had emailed to say that:

*There will be no change to current school transport arrangements for Tweedsmuir for 2015-16. To introduce a direct bus to/from Peebles High School would increase the cost of providing transport. Due to financial pressures on the budget this cannot be afforded at the present time.* After discussing the matter, the council agreed to seek a meeting with Mr Dellow to investigate if there were any other ways forward. SBC councillor Keith Cockburn agreed to arrange the meeting.

### **05.08 CONSTITUTION**

The chairman reported that the constitution was in the process of completion and that the treasurer was in the final stages of establishing a bank account for the Community Council.

### **06.08 COMMUNICATION/WEBSITE**

Councillor Sarah Northcott said the survey to find out from residents what they would like to see on the recently launched Tweedsmuir Community Council website (<http://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/>) was ready to roll out. Once residents' views had been received, the council would then investigate ways to fund the ideas. The meeting agreed that the survey would be put on the web and physical copies delivered to people registered for council communication but who do not have online access.

Sarah also suggested that a social media strategy meeting should be held between herself, councillor Roper and the secretary. The meeting agreed that this should go ahead.

### **07.08 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

Councillor Mason reported that the first meeting had been held with the village's chief coordinator for the scheme, Andrew Mason, and SBC. A questionnaire would now be delivered to all residents, asking ways in which they might be willing to help, although Mr Mason thought some of the questions were not applicable to the village and should be changed or deleted. Councillor Mason said the level of response would dictate the amount of equipment the village received for the scheme. The meeting agreed that the questionnaire should be finalised and sent out as soon as possible.

### 08.08 WINDFARM MICROGRANTS

The chairman reported that there were two microgrant schemes being established for Tweedsmuir Community Council to administer one from Glenkerie windfarm for grants up to £200 and another from the SSE for grants of up to £250. The treasurer, Brian Bushell, would be the contact for both, and details of how to apply for both would be put on the website and sent out via the council's database.

### 09.08 POLICE REPORT

The secretary reported that no police report was available.

### 10.08 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Keith Cockburn reported that the Scottish Borders Council had recommended rejection of the windfarm development at Whitehill Brae, and that the matter was now with Scottish Government. Keith said he thought it would be difficult for the Whitehill Brae development to proceed as it was a development on a new site and not an extension to an existing windfarm as was the case with Glenkerie. The chairman welcomed the SBC decision and asked that the SBC let the TCC know if there was anything else it could do to oppose the plans.

Keith also reported that a meeting to discuss the future of the council tax was being held next month in Galashiels.

### 11.08 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**a Windfarm** It was pointed out that the deadline for observations re the route of pylons from the proposed Earlshaugh windfarm was August 31. The council agreed that it should send a letter of objection and that the deadline should be highlighted on the website.

**b Bus service** The chairman reported that the Upper Tweed Community Council chairman, Chris Lewin, had sent details of the uptake of the first bus in July that launched the pilot service to Edinburgh this summer, and that if anyone wanted to see the report, it could be sent to them digitally.

**c Crook Inn** Duncan Davidson, chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, reported that the company now owns all of the Crook Inn site, following the successful purchase of land at the rear of the building. Duncan urged as many villagers as possible to become members of the TCC ahead of the application to the Big Lottery for funds to refurbish the Inn. Application forms can be downloaded from the TCC website at <http://www.tweedsmuircommunitycompany.org.uk/>. Duncan also asked residents to send their views on how they would use the inn once reopened. Duncan said this was vital for the Big Lottery application.

#### **c Kirk Road**

The secretary agreed to contact the contractor responsible for gritting in the village to visit Kirk Road and identify the trees that needed to be trimmed to enable gritting along the road this winter. The chairman also asked that the SBC should be contacted regarding a large pothole that had appeared on the A701 near the Hearthstones junction. The secretary agreed to progress this matter.

