



2016 Minutes

TWEEDSMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

This document included the minutes from the following list of meetings

- 7th Jan 2016
 - 4th Feb 2016
 - 3 March 2016
 - 7th April 2016
 - 12th May 2016
 - 2 June 2016
 - 4 Aug 2016
 - 1 Sept 2016
 - 6 Oct 2016
 - November 2016
 - December 2016
- 

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, January 7 (7.30pm)

Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), councillor Sarah Northcott, councillor Lesley Mason, councillor Kaitlyn Roper, Scottish Borders Councillor Willie Archibald and 9 members of the public.

**The minutes of the council's meeting on December 3 were approved 01.01
APOLOGIES**

Treasurer Brian Bushell and Police representative Nicola Craig

02.01 MATTERS ARISING None

03.01 WHITELAW BRAE WINDFARM

The chairman reported that the council had contacted the Scottish Government to confirm that it would like to take part in the public enquiry and preexamination meeting as outlined in a letter to the council from the government's planning and environment appeals division. The secretary also said he had spoken to Mr Scott Mackenzie, of the Scottish Government, and he had outlined what would now happen regarding the windfarm application:

- 1 A Reporter would be appointed
- 2 The Reporter would arrange the preexamination meeting when a timetable for submissions to the enquiry, including any from the Tweedsmuir Community Council, would be set.
- 3 A date and venue would then be arranged for the public enquiry.

04.01 GRITTING AND SNOW CLEARING

The secretary reported that a meeting had been held with Mr David Richardson and Mr Colin Ovens, of Scottish Borders Council, over the downgrading of the village from secondary to tertiary with regard to gritting and snow clearing. The secretary represented the TCC, with residents Mr Rod Sibbald and Ms Lynn Palfreyman also present.

The secretary said the meeting had been both informative and constructive, with the following items raised.

Short Term Measures

- SBC agreed to supply a new gritting bin on Kirk Road. The TCC would provide a plan and a photograph for SBC and formally request the new bin.
- The community council would request from SBC, through Resilient Communities, the equipment for hand gritting (ie grit spreaders, shovels)
- SBC would ensure that Tweedsmuir Community Council receives SBC weather alerts.
- The TCC would set up an "On Demand" system for contacting SBC when Tweedsmuir, Talla and Fruid have excessive snow or ice and would like to request that the designated tertiary routes are treated.

Long Term Measures

- Contact Oxon Community Council to find out about their "DIY" scheme funded by electricity company SSE. Also check with SBC about their issues with the Oxon Plan (the do's and don'ts)
- Make enquiries about the Borders Machinery Ring and what local farmers / estate owners can provide. Discuss BMR with Scottish Borders Council and SSE

The meeting agreed to the above points and also to site the aforementioned gritting bin halfway down Kirk Road. Councillors also voted to ask for a bin to be sited along Fruid Road.

During discussion of the the gritting and snow clearing issues, local resident Tony Hope thanked villagers and, in particular, TCC chairman Mr Gavin Parker and Mr Ralph Glatt for coming to his aid during the recent flooding. Mr Hope had requested sandbags to protect his property, and Mr Parker and Mr Glatt had kindly delivered some, around 50 in total, from stores in Peebles. The secretary reported that Mr Glatt had also offered a building to store sandbags on a permanent basis, and the meeting agreed that this should be explored once the resilient communities programme was up and running.

05.01 TREASURER'S REPORT

A microgrant application from resident Lesley Kirkwood was approved for the establishment of a bike mechanic course in the village.

06.01 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Councillor Lesley Mason reported that 41 people had responded to the survey, and that this would, in all probability, rise to around 50. Lesley explained that numbers were important in that the more people involved meant more equipment for the village. Lesley highlighted the need for a place to store the equipment, and noted Ralph Glatt's offer, but added that another option might be to fund a shed at the village hall through windfarm monies.

Resident Kirsty Stephens asked if the siting of the village's defibrillator could be advertised. It was agreed to include this information on the website/facebook page, and include it in the minutes (the bothy at Dykehead).

The meeting also agreed that more defibrillators were needed, but decided to organise firstaid training, including how to use a defibrillator, in the first instance.

07.01 COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Councillor Sarah Northcott gave a presentation of progress on the establishment of a new website for the village (see files attached). Sarah said a subgroup had been established, and that the intention was to obtain windfarm funds to put the website into operation. She also said that, as part of the website development, a competition to come up with a logo for the village, open to both adults and children, should be run. The meeting congratulated Sarah on all her work, and agreed that the project should continue as outlined. The meeting also agreed that the TCC would look into ways of funding the suggested logo competition.

08.01 LAMPING

Resident Kirsty Stevens complained that there had been shots fired across her land by people hunting at night. There had been other complaints, and councillor Northcott added

that she had been in contact with police representative Nicola Craig to clarify the law about shooting in areas around the village, but had received no reply.

Councillors agreed that the situation was totally unacceptable, and voted to contact police about the matter. The chairman explained that this was, in all probability, lampers, and knew of the company that organised this hunting. He agreed to supply contact details in order that the company could also be contacted.

09.01 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Archibald reported that the B712 was now clear after recent floods, which had cost the Scottish Government £700m. Peebles had been flooded, including the evacuation of the old people's home in the town, but Mr Archibald described the response from the emergency services as 'fantastic.' Mr Archibald also said that the SBC budget was due to be set in February, with council chiefs warning of cuts to a wideranging range of services. This, said Mr Archibald, reflected the reduction of grants from Westminster to Holyrood.

10.01 CROOK INN

The chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, Duncan Davidson, reported that the TCC was about to hand in an application to the Big Lottery for £1m to help fund the redevelopment of the Crook. Mr Davidson explained that the total cost of the project would be around £2.5m, with the additional funding coming from the Scottish Government regeneration fund, and other charitable bodies. Mr Davidson added that news of whether the Big Lottery and Scottish Government fund applications had been successful should come in around two months. The chairman thanked Mr Davidson for all his efforts on behalf of the Crook and the community.

11.01 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a Grant application Councillor Mason confirmed that the plan to access windfarm funds to pay for courses for children in the village was going ahead, and that an application would be made, through the auspices of the community council, by the deadline of 29 January. Lesley asked any parent who would like their children to take part in the scheme to contact her as soon as possible.

b Christmas party Councillor Mason, part of the Christmas Party committee, wondered whether the community council would like to contribute to the funding of the party. Councillors agreed in principal, but asked councillor Mason to provide more details.

c Photographic competition It was agreed that the competition, first suggested at the December meeting, should be held later in the year.

d Fruid Road The meeting heard that the road was again in terrible condition, and the secretary agreed to contact Jason Hedley, of the Scottish Borders Council, with regard to repairing it.

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on February 4, 2016, 7.30pm.

Listed below are Tweedsmuir Community Council dates for the coming year:

Thursday March 3 Thursday April 7 Thursday May 5 Thursday June 2
July no meeting Thursday August 4 Thursday September 1 Thursday October 6 Thursday
November 3 Thursday December 1

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village hall, on Thursday,
February 4 (7.30pm)**

Present : Gavin Parker (Chairman), Cllr Lesley Mason (taking minutes), Cllr Sarah Northcott, Cllr Brian Bushell (treasurer), Cllr Kaitlyn Roper, Scottish Borders Councillor Keith Coburn and 7 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on January 7 were approved.

01.02 Apologies

Secretary Cllr Paul Greaves. The chairman wished Paul a speedy recovery

02.02 Matters Arising

(a) Companies had been sourced regarding community first aid training, Andrew Mason to obtain quotes for the next meeting

(b) Christmas party Funding - a letter had been received from Morag Roper on behalf of the Christmas party committee asking for the community council to provide an annual grant to the group. Cllr Bushell and Cllr Mason declared that they were both on this committee and would not vote. It was unanimously agreed to fund the Christmas party annually to the sum of £50.

03.02 Lamping

A letter has been forwarded to the police, Cllr Northcott stated she had not received a reply to her email to Nicola Craig, the community police officer, asking for clarification on the gun laws. Keith Coburn suggested copying Inspector Bennet into all correspondence with the police. The chairman had spoken with Mr. McKenna, who has the stalking rights, and he is willing to come to the next meeting to clarify the situation. It was agreed that the Chairman should invite Mr. McKenna to the next meeting. It was also agreed that a representative from the police should be invited to attend the meeting to provide clarification on the gun laws.

Mrs. Kirsty Stevens had written to the community council thanking them for their support with this matter, and stating that there had been improvement in the last month.

05.02 Broadband

BT had provided a list of postcodes that would be covered by superfast broadband (appended to minutes).

It was agreed that the community council would continue to liaise with Ettrick and Beyond.

06.02 Public Transport

Broughton Community Council are hoping to receive funding for several more community buses to run to Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Tweedsmuir residents will be asked for feedback on this proposed service via the website, and asked to feedback to councillors before the next meeting.

It was suggested that to avoid unnecessary travel to Tweedsmuir by the bus, a note of preferred pick up point should be noted when tickets are purchased.

07.02 Treasurers report

No change since the last meeting

08.02 Microgrants – Windfarm grants

Infinis Windfarm fund are currently recruiting between 2 and 4 new panel members. The chairman asked if anyone was interested in this to come forward, full training will be provided.

(a) Village Hall grant for decorative lighting - Approved £195.89 (Cllr Mason and Cllr Parker did not vote due to a conflict of interest)

(b) Digby Welsh (Church Signage) - application was for too much money, on hold until next meeting.

© **SEE Application** - Andrew Mason had submitted a grant on behalf of the community council to SSE for sports/ music / arts grants for Young People within the community.

(d) Infinis Grant -Cllr Northcot was hoping to submit a grant application to Infinis by the 7th March for the Village Website. Keith Coburn agreed to be a reference for this grant.

(e)Resilient communities are going to require a storage shed - possibly funding through the Tweedale Community Grant Fund (Jean Robertson)

(f) Flood Appeal - Foundation Scotland funds, it is possible to claim up to £500 for flood damage

09.02 Resilient Communities

Tweedsmuir is now registered as a resilient community, and the council are providing us with resources, which will be delivered to the village hall. The chairman expressed his thanks to Andrew Mason and Lesley Kirkwood for their work to achieve this.

Sandbags can be collected from Peebles Fire Station should any individual need some.

10.02 Communication/Website

Cllr Northcott reported that quotes to develop the website had gone out to tender, with a deadline to reply of the 24th February. This should allow submission of a grant to Infinis by the 7th March.

11.02 Police Report

The Chairman read the report that had been provided by the community police officer (attached)

12.02Scottish Borders Councillor's report

Councillor Coburn reported that there had been a lot of budget meetings at the council, and also a number of meetings relating to the recent flooding.

Mr. Rod Sibbald asked Cllr Coburn to clarify the 130 redundancies that had been announced at SBC. Cllr Coburn indicated that the majority of these would occur through voluntary redundancies and natural wastage.

Cllr Coburn discussed the function of the Scrutiny Panel, and Cllr Bushell asked if this would be the correct forum to ask for an investigation into the costs of Carlouse Bridge repairs. Cllr Cockburn advised that this matter should be taken to the scrutiny panel.

Area Forum : 2nd March 6.30 at Rosetta Road Peebles, to discuss the recent flooding. There will be a discussion on the policy and co-ordination of the flood plan in Tweedale, and all the relevant agencies will be present. Cllr Coburn recommended that all interested individuals attended.

13.02 Crook Inn

Mr. Duncan Davidson reported that they Tweedsmuir Community Company were still waiting to hear from their recent grant applications to The Scottish Government and The Big Lottery

14.02 Any Other Business

(a) Change of Meeting date – The May Community Council meeting will be changed to the 12th May.

(b)Fruid Road .Samantha and Bill Billingham, new residents at Fruid, commented on the terrible state of repair of the Fruid road, with huge pot holes, that posed a significant danger. Cllr Coburn agreed to pass this information on to Mr. Jason Headly

© **Broughton Primary School** Cllr Mason informed the meeting, that at the last Parent Council Meeting, Donna Mansen had indicated that a new management structure for the school was being reviewed and would be laid out by April of this year. She noted that the school was in need of significant input to bring it up to standard.

(d) Wool from the Hills – Diary Date – Friday 18th March, 7 for 7.30 (£10 ticket) including 3 course meal. Evenings entertainment provided by Well Road Productions.

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on March 3, 2016, 7.30pm

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

Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), Brian Bushell (treasurer) councillor Sarah Northcott, councillor Lesley Mason, councillor Kaitlyn Roper, Scottish Borders Councillor Catriona Bhatia, Dougie McKenna, of Border Pest Control, and 6 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on February 4 were approved 01.03 APOLOGIES

Police representative Nicola Craig

02.03 MATTERS ARISING

Minutes: The chairman thanked councillor Lesley Mason for compiling the minutes of the February 4 meeting in the absence of the secretary

03.03 LAMPING

The chairman introduced Mr Dougie McKenna, of Border Pest Control, who had kindly agreed to attend the meeting to address concerns about lamping night shooting in the area. Mr McKenna began by explaining that his company undertook fox and deer control because the forestry business in the valley who received state subsidy had to show government that damage to the trees was being kept to a minimum. Mr McKenna added that there were signs to notify walkers of the shooting and that anyone from his company would not take a shot that was not safe, adding that poachers sometimes operated in the area. A local resident informed the meeting that lampers had shot, from the road, near residential properties on the Fruid Road, and asked why this was necessary when there were huge stretches of uninhabited land in the area. Mr McKenna said he did not think his company was to blame, but that it was more likely to be poachers. He urged anyone who witnessed such shooting to contact the police on 101. He added that Border Pest Control always notified the police of when they were lamping, and that he could also be contacted at 01721 740 260, 07836 606 316 or at dougie@borderpestcontrol.co.uk.

Mr McKenna was also told of the discovery of a number of bullets in the noticeboard at Tweedsmuir crossroads the pickup and dropoff area for schoolchildren from the village last year. Mr McKenna said he was aware of the find and that the police had been notified, but again thought it unlikely that his company was involved. The meeting heard that there had been no response from the police to last year's discovery, and that the lack of police presence and apparent interest in the area was a major concern. Councillor Catriona Bhatia said the police were presently formulating a plan for Tweeddale West, but that it would not include rural areas. The council agreed to press for a review of this policy, while the secretary agreed to write to the police, detailing the council's concerns over the general lack of policing in the area and the nonattendance of a police representative at community council meetings.

The chairman concluded by thanking Mr McKenna for his attendance.

04.03 BROADBAND

The secretary said he had been contacted by Community Broadband Scotland, asking if the community was still keen to be involved with the Ettrick and Beyond scheme. BT has now furnished a list of postcodes excluded from their superfast broadband plans, and it has become apparent that the bulk of Tweedsmuir postcodes will not benefit from the rollout.

The meeting agreed to continue to support the CBS scheme, but also voted to set up a sub-committee to look at possible alternatives. It was also agreed to invite a BT representative to a future council meeting.

05.03 CROSSROADS CHILDREN'S SAFETY

Councillor Lesley Mason reported that a child had very nearly been run over by a delivery vehicle at the Tweedsmuir crossroads, which is used as a pickup and dropoff point by school transport. The parent of the child had since contacted the council to urge that signs be erected to alert drivers of children in the area. The meeting agreed to look into this as a matter of urgency. SBC councillor Catriona Bhatia suggested the council contact Safer Route to School officers at SBC and added that Jason Hedley, of SBC, should also be informed of the situation.

06.03 TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer reported that the council had received £720 from SBC £540 for this financial year and £180 for January to April of 2015. The TCC had also received £1,000 from SSE for the issue of microgrants. The TCC's expenditure so far has been: £200 microgrant to Tweedsmuir Community Council for the purchase of Portaloos, £200 for a bike maintenance class in the village, hire of the village hall, £196.58 (which can be claimed back from SBC) and £50 to the village Christmas Party.

07.03 MICROGRANTS

Councillor Mason reported that the recent bike maintenance class, funded by a microgrant, was a great success, attracting a diverse group of people, and thanked the organisers for such a wellrun and popular event.

The chairman said there had been a request for a microgrant to pay for signs pointing to the church in Tweedsmuir. The chairman pointed out that there were restrictions on payments to religious bodies, and suggested that a meeting with the applicant should be arranged to explore other ways that the plans could be funded. The meeting agreed on this course of action.

The meeting also gave the green light for an application from the Banana preschool playgroup for £70 to help meet the costs of a fundraising 'pamper night'.

08.03 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Councillor Lesley Mason said the council was still awaiting delivery of equipment from SBC, but added that costs for suggested firstaid courses had been supplied by communities coordinator Andrew Mason.: 1day course, £515 for ten; 2day course, £650 for ten, and that the problem now was how to fund them. SBC councillor Catriona Bhatia suggested that the costs for these

courses could be met by the community support grant, which issues grants up to £5,000. Lesley agreed to contact the SBC to explore this possible avenue of funding.

09.03 CARLOWSE BRIDGE

The secretary reported that a local resident had complained that the cement holding the coping stones on the bridge was cracking and flaking away, despite repairs to the bridge last

year. The meeting also heard that drainage was not good, with large puddles forming. The secretary agreed to contact the SBC over the concerns.

10.03 CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

The meeting agreed that the annual village tidyup would go ahead, but not under the Clean for the Queen banner. However, councillors also agreed that the village should celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday on June 12, and that the council would liaise with other community councils in the area before deciding on what form this celebration would take.

11.03 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Catriona Bhatia reported that the council had now set its budget, with council tax frozen for another year, and that £500,000 more had been allocated to spend on roads in the region. Catriona also informed the meeting that SBC councillors had visited Talla reservoir, and described the visit, organised by Scottish Water, as fascinating (the chairman added that Scottish Water planned a similar visit to Talla for community council representatives). Catriona also brought councillors' attention to a meeting at Peebles High School on March 15 regarding the state of the region's schools. Community Councils were invited, and Catriona urged the TCC to attend.

12.03 CROOK INN

The chairman reported that Big Lottery representatives had visited the Crook and raised a number of queries over the Tweedsmuir Community Company's application. These have now been addressed by the company, which was hoping for a positive decision.