#### **d Original Mountain Marathon**

The secretary reported that the Hearthstones estate was hosting the Original Mountain Marathon on 24/25 October. This is a two-day hill endurance, navigation and mountain skills race of between 40 and 85 km (25 and 53 miles), depending on the skill level that the competitors choose. There will be around 2000 competitors and officials attending, and the Hearthstones owner Mr Ralph Glatt has suggested this might be a good opportunity for 'local entrepreneurs' to offer temporary accommodation, services or supplies to the visitors. Hearthstones has no more vacancies and the estate is passing on alternative accommodation contact details to anyone inquiring. If anyone wants Ralph to add them to his list of possible B&Bs, holiday rentals or other accommodation, please contact him at 01899225119 or email him at [hearthstones@aol.com](mailto:hearthstones@aol.com)

#### **e Map**

Councillor Northcott suggest the creation of a map of the area to help delivery drivers find addresses. She said this could be pinned on the noticeboard, could be distributed to the drivers themselves and to residents in the village. The meeting agreed that this was a good idea, and Sarah said she would look into progressing this project.

**The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on September 3 , 7.30pm**

# Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

## Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, August 6 (7.30pm)

**Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), councillor Sarah Northcott, councillor Lesley Mason, councillor Kaitlyn Roper, Julie Nock, of Southern Uplands Partnership, Keith Cockburn, Scottish Borders Councillor, and 11 members of the public.**

**The minutes of the council's meeting on June 4 were approved**

### **01.08 APOLOGIES**

Vice chairman Brian Bushell

### **02.08 SUPERFAST BROADBAND**

Ms Julie Nock kindly attended the meeting to give a presentation on 'Ettrick and Beyond' a scheme, sponsored by Community Broadband Scotland and run by Southern Uplands partnership, to enable superfast broadband in areas, including Tweedsmuir, where it seemed the BT rollout of superfast broadband would not include. Ms Nock is the project officer of the 'Ettrick and Beyond' scheme, and full details of her presentation are attached.

Following the presentation, Ms Nock urged residents to take part in the scheme's survey to find out broadband speeds in the area. She said this was vital to illustrate the need for a new level of broadband in Tweedsmuir. Ms Nock said residents could access the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ettrickandbeyondoremailjulienock@sup.org.uk>

Ms Nock said all survey responses needed to be in no later than Wednesday, 2nd September, 2015.

Later, it was agreed that the council should encourage everyone to fill in the survey via a post on the website and distribution of the leaflets left by Julie. It was also agreed to contact BT to try to establish a definitive answer as to whether the BT service would include Tweedsmuir.

### **03.08 MATTERS ARISING**

The secretary reported that Borders Forest Trust had invited Tweedsmuir residents to an onsite meeting at Talla Linns on Sunday, August 16 (2pm), when the trust would outline its plans for the Talla/Gameshope area. The secretary said he would send out details to the council's database.

### **04.08 SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

The secretary reported that the SBC had now responded to the community council's concerns regarding the time children spent on the bus that ferries them to and from the high school in Peebles (around three hours a day). Mr John Dellow, of SBC, had emailed to say that:

*There will be no change to current school transport arrangements for Tweedsmuir for 2015-16. To introduce a direct bus to/from Peebles High School would increase the cost of providing transport. Due to financial pressures on the budget this cannot be afforded at the present time.*

After discussing the matter, the council agreed to seek a meeting with Mr Dellow to investigate if there were any other ways forward. SBC councillor Keith Cockburn agreed to arrange the meeting.

### **05.08 CONSTITUTION**

The chairman reported that the constitution was in the process of completion and that the treasurer was in the final stages of establishing a bank account for the Community Council.

### **06.08 COMMUNICATION/WEBSITE**

Councillor Sarah Northcott said the survey to find out from residents what they would like to see on the recently launched Tweedsmuir Community Council website (<http://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/>) was ready to roll out. Once residents' views had been received, the council would then investigate ways to fund the ideas. The meeting agreed that the survey would be put on the web and physical copies delivered to people registered for council communication but who do not have online access.

## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

Sarah also suggested that a social media strategy meeting should be held between herself, councillor Roper and the secretary. The meeting agreed that this should go ahead.