13.03 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a Community news Councillor Mason said she thought it would be a good idea if a summary of the council's activities were included in the newsletter. The secretary agreed to ensure this happens in future.

b Windfarm panels The chairman reported that the Glenkerie and SSE funds were looking for volunteers to join their panels, and urged residents to come forward.

c Wool from the Hills at Tweedsmuir Village Hall on Friday, March 18th, is a powerful and moving evocation of a vanishing way of life in the Border Hills through the words of the people who live there. The story is told by a cast of performers – beautifully illustrated with images of the landscape and livestock and accompanied by a lyrical musical soundtrack composed and performed by acclaimed Borders musician Ian Lowthian. Tickets, costing £10 and including a three course traditional meal, are available from Christine Parker at 01899880370 or 07453605507. Raffle and BOYB.

dMusic Upper Tweed Music Gathering presents an afternoon of traditional music from Sarah Northcott, Duggi Caird and Matt Smith at Tweedsmuir Village Hall on Sunday, March 20, starting at 3pm. Bring a cake to share, with entry by donation.

14.03 WEBSITE

Councillor Lesley Mason declared an interest and left the meeting.

Councillor Sarah Northcott reported that an application to Glenkerie windfarm fund was now ready to be lodged to fund a new website for the village. The site would be a central hub for Tweedsmuir and would include a messageboard, information for tourists, updates on local services, suppliers and a children's page. Councillor Northcott added that the council had set

up a subcommittee to develop this idea, and that the committee had put out the building of the website for tender. Three companies had applied, with the spec including training on how to operate the website for anyone volunteering to do so. A preferred bidder had been identified by the committee. Councillors endorsed this recommendation and agreed to go ahead with the application. If granted, the successful website developer will be appointed, subject to acceptable references.

Sarah also said that the application included training on social media use and writing skills, with a company specialising in these fields identified as the provider. This company was not one of the three bidders for the website development.

The chairman concluded by thanking Sarah for all her sterling work on this project.

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

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, April 7 (7.30pm)

PRESENT

Community councillors: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), Brian Bushell (treasurer) councillor Sarah Northcott, councillor Lesley Mason

Scottish Borders Councillor Willie Archibald

6 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on March 3 were approved 01.04 APOLOGIES

Police representative Nicola Craig and community councillor Kaitlyn Roper

02.04 MATTERS ARISING

Bananas Playgroup The treasurer raised the matter that although the minutes stated the Bananas Playgroup application was for £70 in the process of linking the application with payment he discovered that the amount was in fact £95 and sought approval of the actual amount to be paid. After a brief discussion it was agreed that £95 be paid instead.

03.04 WHITELAW BRAE WINDFARM

The secretary reported that a preexamination meeting regarding the application for the windfarm had been held at Tweedsmuir Village Hall on Friday March 11 where it was decided to hold the public inquiry into the application from August 23 to August 31, also at the village hall. The secretary said he had confirmed with the Scottish Government that the TCC intended to take a full part in the inquiry.

DECISION: The meeting decided that a subcommittee should be set up to prepare the TCC's presentation to the inquiry. The chairman and the treasurer volunteered to take part in the subcommittee, with the meeting also agreeing to contact resident Kirsty Stephens to enquire whether she would like to join.

04.04 BROADBAND

Resident Rod Sibbald, part of a subcommittee set up by the TCC to look into broadband provision in the village, presented information gathered by the committee so far:

BT exchange – Tweedsmuir is an ADSL exchange and not a Fibre Optic enabled exchange. The lines are exchange only lines which means they are not connected to an interim cabinet between the exchange and home.

DSSB (Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband) decision not to include Tweedsmuir in the BT rollout was based on budget constraints and technical challenges – (Private Company BT given £1 billion of public funding to deliver superfast broadband to the UK so far.) Subsidiary of DSSB – Community Broadband Scotland has been set up to deal with the 5% of rural communities not getting Fibre broadband.

Southern Upland Partnership, working with Community Broadband Scotland, is looking at ways of delivering faster broadband speeds the rural parts of the Scottish Borders and has set up the "Ettrick & Beyond" project.. However, it is looking at several different fixes for several different communities. SUP have undertaken an extensive Scoping report on the current status of broadband in the Scottish Borders and D&G.

The UK government has promised superfast broadband for everyone within the next parliament (superfast defined by OFCOM as 30mb per sec)

Nicola Sturgeon's 2016 Spring Conference speech promised superfast broadband for all premises in Scotland during the next term of parliament.

There is over £40 million earmarked to delivering rural superfast broadband (funding from the UK Gvt matched by the Scottish Gvt).

SUP's survey summary

- 95% of properties within target area to get Fibre broadband upgrade to their exchange by 2018 (agreement with Scottish Gvt and BT).
- Tweedsmuir is NOT included in that 95% and is a designated "Exploring Solutions" by the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband partnership (Scottish Gvt initiative).
- Both CBS and DSSB have several different options for rural broadband delivery but not one that delivers on all points. For example: some areas may benefit from mobile broadband, some from Satellite broadband although neither of these are without issues.
- There is a new initiative with Avanti Satellite and BT which, under the UK Gvts Universal Service Agreement, will offer consumers up to £350 to install Satellite equipment and pay part of the first years connection fees. **This only applies if you have a speed of 2mb or under.**
- Mobile broadband is patchy and dependent on which provider you have.
- Ettrick and Beyond working with other stakeholders (CBS, SBC and D&G) to examine ways of progressing broadband across the region but this is a "supertanker" approach and may take a long time.

Actions for Broadband Team

1. To write to politicians asking for details of promise of **superfast** Broadband and how they are

going to deliver 30mb service to Talla Linns Farm.

2. To contact and meet with CBS to discuss the Tweedsmuir area situation and options. 3. To discuss with other Community Councils what their approach is (ie Stobo CC).

3. To start to look at what options may be available for a "go it alone" strategy. (Looking at schemes such as Broadband for the Rural North – B4RN and their model. (Community Benefit Society – not for profit – set up and run like an ISP company providing Hyperfast 1GB service for £30 per month).

The chairman thanked Rod and the rest of the committee for their work so far.

05.04 CROSSROADS CHILDREN'S SAFETY

Councillor Lesley Mason reported that she had contacted the police safety officer for the area, expressing concerns that there was a lack of signage alerting drivers of children in the area of the village crossroads. This followed an incident when a child had very nearly been run over by a delivery vehicle at the crossroads, which is used as a pickup and dropoff point

by school transport, The police officer visited the site and agreed that signage was needed, and had contacted Scottish Borders Council with her recommendation. Lesley said she was still waiting to hear from the council.

06.04 TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer reported that the council had received a cheque for £2,862.80 from SSE for the grants scheme set up the village's children. This money will help pay for children to go on courses/activities of their choosing (councillor Mason added that the SSE had been most positive about the scheme and hoped to encourage it in other areas). Brian said that he had also received a cheque for £65 from the SBC for the hiring of the village during the last financial year and added that the accounts would be audited in time for the annual meeting in May.

07.04 MICROGRANTS

Application from Ms Yvonne Waugh, of Broughton, for £250 to set up boxercise classes for children at Tweedsmuir Village Hall.

Decision:Approved

Application from Banana preschool playgroup for £95 to help meet the costs of a fundraising 'pamper night'.

Decision:Bananas Playgroup are to receive 100% funding of £95 and not £70 as previously decided in error.

08.04 WEBSITE

Councillor Sarah Northcott confirmed that the application for funds to pay for a new village website had been submitted to Glenkerie windfarm community fund. Sarah said a fund representative had interviewed her regarding the application, and that a decision was expected by early May.

09.04 COMMUNITY COUNCIL HANDBOOK

The treasurer said that he had been made aware of a handbook for community councillors, which contained useful information about the running of the organisation. Brian distributed a copy of the handbook to all community councillors present.

10.04 POLICE REPORT

The secretary reported that the local police officer was again unable to attend but had provided a police report (see attached). The meeting also heard complaints that requests to the police for information had not garnered a reply, and councillors and members of the public present

expressed disquiet about the lack of police presence, and interest, in the area. It was agreed to write to inspector Mike Bennett, raising the council's concerns.

11.04 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Archibald reported the the council seemed to be doing well financially, with council tax being frozen for another year and more money being spent on roads and infrastructure. Mr Archibald also reported that a recent independent survey had found that, in

general, residents were happy with the services provided by the council. The meeting brought councillor Archibald's attention to the ongoing maintenance problems along the Fruid Road, with the secretary pointing out that Jason Hedley, of SBC, had informed him that repairs would be carried out in the next fortnight.

12.04 CROOK INN

Duncan Davidson, chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, reported that news was still awaited over whether the application to Big Lottery for funds to refurbish the Crook had been successful. Duncan said a decision would not be publicly announced until after the May 5 Holyrood election.