### 07.08 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Councillor Mason reported that the first meeting had been held with the village's chief coordinator for the scheme, Andrew Mason, and SBC. A questionnaire would now be delivered to all residents, asking ways in which they might be willing to help, although Mr Mason thought some of the questions were not applicable to the village and should be changed or deleted. Councillor Mason said the level of response would dictate the amount of equipment the village received for the scheme. The meeting agreed that the questionnaire should be finalised and sent out as soon as possible.

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The secretary reported that no police report was available.

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**The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on September 3 , 7.30pm**

# Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

## Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, October 8 (7.30pm)

**Present:** Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), Brian Bushell (treasurer), councillor Lesley Mason, Keith Cockburn, Scottish Borders Councillor, Gareth Shields, SSE, and 7 members of the public.

**The minutes of the council's meeting on September 3 were approved 01.10 APOLOGIES**

Police representative Nicola Craig, community councillor Sarah Northcott and Kaitlyn Roper.

### **02.10 MATTERS ARISING**

**Kirk Road/gritting/snow clearing:** The secretary reported that Gus Swan, the contractor who carries out gritting/snow clearing for Scottish Borders Council in the area, had visited Kirk Road to identify trees that needed to be trimmed to enable his plough to grit/clear the road. However, the secretary informed the meeting of a development that threatened the guarantee of gritting and snow clearing in the entire Tweedsmuir village area this winter. According to an email from Jason Hedley, of Scottish Borders Council, the village had been downgraded from a secondary route to a tertiary route. As Mr Hedley pointed out in his email: "the village will become tertiary which means it will be visited where weather conditions persist and after all primary and secondary routes are dealt with and only where time and resources are available." The secretary pointed out that part of the village was a route for school transport and that many of its roads were used by high-tonnage forestry vehicles. He added that the community council had not been consulted about this change. Scottish Borders Councillor Keith Cockburn said he was also unaware of this matter, but would seek clarification from council officials.

### **03.10 SSE WINDFARM FUND**

Gareth Shields, of the Clyde windfarm, made a presentation to the meeting regarding changes to the windfarm fund from SSE, the operators of the windfarm. With the onset of the Clyde windfarm extension, this would mean annual funding of £178,000 to be split between a regional and local fund. The local fund would be £120,000 a year and would be available to residents in the Tweedsmuir, Upper Tweed and Skirling community council areas.

Applications for microgrants, up to £250, can be made directly to each Community Council, who will administer the microgrant scheme in their areas, but larger sums from £250.01 to £15,000 will be considered by a panel made up of local residents. At the moment, Tweedsmuir has one representative on the panel, but Mr Shields said the plan was for two more, and asked anyone interested in sitting on the panel to contact him or the community council. The improved fund will be launched at Broughton Village Hall in November, which will be followed by meetings for the individual areas. Mr Shields added that further details and application forms were available on the SSE website.

The chairman thanked Mr Shields for his presentation and attendance.

### **04.10 TREASURER'S REPORT**

The treasurer reported that a bank account for the community council had now been set up and that the Scottish Borders Council had been informed. Monies due from the SBC amounted to £720 £540 for this year, and £180 for last. The community council, as a body, agreed that it will abide by the SBC code of conduct for community councillors, thereby meeting a requirement sought by SBC before any monies can be transferred.

### **05.10 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

Councillor Lesley Mason said the questionnaires, asking residents to participate in the scheme, were being finalised and should be ready for distribution shortly.

### **06.10 COMMUNICATION**

It was confirmed that the questionnaire asking residents how they would like to see the community council website developed had been sent out to the council's database. Details are also available on the website itself ([www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk))

### **07.10 POLICE REPORT**

The police representative was unable to attend but supplied a police report, which is attached.