13.04 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a National Park The secretary reported that organisers behind the idea of a national park for Southern Scotland had written to him, inviting the council to attend a meeting of all interested groups in November. The council agreed to attend.

b Education cuts The meeting heard from resident Christine Parker that parents in Upper Tweed are concerned about the cuts in additional needs assistants and classroom assistants in Tweeddale. The cuts not only affect children with additional needs but the quality of education received by other children who share classrooms in our local school at Broughton. There is real concern over the future staffing of Broughton school as we learn that the head teacher post is again being advertised and the principal teacher is on long term sick. The additional support for learning teacher post has not been filled in this school year, classroom assistance has been reduced and children are not getting appropriate support for their education needs. The meeting decided to write a letter of complaint to SBC, with SBC councillor Archibald suggested councillor Sandy Aitcheson as the most appropriate contact.

c Planning: Application for detailed planning permission for a house at The Oak House, Tweedsmuir. Decision: No objections

The meeting was informed that there were two other planning applications for the village on the SBC's website, but the Tweedsmuir Community Council had not been notified of them. The secretary agreed to seek clarification from SBC.

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council the council's annual meeting is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on May 12, 2016, 7.30pm.

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, May 12 (7.30pm)
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PRESENT

Community councillors: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), Brian Bushell (treasurer) councillor Sarah Northcott, councillor Lesley Mason, councillor Kaitlyn Roper

Scottish Borders Councillor Keith Cockburn

6 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on April 7 were approved 01.05 APOLOGIES

Police representative Nicola Craig

02.05 MATTERS ARISING

Fruid Road The secretary reported that temporary repairs had been undertaken, but residents had reported a number of potholes had been missed. The council has also been told that the Scottish Borders Council is planning to apply to the Timber Transport Fund for money to pay for a more permanent repair of the road.

Signage at the crossroads The secretary reported that, despite a number of emails to SBC, there had been no further news on the community council's request for signage warning drivers of children using the crossroads.

Planning: At the April meeting, concern was raised that there had been a number of planning applications on the SBC website of which the community council was unaware. The secretary reported that he had contacted Dorothy Aymes, of the SBC planning department, and she had informed him that only new applications on new sites would be sent to community councils for comment. However, she added that community councils were able to comment on any application on the website, but would have to monitor the website themselves. It was agreed that a councillor would be nominated to undertake this task.

03.05 WHITELAW BRAE WINDFARM

The council has been notified by the Scottish Government that one objection to the windfarm by NATS, the air traffic services organisation had been withdrawn. The secretary also reported that Ms Jilly Adams, of 2020 Renewables, the company behind the application, had requested to attend one of the community council meetings to discuss 'some ideas around community benefit.' It was agreed to invite Ms Adams to the TCC's meeting on June 2. The meeting was also told that local resident Ms Kirsty Stevens has agreed to join the sub-committee set up by the TCC to formulate its opposition to the plans at the public enquiry later this year. The first meeting of this subcommittee will be arranged shortly.

04.05 BROADBAND

Resident Rod Sibbald, part of a subcommittee set up by the TCC to look into broadband provision in the village, updated the meeting on progress so far:

1 Local Westminster MP David Mundell has replied to a letter from the subcommittee, asking to clarify the government's position on broadband provision to rural areas. Please find his response attached.

2 The subcommittee has applied to join the BT community fibre partnership. Under this scheme, BT will partner any community not included in the 95 per cent of areas already set to receive superfast broadband under the Scottish Government rollout. A survey of

Tweedsmuir now needs to be undertaken to gauge demand for superfast, and Rod agreed to supply a form of words that could be sent out to residents. Once the survey is complete, it will be sent to BT, who will then provide an estimate of cost. This will be funded by the local community, which, in Tweedsmuir's case, would probably come from windfarm funds.

3Rod and the secretary will attend a meeting with Community Broadband Scotland representatives in Glasgow on 18 May for advice on the best way forward for Tweedsmuir in regard to superfast provision.

4An email has been sent to B4RN, an organisation in Lancashire providing superfast broadband to its local communities, asking for advice.

5The Ettrick and Beyond scheme, of which Tweedsmuir is an interested party, held a meeting on 9 May. Please find the minutes attached.

05.05 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

Application by Megan Ellis, of Patervan, a Young Leader with the 1st Castlecraig Brownies, for £250 to help with the cost of an international trip organised by the Girl Guides. **Decision:** Approved.

Councillors also agreed to hold a brainstorming meeting, open to all villagers, to look into ways the community could use money now available from the various windfarms in the area. This will be held on 10 June, at the village hall, at 7:30pm. Details of the meeting will be sent to residents.

06.05 WEBSITE

Councillor Sarah Nothcott reported that the community council's application to Glenkerie windfarm for money to set up a village website had been rejected. Sarah said this was disappointing, and that it appeared that the windfarm panel had not fully understood the extent of the council's plans. She said an application to the SSE fund might be possible in September, and thought it might help any future application if the TCC put some of its own funds towards it. Councillor Lesley Mason added that she thought more evidence of the need for the website would strengthen any application. The chairman agreed to look into the possibility of any appeal to Glenkerie before deciding on the best way forward.

07.05 POLICE REPORT

Police representative Nicola Craig was unable to attend the meeting but sent a police report for the area, which is attached. The treasurer reported that he had spoken to Nicola recently and that she was extremely keen to attend but found it difficult with work patterns and workload. The meeting agreed to write to MSP Christine Grahame about the TCC's concerns over policing in the area, in particular about lack of response to local queries and to calls to the 101 service.

08.05 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Keith Cockburn reported that the Tweeddale flood plan was due to be discussed at the next SBC meeting and that he was continuing to work as a member of the scrutiny committee to highlight the damage being done to roads and infrastructure by logging traffic. The meeting agreed that the community council should write to the scrutiny committee, highlighting its continuing disquiet over certain aspects of the decisionmaking process regarding the repairs to Carlowse Bridge. Secretary Paul Greaves agreed to formulate a letter. It was also agreed to ask the SBC how much public money has been spent to repair the Fruid Road since logging traffic started to use it.

09.05 CROOK INN

Duncan Davidson, chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, brought the meeting's attention to the community company's annual general meeting, which is on Friday, May 20, at the village hall, 7.30pm start,

10.05 TREE PLANTING

The meeting heard that Scottish Woodlands has revived plans to plant trees on the lefthand side of the A701 as you travel from Tweedsmuir to Broughton. When this was first mooted a few years ago, residents affected expressed concerns over their water supply, which comes off the hill, many believing any new planting could restrict it. A resident said she had been contacted with a request to meet to discuss the new revised plans, but wondered whether it might be best to hold a public meeting with Scottish Woodlands instead. The chairman said the village hall committee had not been contacted as yet (the village hall is in the area of the new planting), and the meeting agreed to contact Scottish Woodlands for more details and to ask for a public meeting about the issue.

11.05 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Coping stones on Carlowse Bridge The secretary said he had received no response from SBC regarding the need for repointing of the stones on the top of the bridge, but would contact SBC again.

Printer The treasurer asked if it would be possible to purchase a printer for community council use. The meeting agreed that prices should be sought in time for the next meeting.

Footpath Councillor Mason said she had been contacted by organisers hoping to construct a footpath from the village to the Crook Inn, asking if it would be possible for them to give a presentation to the TCC. The meeting agreed that this should go ahead.

Resilient Communities Councillor Mason said the community council had now joined the resilient communities organisation, but that we were still awaiting the promised equipment. The meeting agreed that, under the resilient communities scheme, a community grant should be sought from SBC for firstaid training, a new defibrillator, and a shipping container to store the equipment when it arrives.

Logsplitter Councillor Sarah Northcott suggested this could be purchased through windfarm monies and that, given the number of villagers with woodburners, this could be a valuable asset for the village. She added she would bring the matter up at the council's brainstorming meeting in June.

Peebles High School Councillor Lesley Mason said Tweedsmuir children now faced catching the bus 20 minutes earlier in the morning after the school stopped buses offloading and picking up pupils at its gates. Due to a recent fatal accident, the school has decided that buses should use Kingsmeadow car park, with pupils then having a 20minute walk to school. Councillors expressed the opinion that this move may, in fact, be dangerous in itself, with pupils having to cross a busy road to get to school. The meeting agreed to write to SBC expressing its concerns.

ANNUAL MEETING

Election of officers:

Chairman: Gavin Parker was reelected by councillors. Gavin was proposed by Paul Greaves and seconded by Lesley Mason

Secretary: Paul Greaves was reelected by councillors. Paul was proposed by Gavin Parker and seconded by treasurer Brian Bushell

Treasurer: Brian Bushell was reelected by councillors. Brian was proposed by Paul Greaves and seconded by Sarah Northcott.

The chairman said that it was with regret that he had to announce the resignation from the council of Kaitlyn Roper. Kaitlyn has decided to step down because she is leaving for university in September. Gavin thanked her for all her hard work over the last 12 months, and wished her well at university.

The meeting agreed to contact residents to see if anyone would like to join the community council.

Chairman's report: see attachment Treasurer's report: see attachment

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on 2 June, 2016, 7.30pm.

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, June 2 (7.30pm)
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PRESENT

Community councillors: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), Brian Bushell (treasurer), councillor Lesley Mason,
8 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on May 12 were approved

01.06 APOLOGIES

Police representative Nicola Craig and Sarah Northcott

02.06 MATTERS ARISING

Fruid Road The secretary reported that Scottish Borders Council has confirmed it plans to apply to the Timber Transport Fund for money to pay for a more permanent repair of the road. **Signage at the crossroads** The SBC has responded to a request by the TCC for signage warning of children at the village crossroads, saying it was due to meet to decide on a timetable for the works to take place.

Kingsmeadow car park The chairman said that media reports claiming that Peebles High School had decided to use Kingsmeadow car park as a dropoff and pickup point for school buses was, in fact, incorrect and that there was no such plan. The matter had been discussed at the community council's May meeting.

03.06 WHITELAW BRAE WINDFARM

Mr Alasdair MacLeod, a director of Scotland, 2020 Renewables, and Ms Jilly Adams, Senior Development Manager, 2020 Renewables, attended the meeting to give an update on the application to the Scottish Government for the Whitelaw Brae Windfarm development. They outlined a number of changes to the original application Further Environmental Information (FEI).

The changes to the original development (14 turbines of 136.5m to the tip; total of 50.4 megawatts of wind generation and 4mw battery storage):

Extension of the battery storage area by three Portacabins.

Relocation of turbine 11 to address concerns raised by Historic Environment Scotland.

Photomontages have been redone in accordance with the latest Scottish Natural Heritage guidance.

The following assessments have been revisited: landscape and visual, cultural heritage, transport, noise, ground conditions, hydrology and forestry.

Overall there are no changes to the findings or overall significance identified.

There will now be a FEI consultation period 3 June to 1 July. Any Tweedsmuir observations on the FEI must be with the Scottish Government by 1 July.

A planning inquiry will follow, starting on 23 August at Tweedsmuir Village Hall. A decision is expected in early 2017, and, if successful, 2020 Renewables plan for construction to start in October 2018, with completion by the end of the following year.

The 2020 representatives then outlined the community benefit fund that would be available if the windfarm goes ahead:

They are committed to £5,000 per mega watt

This will mean an annual payment of around £252,000

2020 Renewables' preference is for this to be paid directly to the local community most affected, which, in this case, would be Tweedsmuir.

There may be a role for a thirdparty administrator, such as Foundation Scotland, to run the scheme.

The 2020 representatives also outlined how local communities can take a financial stake in windfarm development. Ms Adams explained that this shared ownership scheme, promoted by the Scottish Government, is still in its early stages, but that a local community could: take a share in a windfarm by applying to the Renewable Energy Investment Fund for a loan and repaying that loan at a preferential rate over a specified period. In that time, it was predicted that the return on the investment ie a percentage of the profit would be greater than the loan repayments, bringing money into the community. Ms Adams also said the government would pay for a project officer to help any community set up the scheme.

There then followed a question and answer session with members of the public at the meeting. One resident said that she had come to Tweedsmuir for its unspoilt beauty and that plans for the windfarm would ruin her home. Another said she had asked 2020 Renewables if they would arrange for a valuation of her home without the presence of a windfarm and then one with a windfarm at the back of her property, but had received no response. It was also pointed out by a villager that the Whitelaw Brae side borders an area recently designation as wild land, and he wondered how anyone could reconcile the two.

The chairman thanked Mr MacLeod and Ms Adams for their attendance.

Following the presentation, Samantha Cunningham and Paul Greaves volunteered to join the subcommittee set up to formulate the TCC's response to the application and a date June 8 was set for its first meeting.

04.06 BROADBAND

Resident Rod Sibbald, part of a subcommittee set up by the TCC to look into broadband provision in the village, updated the meeting on progress. Rod said the subcommittee had met for the first time and at that meeting it had become clear that there was already fibre ducting running through the village along the A701. This could make any broadband solution for the village cheaper. It was also agreed that the best solution was for fibre connections to individual premises, and that the TCC should pursue that solution through the BT community fibre

partnership. A letter/email had gone out to all residents, giving them the option to opt out if they wished as the scheme entailed giving BT details such as phone numbers and postcodes. Rod, however, pointed out that, at this stage, this did not commit residents to the scheme, but simply enabled the TCC to explore it as one of a number of options. Deadline for any returns had been set at 11 June.

The chairman thanked Rod and the subcommittee for all their work.

05.06 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

Application by Fergus Mason, of Tweedsmuir, for £152 for a set of football goals for Broughton Primary School (Fergus is a pupil of the school). **Decision:** Approved with the proviso that the school's parent council agrees to administer the grant.

06.06 POLICE REPORT

No police representative was in attendance, but a police report is attached.

07.06 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No SBC representative was in attendance

08.06 CROOK INN REPORT

No Tweedsmuir Community Company representative was in attendance

09.06 BUS TRIPS

The chairman brought the meeting's attention to the bus trips being run by Upper Tweed Community Council to Edinburgh and Glasgow this year. A bus will run from Tweedsmuir, Broughton, Skirling on Saturdays as follows:

11 June to Edinburgh

9 July to Glasgow

13 August to Edinburgh

10 December to Edinburgh

The pickup point is Carlowse Bridge for Tweedsmuir at 9:40am, and there will be a charge of £5 for each trip, with a family of four people able to buy a discounted ticket for £15. Tickets are being sold at the Broughton shop. No tickets will be sold on the bus itself. Any questions, please telephone 01899 830 250

10.06 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Council The chairman reported that it was with deep regret that he had to announce that councillor Sarah Northcott had decided to step down as a councillor. The chairman thanked Sarah for all her hard work on the council since it was set up just over 12 months ago, in particular the way she had endeavoured to introduce a new website for the village, funding for which had been rejected by the Glenkerie windfarm fund. The chairman added that there were now two vacancies on the council and that a letter/email advertising the vacancies should be sent out to the community. Resident Rod Sibbald volunteered to join, and the secretary said he would contact the SBC for clarification on how to go about this.

Resilient Communities

Councillor Lesley Mason said it had now become clear that the SBC would pay for a storage facility for equipment relating to resilient membership, and asked whether the TCC still wanted to go ahead with the purchase of a container as agreed at May's meeting. The meeting agreed that both avenues should be explored.

Glenkerie windfarm fund The secretary said he thought a letter should be sent to Foundation Scotland, administrators of the fund, asking why the decision to reject the community council's application for website funding seemed to be public knowledge before the TCC had been officially notified. The secretary said he had been alarmed by this

because the application contained commercially sensitive information, and wondered if any of this had also been made public. The meeting agreed a letter should be sent.

Insurance Resident Rod Sibbald informed the meeting that his insurance provider had recently refused to renew his home insurance because he lived in a postcode ML12 affected by flooding. He did not know if any other insurers were taking a similar stance but was worried that this might be the start of a trend. The chairman said he was alarmed by this and urged residents affected likewise to contact the TCC.

Talla Linns Councillor Mason reported that part of the road at Talla Linns had subsided. The secretary said he would notify the SBC of this.

Broughton School Councillor Mason reported that a new teacher had been appointed at the school

Printer The meeting agreed that a printer/scanner/copier (Samsung model, costing £130) should be purchased for community council use.

Queen's Birthday The meeting agreed that there would be a barbecue / funday in the grounds of the Crook Inn to celebrate the Queen's birthday on 12 June.

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on 4 August, 2016, 7.30pm. Please note there is no meeting in July

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

Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), Brian Bushell (treasurer), Scottish Borders Councillor Willie Archibald and 7 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 2 June were approved 01.08 APOLOGIES

Councillor Lesley Mason, Lesley Kirkwood and Police representative Nicola Craig

02.08 MATTERS ARISING

SBC councillors: Treasurer Brian Bushell asked that it be minuted that no Scottish Borders Councillor had been in attendance at the community council meeting in June and that no apologies had been received.

New members: Following two recent resignations from the council, residents had been contacted to ask for volunteers to be coopted on to the council. Three had come forward and were duly proposed and seconded:

Mr Rod Sibbald: Proposed: Brian Bushell. Seconded: Christine Parker

Mr Ralph Glatt: Proposed: Paul Greaves. Seconded: Gavin Parker

Lesley Kirkwood: Proposed: Anne Patricia Sinclair Shaw, Seconded: Eric Stephens.

03.08 WHITELAW BRAE WIND FARM

The secretary reported that a preinquiry statement had been sent to the Scottish government, outlining the basis of the community council's objection to the windfarm application, which is subject to a public inquiry at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, starting on 23 August. This will be followed by a precognition the full draft of the TCC's objections which must be completed and lodged with the government by 9 August. The secretary said this was almost complete, and that he would forward to councillors when finished. The chairman thanked both Kirsty and Eric Stephens for their help with the council's response to the windfarm application.

04.08 BROADBAND

Rod Sibbald, chairman of the broadband subcommittee, gave an update on the situation. Rod said that the application to the BT community partnership scheme had been submitted, and that a quote from BT for fibre to premises as well as fibre to cabinet would be sent to the council on 6 September. Rod added that the date represented a delay from the original response time of 10 working days. This caused a problem in that the council had to decide whether to go with Community Benefit Scotland's Ettrick and Beyond scheme by September 15. However, with the council's next meeting on 1 September, it meant that councillors would not have the full details from BT by then. It was decided to delay the decision until the BT costings were received on 6 September and then hold an extra meeting to decide the way forward.

05.08 MICROGRANT APPLICATION

The meeting agreed that a change of course by one of the participants part of an earlier, approved application for monies for children's educational and recreational courses should be approved.

Councillors approved a grant application for £250 from Lesley Kirkwood to go towards the cost (total £510) of attending a mountain leader's course at Glenmore Lodge, Aviemore.