### **08.10 BROUGHTON SCHOOL**

Councillor Mason reported the Parent/Teacher Council's concerns that two vacant posts at the school for a learner support teacher and an assistant classroom teacher were not being filled. Councillor Mason said the SBC had not explained why, and described the move as 'a significant loss' to a school serving 100 pupils. SBC councillor Keith Cockburn said he thought this might be part of cuts to the education budget, but understood that his fellow councillor, Catriona Bhatia, was looking into this

## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

matter. Councillor Mason said the PTC had asked her if the community council would write a letter supporting its bid to reverse the SBC decision. The meeting expressed its concern over this matter and the secretary agreed to write the said letter.

### 09.10 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mr Cockburn said the A72 at Neidpath Corner was now open following improvement works, although the road would need to be closed again when permanent traffic lights were erected there. The councillor also informed the meeting of a closure of the C7 Kilbucho Road on October 20 from 8 till 4, and the A72 Blythe Bridge to Castlecraig road from October 1926. This latter closure caused a number of concerns to be raised, in particular, that the road is used by school transport and by local residents working at Castlecraig. The secretary wondered if any arrangements had been made to ensure these groups were not adversely affected, and councillor Cockburn agreed to seek clarification from the council officers.

Mr Cockburn also informed the meeting that the SBC had agreed that all its museums and sports and leisure facilities would be run by an independent trust, with the council remaining its

main funder. Mr Cockburn said he thought this move would bring a more businesslike approach to the running of the organisations.

### 10.10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**Tweedsmuir to Moffat road** The chairman pointed out that there were no verge or road markings on this road and that it posed a risk to drivers, particularly in foggy conditions. The secretary agreed to write to the SBC to raise this matter

**Original Mountain marathon** The chairman said that this event was being held at Hearthstones estate on October 23/24, and hoped as many residents as possible would attend to support a very worthwhile event.

**The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on November 5, 7.30pm.**

# Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

## Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, November 5 (7.30pm)

**Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), Brian Bushell (treasurer), councillors Lesley Mason, Sarah Northcott and Kaitlyn Roper, Keith Cockburn, Scottish Borders Councillor, and 7 members of the public.**

**The minutes of the council's meeting on October 8 were approved 01.11 APOLOGIES**

Police representative Nicola Craig

### **02.11 MATTERS ARISING**

**Broughton School:** The secretary reported that the council had written to the school's parent association, offering its support in their attempts to pressure the SBC to replace two teachers who had left. Ms Sue Hope, of the association, had written back, thanking the TCC for its support, and the secretary read out Ms Hope's letter. Councillor Lesley Mason added that she would be attending the next association meeting and would report back on progress to the TCC. **Broadband:** Regarding the Scottish Government's recent assertion via an email from broadband coordinator Duncan Nisbet that Tweedsmuir would not, in all probability, be part of the BT rollout of superfast broadband, SBC councillor Catriona Bhatia had been in touch with the secretary to say additional funds had now been released for broadband. Ms Bhatia had emailed the secretary to inform the TCC that: "The allocation of these new funds is being discussed at CoSLA. At the last meeting of CoSLA I attended, the case for more investment in rural areas was made strongly by myself and the leader of the Highland Council. The options through Community Broadband are not ideal and put rural areas at a significant disadvantage." She had since passed on Mr Nisbet's email to SBC councillors David Parker and Michael Cook, who are SBC's representatives on the leaders' group at CoSLA.

**Minutes:** The secretary reported that a copy of the council's October 8 minutes had been sent to Claire Malster, of SBC. These included a commitment by councillors that they would abide by the SBC code of conduct for community councillors, thereby meeting a requirement sought by SBC before any monies due to the TCC could be transferred.

### **03.11 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

Chief coordinator Andrew Mason reported that the questionnaire due to be sent out to the community, asking for ways residents could help with the scheme, was now ready to be distributed. A number of volunteers had come forward to help with this task, and it was hoped that this could be completed by the time of the TCC's next meeting in December.