Once qualified, Lesley intends to organise walking trips in the Tweedsmuir hills for residents,

and, once the Crook Inn is open, to visitors to the area, too. The secretary added he thought this was an excellent idea.

A grant application from Tweedsmuir Community Company for £250 was approved for a bench and table to be sited outside the Crook Inn.

06.08 POLICE REPORT

See attached.

07.08 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The chairman reported that the council had now received a sandbag store from Scottish Borders Council as part of the resilient scheme, and that this would be sited at the village hall. The secretary added that SBC needed to be contacted regarding a promised extra salt bin for Kirk Road.

08.08 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The chairman welcomed back Willie Archibald after his recent illness and wished him well for the future. Because of his illness and the council's summer recess, Mr Archibald said he did not have much to report but promised to follow up on the following concerns aired by residents at the meeting:

- 1 Resident Christine Parker expressed her concern that no provision for the afterschool club had, at that point, been set up at Broughton school
- 2 Signage for Talla and Fruid at the A701 junction had been obliterated by overhanging trees
- 3 Visibility at that junction was poor because the grass on the verges had not been cut

09.08 CROOK INN

The chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company Mr Duncan Davidson said that a number of grant applications were now being considered and that, as part of this approach, the company would very much like to hear from residents on how a reopened Crook could support activities in the community.

10.08 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

16/00808/FUL: Change of use of outdoor centre to holiday let accommodation and erection of a detached double garage and garden studio at Schoolhouse And Outdoor Centre, Tweedsmuir : **Approved.**

16/00777/FUL: Erection of replacement bridge and associated works at Land South West Of Patervan Cottage Broughton. **Approved**

11.08 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a Queen's birthday The chairman reported that a rounders' afternoon to celebrate the Queen's birthday in June had been a great success

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on September 1, 2016, 7.30pm.

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, 1 September (7.30pm)

Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), community councillors Lesley Kirkwood, Lesley Mason, Ralph Glatt and Rod Sibbald, Scottish Borders Councillor Keith Cockburn and 4 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 4 August were approved 01.09 APOLOGIES

Treasurer Brian Bushell and Police representative Nicola Craig

02.09 MATTERS ARISING

Crossroads signage: The secretary reported that Jason Hedley, of SBC, had informed him that the matter was in hand and that a meeting at SBC on September 2 would discuss the sign, warning drivers of children in the vicinity, and the timescale for its erection.

Visit to Talla Reservoir: SBC has offered one community councillor the opportunity to join a visit to Talla Reservoir on 4 October (10.30am). Two councillors have requested to go, and SBC has confirmed both can attend should one of the community councils invited fail to take up the invite.

Resilient communities Councillor Lesley Mason reported that, as part of the scheme, a tool shed was due to be delivered to the village hall imminently. This would house all the resilient communities kit, with the delivery also likely to include sandbags. Lesley added that the SBC is offering free first-aid training through the Red Cross. The meeting agreed to take part in this, and thought a Saturday in November would be the ideal time. The village hall would be the venue.

03.09 WHITELAW BRAE WIND FARM

The chairman reported that the inquiry into 2020's application to build 14 wind turbines at Whitelaw Brae was now complete. Gavin said it had been an 'experience' and hoped the council, represented at the inquiry, had done all it could have done in opposing the plans. The chairman also reported that the TCC now had the opportunity of a final statement to the Reporter on 26 September. It was unclear what that statement should include, but the secretary said he would contact the government for clarification.

The chairman thanked resident Kirsty Stephens for all her help over the Whitelaw matter, while Mrs Stephens and resident Samantha Billingham expressed their gratitude to the council for all its efforts in opposing the plans.

04.09 BROADBAND

Rod Sibbald, chairman of the broadband sub-committee, reported that a quote from BT for fibre to premises as well as for fibre to cabinet would now be sent to the council on 20 September, a delay from the original quote date of 6 September. The quote, part of the BT community partnership plan, would be valid for 90 days. Rod also reported that the community council would not have to confirm, or otherwise, its participation in the Ettrick and Beyond Community Broadband scheme until November 3. This had originally been set for 15 September. The delays now meant the council had more time to decide in which scheme, Ettrick and Beyond or BT partnership, to take part. Rod and the secretary had also visited Amanda Burgauer, head of a broadband project in Dumfries, to hear her experiences of setting up a broadband scheme - she has been attempting to do so since 2010 - while Rod has written an article for the latest edition of the Upper Tweed News, explaining the

broadband issues. Rod also circulated to the meeting a list of the negatives and positives of the various options for broadband provision open to the community.

05.09 MICROGRANT APPLICATION

The chairman asked the secretary to minute that the meeting agreed that it would run the microgrant scheme for the Glenkerie windfarm.

Councillor Lesley Mason reported that a number of children who had received bursaries from Tweedsmuir Community Council via the SSE community fund, had been photographed at Broughton Primary School by SSE windfarm for use in their promotional material. Lesley said the scheme had been a great success and that SSE was looking into making the youth grants a permanent fixture in future, with a set amount of money split between the three councils - Skirling, Upper Tweed and Tweedsmuir - for the administration of grants for youngsters' educational and recreational courses.

06.09 POLICE REPORT

There was no police report available.

07.09 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

SBC councillor Keith Cockburn brought the meeting's attention to funding available at the council, which he said was being underspent. Funds were available through the Area forum and also through community grants (maximum £5,000). Keith said a community grant could be used for broadband provision, for instance.

Keith also reported that the council's scrutiny committee was looking into the impact of timber and windfarm traffic on roads in the Borders and ways to fund the repairs. Keith explained that if the committee decided there was an issue to be addressed, a working group would be set up to fully investigate the matter.

The chairman noted that Talla Linns and the road approaching it were being closed on 7-8 September, and wondered whether any provision had been made for children at Talla Farm to get to school on those days. Keith said the council should contact Philippa Gilhooley at SBC, and the secretary said he would do so.

09.09 CROOK INN

The chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company Mr Duncan Davidson said the company would very much like to hear from residents on how a reopened Crook could support activities in the community.

10.09 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bus matters event The secretary reported the SBC was holding the event at the Burgh Hall, Peebles, on Tuesday 6 September. The event was a drop-in opportunity for the public to come along and chat about public transport - or, in the case of Tweedsmuir, the lack of it.

Website Councillor Lesley Mason said minutes of recent meetings did not appear to be on the website. The secretary said this was because he had forgotten to ask website administrator Sarah Northcott to include them, and would rectify this as soon as possible.

Water supply Lesley reported that she was experiencing problems with her home's water supply, which comes off the hillside. This was the first time she had experienced difficulties, but, basically, there was now too much silt in the water. SBC had been notified.

Mobile Post Office Resident Samantha Billingham asked whether the area could be visited by a mobile post office now that the post office at Broughton had closed. The secretary said he would look into this.

Broughton Primary School Miss Catrina McKinnon has recently taken over as the school's

new headmistress.

Halloween Party Tweedsmuir's Halloween party will take place at the village hall on 29 October. The meeting agreed to consider a microgrant application to help fund the party.

Layby bin Councillor Rod Sibbald reported that a bin situated in a layby south of the village was overflowing with rubbish. The secretary said he would contact the SBC to see if they would empty it.

Forestry Rod also reported that an area of felled trees, south of the village, was an eyesore, with too many raptor poles left standing. Rod agreed to contact Scottish Woodlands to see if more of the poles could be felled.

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on October 6, 2016, 7.30pm.

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

Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), community councillors Lesley Kirkwood and Rod Sibbald, Scottish Borders Councillor Keith Cockburn and 4 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 1 September were approved 01.10
APOLOGIES

Treasurer Brian Bushell, councillor Ralph Glatt and police representative Nicola Craig

02.10 MATTERS ARISING

Post Office mobile service: The secretary reported that he had contacted the Post Office to see if the Upper Tweed area could be serviced by the mobile service now that the PO in Broughton had closed. The secretary was waiting for a response from the PO.

Waste bin south of the village: The secretary said he had contacted the SBC to see if it would empty the bin, which had been full for some time, but was awaiting a decision.

Crossroads signage The SBC has said that they could not erect signs warning of children in the vicinity because there was no school nearby, but was still looking for alternatives. SBC councillor Keith Cockburn promised to look into the matter on the TCC's behalf.

First Aid training Biggar Patient Focus Group had been in contact to inform the council of a course for first respondents at the Corn Exchange, Biggar, on 29 October. The group is keen to increase the number of first respondents in the area, and anyone wishing to attend should contact the secretary for full details.

Minutes The secretary reported that all the minutes were now on the website.

Forestry Councillor Rod Sibbald said Scottish Woodlands had agreed to remove some of the raptor poles in a section of felled woodland south of the village.

03.10 BROADBAND

Councillor Rod Sibbald outlined the options available to the council:

ETTRICK AND BEYOND

This project is still at a very early stage. It is in the process of setting up a project team and management structure. They are targeting 90 per cent of their area for superfast broadband (30mbps and above) with the remainder getting a minimum of 10mbps. They are looking for the project to go live in 2018.

BT COMMUNITY FIBRE PARTNERSHIP

The community council is still waiting for an official quote from the partnership scheme despite frequent requests. A figure of between £200,000 and £250,000 has been discussed in a phone conversation but nothing has been forthcoming in writing yet.

STOBONET

Gordon Hughes, of Stobonet CBS broadband scheme, has offered to come along and talk to the TCC about linking Tweedsmuir to the Stobonet radiowave broadband system.

R100%

The forthcoming Scottish Government scheme of reaching 100 per cent of properties with

superfast broadband is now known as R4 100% or Reaching for 100%. The scheme aims to deliver superfast broadband to all premises in Scotland by 2021,

COMMERCIAL ALTERNATIVES

There is an option to explore 'commercial company' alternatives to all of the above to get quotes from a fibre-to-premises project on a similar basis to the BT partnership scheme. There are several commercial operators in Scotland. After discussion, the meeting agreed to:

1 Continue with the BT Community partnership option - fibre to premises - and explore ways in which this could be funded by the community.

2 Withdraw from the Ettrick and Beyond scheme as this would be based on wireless technology as per Stobonet. If the council had to follow this route, councillors believed it would be better to join Stobonet as this was a scheme established already. Rod agreed to write to Ettrick, informing them of the CC's decision.

3 Invite Gordon Hughes, of Stobonet, to attend the council's next meeting in November. Rod said he would email Gordon.

Rod reported that he had attended the SBC's first digital forum in September, but would be unable to attend the next on 8 November. The secretary said he might be able to attend in Rod's absence.

04.10 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The secretary reported that the council had received an invitation to the annual winter preparedness event for resilient communities coordinators at the SBC chambers in Newtown St Boswells on Tuesday, 15 November. The secretary agreed to pass to the invitation on to Tweedsmuir's chief co-ordinator Andrew Mason. The chairman added that all the equipment for the communities scheme had now arrived, with the exception of the shed to keep it in.

05.10 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

An application for £250 from Tweedsmuir resident Victoria White to help with funding for the Halloween and Christmas parties as well as the Young Burns supper - **A greed.**

An application from Yvonne Waugh for £250 to help with funding for adult keep-fit classes held at the village hall every Tuesday - **A greed.**

Councillor Lesley Kirkwood thanked the TCC for its help with funding towards the cost of attending a mountain leader's course at Glenmore Lodge, Aviemore. Lesley said she had passed the course and was now looking forward to organising guided walks in the area.

06.10 POLICE REPORT

There was no police report available.

07.10 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

SBC councillor Keith Cockburn reported that the decision over whether to go ahead with the tapestry building in Galashiels had been put back to November, but that the council had decided at its last full meeting to abandon the 3G pitch plan for Peebles, with the money designated for that now going into road repairs. Keith agreed to look into whether SBC was

still going ahead with a submission the Timber Transport fund to pay for the repair of Fruid Road, as intimated in an email to Tweedsmuir Community Council in May.

08.10 CROOK INN

The chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company Mr Duncan Davidson said the company was seeking windfarm funding to repair the roof on one of the Crook's outbuildings with a view to turning it into a venue for the village. Work was still ongoing to prepare for applications to funders, including the Big Lottery Community Assets scheme, to pay for the Crook's refurbishment.

09.09 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Borders National Park The secretary reported that the council had received notification of a stakeholder meeting for the planned park at Jedburgh Town Hall on Thursday, November 17, starting at 6.30pm.

A701 Resident Christine Parker complained that the lack of white lines and collapsed verges meant many sections of the A701, from Tweedsmuir to the Dumfries and Galloway boundary, were in a dangerous state. Christine recalled that the SBC had promised to paint white lines along this stretch of road at the start of last winter, but had not done so. Keith Cockburn said he would ensure the A701 at Tweedsmuir was included in the annual review, and urged the council to send specific examples of the road's poor state of repair, including photographs, to the SBC roads department.

BT Councillor Lesley Kirkwood reported that she had contacted BT regarding rubble that had been left after recent work by the company, but was still awaiting a reply.

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on 3 November, 2016, 7.30pm.

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, 3 November 2016 (7.30pm)

Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), treasurer Brian Bushell, community councillors Rod Sibbald, Lesley Mason and Ralph Glatt. 6 members of the public.

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

Before the meeting began, a minute's silence was observed for Tweedsmuir resident Mrs Morag Roper, who sadly passed away in October after a long illness.

01.11 APOLOGIES

Community councillor Lesley Kirkwood, SBC councillor Catriona Bhatia and police representative Nicola Craig

02.11 MATTERS ARISING

A 701: The secretary reported that he had received a reply from SBC councillor Keith Cockburn over concerns about the state of the A701 raised at last month's meeting. The secretary read out the response:

The Asset Manager has replied that the overall condition of the A701 between Broughton and the Dumfries and Galloway boundary is good. The council has a provisional surface dressing programme for next financial year, which includes two sites on the A701 at Glenveg and Tweedsmuir Hall, but at this time the list is provisional and further review will be required to prioritise the projected spend on the whole A class network to match the available budget. The Borders wide list of sites being considered for resurfacing has two on the section of the A701 south of Broughton, at Polmood and the Crook Inn, but these have not been marked as high priority at this time. However, the council is aware of an accident site half a mile south of Newbiggin, and this will need to be assessed and prioritised for possible future inclusion in the resurfacing programme. In conclusion, there are some sites on the section of road in question that are being considered for possible inclusion in the surface treatment programme for next financial year, but this has not been fully assessed at this time, or finalised.

The meeting heard that councillor Lesley Kirkwood was in the process of taking photographs of the worst parts of the road and would forward these to Jason Hedley at SBC.

Crossroads signage: The secretary said SBC had informed him that the signage was now being built and would be erected as soon as possible.

03.11 BROADBAND

A presentation then followed from Mr Gordon Hughes, chairman of Dwyck Community Ltd, which runs the Stobonet broadband service, on the viability of extending Stobonet into the Tweedsmuir area. Mr Hughes' presentation is attached.

Mr Hughes then answered a number of questions from members of the public and councillors. On the question of funding the overall cost, £58,946, Mr Hughes said the best option would be to apply to local windfarms, who, in his experience, were extremely keen to fund such projects. He also said that the relay system did not need planning permission as it was permitted development. Mr Hughes added that the monthly cost to a customer would be £30 a month, with a £90 installation fee. However, he pointed out that customers who signed up would not need a BT landline and could arrange a VoIP phone service at much lower cost.

Mr Hughes was asked what would happen if one of the relay stations broke down. He said Stobonet would fix the problem as soon as they could, but may need local assistance to do so. Replying to a question about speeds, he added that at peak times, when demand for the

service was high, speeds would be around 20gb, with 30gb the speed at all other times. Mr Hughes warned that the downloading of HD films may use up a significant part of a customer's monthly usage - limited to 200gb a month - and concerns were expressed at the meeting that this might be a problem in that most of the media on offer was now in HD format. Mr Hughes said customers could buy extra gigabytes if required, and there was a business package on offer that doubled the monthly limit to 400gb.

The chairman concluded by thanking Mr Hughes for his attendance at the meeting and for his in-depth presentation.

04.11 BORDERS FOREST TRUST

Mr Jon Thomas, of Borders Forest Trust, kindly attended the meeting to discuss the Trust's plans for Talla and Gameshope. He said that next October a new area of native woodland was due to be planted, using contract work. The area would not be fenced, but stalking would take place. Mr Thomas was asked if it would be possible to signpost when stalking was due to take place as a number of residents walked in the area, and he agreed to look into the matter. He added that the next volunteer planting would take place next April, and he hoped as many Tweedsmuir residents as possible would take part. Mr Thomas also said a gate, with pedestrian access, would be constructed at the start of a track at the top of Talla Linns to dissuade motorised vehicles from using it, which has been the case in the past. The chairman said he thought the community really appreciated the work the Trust was doing at Talla and Gameshope and thanked Mr Thomas for his presentation.

05.11 WHITELAW BRAE WINDFARM

The secretary said that a letter to one of the community councillors had seemed to suggest that the Whitelaw Brae windfarm had been given the go-ahead by the Scottish Government. On seeking clarification, the government had confirmed that no such decision had been made and that it would probably be January before any news on the windfarm application.

06.11 FRUID ROAD

SBC had been in touch to say that its application to the Timber Transport Fund for money to repair the Fruid Road had been unsuccessful. However, the secretary said that, although SBC councillor Catriona Bhatia had been unable to attend, she had sent details of where the extra money recently allocated to improve the roads infrastructure in the Borders would be spent. Fruid Road is included in this spend as a short overlay scheme, which, in effect, means the worst-affected parts of the road will be resurfaced, although not the entirety of it. The meeting welcomed this news.

07.11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

16/01339/FUL. Applicant: Mr Ralph Glatt. Proposal: Upgrade of layby/bellmouth to forestry entrance and upgrade of forestry track. Site: Land South East Of The Oak House, Tweedsmuir.

Councillor Rod Sibbald said he thought the line of sight from the entrance was restricted by nearby trees but that, if the trees were felled, this would negate the problem. The secretary said Scottish Woodlands plans were to fell all of the trees along the road, but agreed to contact the SBC to make it aware of the situation. The meeting was asked whether some of the trees at the back of the crossroads could be left to form a wind barrier for children using the school bus there. Mr Ralph Glatt, the applicant who was present at the meeting, said he would look into this, but said it might not be possible because of the danger the trees might fall down in heavy winds.