### **04.11 NATIONAL PARK/WILD LAND MEETING**

The secretary reported that Mr Rob Armstrong, of Denholm, had been in touch asking if the TCC would consider supporting a campaign to make the southern Borders, including the

Tweedsmuir area, into a national park. The overwhelming view of the meeting was that this was an excellent idea, in that it would protect it from harmful development and be a major boost for tourism. The secretary agreed to contact Mr Armstrong to see if he would agree to make a presentation to the TCC's next meeting in December.

Resident Rod Sibbald then revealed details of a Wild Land Area seminar, which he had attended on behalf of the TCC at the village hall last month.

The seminar gathered together landowners, statutory bodies and local communities to discuss the newly appointed Talla Hartfell Wild Land Area. The new area of 9,355 ha stretches between Tweedsmuir, Talla, Megget, Grey Mare's Tail and Hart Fell. The meeting, hosted by Scottish Natural Heritage and the Southern Upland Partnership, detailed the core principles of an assigned Wild Land Area. These are: perceived naturalness, ruggedness, remoteness and lack of human artefacts. Although the land is not a statutory designation and, as such, carries no legal protection, it is land which has been identified as having special qualities and any planning issues have to pass more rigorous requirements. The assignation of a wild land area is a very positive step for local tourism. The Wild Land Area is open to everyone to enjoy and encourages visitors. It is a valuable tourism marketing tool for local business. The issue of wind farms and a WLA was discussed and it was pointed out that in some circumstances wind farms may be allowed within or bordering a WLA (depending upon the perceived impact on the Wild Land Area). The meeting concluded on a positive note by discussing the potential benefits that a WLA can bring to the region. The Southern Upland Partnership agreed to continue the discussion with all stakeholders to explore what needs to be done in the future to realise the benefits.

The chairman thanked Rod for his attendance.

### **05.11 GRITTING/SNOW CLEARING**

The secretary reported that the TCC had received an email from Mr David Richardson, of SBC, in response to the council's concerns that the area had been downgraded to a tertiary route for gritting and snow clearing. In the email Mr Richardson says that the road from the A701 to the crossroads will now be considered a primary route and that a gritting bin will be provided for Kirk Road. However, any other roads in the village will not now be secondary routes, as they were before, and "will only be treated when extended weather conditions persist, all primary routes have been treated, resources have been committed to treat secondary routes, and resources have become available." Although welcoming the new status of the road off the A701 and the provision of the gritting bin, the meeting expressed its disappointment that it appeared the village would not be served by the SBC regarding gritting/snow clearing as it had been in previous years.

The secretary asked SBC councillor Keith Cockburn whether Scottish Water had been notified of this change as two of the roads led to reservoirs. Resident Christine Parker also pointed out that, in a severe winter, this would mean children in parts of the village might miss long periods of schooling.



## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

The secretary also reported that a local landowner, Mr Ralph Glatt, had offered his snowclearing services to help the village this winter, and councillor Cockburn suggested Mr Glatt should contact the council with this offer. Councillor Cockburn also revealed that another

area in the Scottish Borders had bought a gritter/snow plough, and that this might be a way forward for Tweedsmuir. It was agreed that the TCC should meet SBC representatives to discuss the situation and see what alternative steps could be taken. The meeting could also include Mr Glatt and a representative of the area that had bought the snowclearing machinery. Councillor Cockburn agreed to arrange this meeting. It was also agreed that the secretary should write a letter in response to Mr Richardson's email, expressing the council's disappointment at the council's approach to gritting/snow clearing in the village this winter. .

### 06.11 TREASURER'S REPORT/MICROGRANTS

The treasurer reported that he had already received £180 from SBC for the last financial year, and expected the remaining monies due from the council for this year now that Claire Malster, of SBC, had received the minutes of the October meeting (see matters arising). A cheque for £1000 from SSE had been received for the issue of microgrants, and £200 had been paid out in a microgrant to Tweedsmuir Community Company for the purchase of two Portaloos. £215 had also been paid for the hire of the village hall for meetings since the formation of the Tweedsmuir Community Council in January.

### 07.11 COMMUNICATION/WEBSITE

Councillor Sarah Northcott revealed there had been 20 responses to the website survey distributed to Tweedsmuir residents. The survey, a copy of which is attached, asked for ideas on how to develop the website, and the responses ranged from using the site to promote a group fuel scheme to enabling car sharing. Sarah said that a subcommittee would now be set up to take this forward. The chairman thanked Sarah for all her hard work in progressing this project.

### 08.11 POLICE REPORT

Local police representative Nicola Craig was unable to attend but sent a police report, which is attached.

### 09.11 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Cockburn said that he thought the closure of Neidpath corner, Peebles, had gone as well as any road closure could, but recognised that more money needed to be spent on roads in the SBC area. To that end, the councillor said £1m was being diverted from other areas of the council into the roads budget. Keith also brought the meeting's attention to the next Tweed Forum meeting, which will be held on 2 December at the council offices on Rosetta Road, Peebles, starting at 6pm.

### 10.11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**Remembrance concert** The chairman reported that Legion Scotland had invited two members of the community council to its Remembrance concert on 11 November at the Old Parish Church, Peebles. The chairman and treasurer volunteered to attend.

**Apprenticeship scheme** The chairman gave details of a new apprenticeship scheme run by SSE. Councillor Kaitlyn Roper agreed to take a brochure about the scheme to Peebles High School.

**Blood donors** Anyone wishing to give blood can do so at Biggar Municipal Hall, on Tuesday, 17 November, 2pm – 3.45pm and 5.15pm – 7.30pm. [www.scotblood.co.uk](http://www.scotblood.co.uk)

**Help to Adapt** The chairman revealed details of a new Scottish Government initiative to help people over 60 live independently at home for longer. It offers a Scottish Government loan based on the equity in your house. If you would like expert assistance in planning and undertaking adaptations to your home, see [www.helptoadaptscotland.co.uk](http://www.helptoadaptscotland.co.uk) or call 0330 303 7801.

**Tweed Green** Councillor Mason said she had been contacted by eco group Tweed Green, who had offered to run a workshop in the village if enough people expressed an interest. The workshop aims to motivate and support individuals to make progress with cutting their carbon footprints and to help people talk constructively about climate change. Should anyone want to express an interest in this, please contact the secretary [pgreavesalex@gmail.com](mailto:pgreavesalex@gmail.com) or ring 01899880265

**Information evening** The chairman revealed that the SSE was holding a meeting to launch its new Clyde Wind Farm Local Community Fund at Broughton Village Hall on Monday, 23 November, at 7pm.

**Bus service** The meeting's attention was brought to the fact that noone from the village had used the final two bus services to Edinburgh, which formed part of a pilot scheme to gauge demand for such a service over the summer, run by the Upper Tweed Community Council. There had been four Saturday services to Edinburgh in all, and the first two had been well subscribed by villagers. The secretary described the lack of numbers for the final two bus journeys as disappointing but hoped that any future bus scheme would continue to include Tweedsmuir.

**The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on December 3, 7.30pm.**

# Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

## Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, December 3 (7.30pm)

**Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), Brian Bushell (treasurer), councillor Sarah Northcott, councillor Lesley Mason, and 3 members of the public.**

**The minutes of the council's meeting on November 6 were approved**

### **01.12 APOLOGIES**

SBC councillor Catriona Bhatia, community councillor Kaitlyn Roper, Police representative Nicola Craig

### **02.12 MATTERS ARISING**

**Broughton school:** Councillor Lesley Mason reported that she had attended the recent parent council meeting at the school when it was revealed that special learning teachers were not being replaced by the Scottish Borders Council because the council's education budget was under review. Two such teachers have left Broughton school recently, and, therefore, in the short term at least, there was no prospect of them being replaced. The parent council decided to raise the issue with the area's local councillors, and asked Tweedsmuir Community Council to do the same.