08.11 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Chief coordinator Andrew Mason confirmed that he would attend the winter preparedness session at SBC headquarters, at Newton St Boswells, on 15 November, and added that the store for the resilient equipment should be arriving shortly. Andrew had put forward

Tweedsmuir to be part of the SBC's first-aid course, but was still awaiting a response. He added that a meeting of potential first responders in the Upper Tweed area was being held on 23 November at Broughton Village Hall.

09.11 MICROGRANTS

The treasurer confirmed that monies from Glenkerie community windfarm fund had now arrived, and that the process to acquire further funding from the Clyde fund had begun.

The chairman said there were vacancies for Tweedsmuir residents to sit on both the Glenkerie and Clyde panels and urged anyone interested to come forward.

Councillor Lesley Mason asked whether it would be possible to notify applicants within 24 hours of any meeting whether their applications for a microgrant had been successful or not. The secretary agreed to take this on.

10.11 ACCOUNTS

The treasurer reported that Ms Katie Miller, of Skirling, had agreed to be the independent examiner of the community council's accounts.

11.11 POLICE REPORT

See attached

12.11 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

See Fruid Road

13.11 CROOK INN

Mr Duncan Davidson, chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company, said the TCC was in the process of formulating a community plan to form part of any future application for funding to refurbish the Crook Inn, and asked whether the community council would like to be involved. The secretary said he thought this was a good idea, as it would form a focus point for the many ways people in the area were attempting to improve it. Mr Davidson said he was, at the moment, looking into how to fund the plan, and would give more details at the next meeting.

14.11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Help to Adapt: The chairman said there was now help, via Scottish Borders Council, to adapt homes for the disabled in the area, and that anyone requiring more details should contact the secretary.

Christmas market: The Bridge, a voluntary organisation in Peebles, was holding its Christmas market in Peebles on 19 November.

Bus: There will be a return bus service from Broughton to Edinburgh on Saturday 10 December.

Christmas party: The Tweedsmuir Christmas Party will be held at the village hall on Saturday 17 December.

Sign: The meeting heard that the River Tweed sign at Carlowse Bridge was now missing the letter T, which had worn away. The secretary agreed to contact SBC for a replacement.

Multi-use sports facility: During a meeting of residents this summer called to come up with ideas on how to improve the Tweedsmuir community, resident Kirsty Stephens said that

she had offered to look into the possibility of a multi-use sports facility in the grounds of the Crook Inn. Ms Stephens said, as part of that, she planned to send a questionnaire to residents, asking for their thoughts on the project. The secretary said he thought the plan was a great idea and the meeting agreed that the community council's database should be used to contact residents in this regard .

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on 1 December, 2016, 7.30pm.

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday,
1 December 2016 (7.30pm)**

Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), Brian Bushell (treasurer), community councillors Rod Sibbald, Lesley Mason, Lesley Kirkwood and Ralph Glatt. Scottish Borders Councillor Catriona Bhatia. 6 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 3 November were approved 01.12
APOLOGIES

Police representative Nicola Craig

02.12 MATTERS ARISING

Whitelaw Brae windfarm The secretary reported that the applicants for the windfarm had requested that the Reporter consider a recent approval by the Scottish Government for a new windfarm at Creag Riabhach in respect of the decision over Whitelaw Brae. The secretary added that local resident Kirsty Stephens had submitted a detailed objection to the use of Creag Riabhach in the Whitelaw case, and the meeting agreed that the community council should write to the government, confirming its objection to the request and agreeing with all the points raised in Ms Stephens' submission.

First Aid course Councillor Lesley Mason reported that Scottish Borders Council was willing to arrange a first-aid course, as part of the Resilient Communities programme, and was seeking dates from the council. It was decided that Thursday evenings would be most suitable, with the village hall as the venue. Lesley agreed to contact the council to arrange a definite date. The chairman added that an Upper Tweed first responders' meeting would be held at Broughton Village Hall on 4 January.

A701 Councillor Lesley Kirkwood reported that she had received a helpful response from Mr David Richardson, Asset Manager of SBC, to concerns over the condition of the A701. Below is Mr Richardson's email.

Our white lining programme to the A Class road network is determined after a reflectivity survey was undertaken in May of this year. Identified sections of carriageway requiring re-lining were then prioritised based on criteria such as, traffic flows; survey data; horizontal alignment; accidents; etc. The programme is then undertaken until the available budget is spent. With respect to the A701, we identified that the lining to the carriageway south of the A72 junction to Skirling should be re-lined, however, within that section we identified that between the B712 Stobo junction and the junction to Tweedsmuir was the priority. I can confirm that the re-lining of the centreline to this section was recently completed and that this will be the only section of the A701 being re-lined this financial year.

The remaining section of the A701 between the A72 Skirling junction and the B712 Stobo junction, and the section south of Tweedsmuir village, will be considered for inclusion within our A Class re-lining programme for 2017/18.

Lesley added that she had sent photographs highlighting the poor state of the road to the council.

Crossroads The secretary reported that the promised signage, warning of children in the vicinity, at the village crossroads had still to be erected by SBC

03.12 BROADBAND

Councillor Rod Sibbald reported that the council had met Mr Robert Thorburn, project director of the BT Community Partnership scheme, regarding using the Partnership scheme to introduce superfast fibre to premises in Tweedsmuir. Rod said the meeting had been very

positive, with Mr Thorburn confirming that the scheme could be rolled out in the village and outlying homes. However, Mr Thorburn did not indicate a definitive cost for the project, but

had agreed to supply a figure by 25 December. Rod explained that Stobonet - the wireless superfast provider - had asked for a decision from the council on whether it was going ahead with its offer, outlined at the CC meeting last month, by Christmas Day. Rod was worried that, without a figure from BT, it would be impossible to decide whether the BT option was viable and, therefore, whether it was necessary to go ahead with the Stobonet option. Rod also thought it would be advisable to take the decision to the wider community. In the light of this, the meeting agreed to ask Stobonet for an extension to its decision date to the first Thursday in February, and to hold a community meeting in January once the BT figure was known.

04.12 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Councillor Lesley Mason confirmed that the council had been represented at the SBC's winter preparedness meeting last month, and that there was now a contact number for the SBC bunker in the event of an emergency. At the meeting, it had been suggested that the council should organise a 'dry run' on how the community would respond in an emergency - someone lost on the hills, for example. It was agreed to discuss this more fully at the next meeting. Lesley added that all the Resilient equipment had now arrived, but the shed to keep it in was still awaited. The chairman agreed to ensure there were sandbags for the sandbag store.

05.12 MICROGRANT APPLICANTS

The treasurer reported that he was still waiting for receipt of additional funds from the SSE in regard to its microgrant scheme. The chairman agreed to chase this up with SSE representative Gareth Shields.

06.12 TWEEDDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NETWORK

The secretary reported that he had received the following email from Mr Robin Tatler, chairman of Peebles Community Council:

Dear fellow Community Councils,

We would like to re-establish the practice of meeting as a group, with the suggested name of Tweeddale Community Council Network, to share information on issues that are common to us all and work together to improve the service we provide for our local communities. I am suggesting the the TCCN should meet no more than 3 times a year, that these meetings should be held in Peebles and other locations as agreed by the first meeting.

I suggest that the first meeting should be held towards the end of January 2017 - please let me know which dates to avoid. It would also be useful to have suggestions of items for discussion to be included on the agenda for the first meeting - please bear in mind that the duration of the meeting should be no more than 2 hours.

The meeting agreed that this was a good idea, and that the CC should take part. It was also agreed that timber transport issues should be included on the agenda for the first meeting.

07.12 TWEEDSMUIR COMMUNITY PLAN

The chairman reported that Foundation Scotland would be willing to consider funding the community plan as outlined at last month's meeting, and that he was expecting an application form shortly.

08.12 POLICE REPORT

See attached.

09.12 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Bhatia reported that the council was due to consider raising its council tax by 3 per cent at its meeting in December, which will raise an extra £1.5m. She added that the Scottish Government was also changing the way it calculated E-H ratings, which would mean significant increases for people in these bands. The money from this change was to be given to schools in deprived areas of Scotland. Councillor Bhatia also confirmed that all three councillors for the Tweeddale West area would not be standing in the May elections.

10.12 CROOK INN

Mr Duncan Davidson, chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, said that the company was working with the CC to formulate a community plan, and that monies had been approved by the Glenkerie community fund for a new roof on the outhouse to the rear of the Crook building.

11.12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

New Year's Dance Councillor Mason reported that the dance had been cancelled this year.

Proposed purchase of land The council agreed to contact the owner of land alongside the River Tweed north of Carlowse Bridge to enquire whether he would be willing to sell it to the community. If the community was able to purchase it, the council could then develop it as a tourist attraction with picnic benches etc.

January meeting The secretary said he thought that there was no meeting in January - as there were only 10 meetings a year under the constitution. However, subsequent to the meeting, it was discovered that a meeting was held in January 2016, and it was, therefore, decided to meet this year on 12 January. The matter will be discussed at the council's AGM in May,

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on 12 January, 2016, 7.30pm.