### **03.12 GRITTING/SNOW CLEARING**

The secretary reported that Mr David Richardson, assets manager of Scottish Borders Council, had replied to the TCC's concerns that village roads would not be gritted or cleared of snow this winter. In the email, Mr Richardson agreed to meet council representatives to discuss the matter, putting forward three possible dates. The secretary agreed to finalise details.

### **04.12 CONSTITUTION**

The amendments to the constitution, as outlined by the treasurer, were agreed by councillors and ratified by three members of the public present, Andrew Mason, Christine Parker and Duncan Davidson. A copy of the constitution would now be sent to SBC and also circulated to each community councillor.

### **05.12 TREASURER'S REPORT**

The treasurer reported that all monies due from Scottish Borders Council had now been received £180 for the last financial year and £540 for this and that the only sums paid out so far had been for the hire of the village hall and a £200 microgrant for the purchase of two Portaloo's to Tweedsmuir Community Company. The treasurer also reported that there had been an application for a microgrant of £200 from local resident Lesley Kirkwood to help fund a cycling workshop in the village. The meeting agreed that this was an excellent idea, and should be encouraged. A breakdown of costs would now be required, and the treasurer agreed to contact Lesley to progress the application to the SSE fund.

### **06.12 BROADBAND**

The secretary reported that the TCC had been invited to a meeting of the Ettrick and Beyond community broadband scheme in Galashiels on Tuesday, December 15. The purpose of the meeting was to update potential members of it, including Tweedsmuir, of progress. The chairman said he thought it important the TCC attended, and the meeting agreed to send a representative. The secretary added that the UK Government had recently issued a pledge that all areas of Britain would receive superfast broadband by 2020. The meeting wondered how this would affect the Scottish Government's scheme, which guarantees superfast coverage to only 95 per cent of Scotland, excluding many rural areas, including Tweedsmuir. The secretary agreed to write to MSP Christine Grahame for clarification.

### **07.12 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

Councillor Mason said that all questionnaires had now gone out to villagers, and that, so far, there had been a good response, but added that a clearer picture would be available at the TCC meeting in January.

### **08.12 COMMUNICATION/WEBSITE**

Councillor Sarah Northcott reported that a meeting had been arranged to discuss the establishment of a website for the village, following responses from a questionnaire that had been circulated to residents. A full report of that meeting would be available at the January meeting.

### **09.09 POLICE REPORT**

The secretary reported that the local police representative had been unable to attend as she had been seconded to another department, and that no report was available.

## Minutes of the Meetings of Tweedsmuir Community Council - 2015

### 10.09 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Bhatia had given her apologies and, therefore, no report was available.

### 11.08 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**a Free trees** The secretary reported that a resident living near Melrose had offered all community councils in the Scottish Borders free trees he had grown from seed. The TCC was now in possession of 12 trees, 10 Horse Chestnuts and 2 Sycamores. They are only 900mm high, and need to be planted as soon as possible. The secretary also pointed out that they were large trees when mature and space would be needed to plant them. It was agreed that if any resident would like some, a note of interest should be registered with the secretary (email [pgreavesalex@gmail.com](mailto:pgreavesalex@gmail.com)) or telephone 01899880265.

**b School bus** Resident Christine Parker reported that the bus, taking children from Broughton to Peebles High School, had broken down five times in recent weeks, and this had resulted in children being late for school or late home in the afternoon. The meeting agreed that this was totally unacceptable, and the secretary agreed to raise this matter with local SBC councillors and the relevant SBC department.

**c Photographic competition** Councillor Northcott put forward the idea of a photographic competition for villagers. The meeting agreed that this was an excellent idea, and that it could possibly be broken down into various age groups, with the council possibly funding prizes for the winners. The competition will be further discussed at the TCC meeting in January **cCrook Inn** It was agreed that the Crook Inn should become a regular feature of the community council's agenda in future, so that residents can be kept abreast of developments with the project.

**d Dates** The secretary agreed to arrange for dates of TCC meetings in 2016, and would send out a list to all residents, as well as putting the list on the village noticeboard. The dates would also be included on the website.

**The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on January 7, 2016, 7.30pm.**