

TWEEDSMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES 2017

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

Present: Gavin Parker (chairman), Paul Greaves (secretary), community councillors Rod Sibbald, Lesley Mason, Lesley Kirkwood and Ralph Glatt. Scottish Borders Councillor

The minutes of the council's meeting on 1 December were approved

01.01 APOLOGIES

Police representative Nicola Craig, community council treasurer Brian Bushell, Scottish Borders Councillor Keith Cockburn

02.01 MATTERS ARISING

Tweeddale Community Council Network The secretary reported that the first meeting of the new Network was scheduled to take place at the Burgh Hall, Peebles, on Thursday, 26 January, starting at 7:30 pm. Organisers have asked if two members from each community council would attend, with Gavin Parker and Paul Greaves volunteering to attend for Tweedsmuir.

First Aid course The meeting decided that two dates - 23 February and 9 March, both Thursdays - should be submitted to Scottish Borders Council for its first-aid course planned to take place at the village hall as part of the Resilient Communities programme. The SBC would choose one of these dates. Councillor Lesley Mason said the course should be advertised widely in the community as it was important to get as many people along as possible.

03.01 BROADBAND

Councillor Rod Sibbald reported that Gordon Hughes, of Stobonet, was now happy to wait for the community to decide whether to go ahead with the Stobo service. This depended on a response from the BT fibre community partnership, the community council-preferred option, but Rod said BT was still to get back to him on costings and timescales.

04.01 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Councillor Lesley Mason confirmed that an emergency 'trial' was planned to be held in the area in the spring, but said that resilient community coordinators were in place to help with problems now. She said that, if any resident needed help, they should contact either Lesley Kirkwood or Andrew Mason

05.01 FIRST RESPONDERS

Councillor Lesley Kirkwood reported that she had attended a recent meeting of the Upper Tweed First Responders in Broughton when it was decided to set up the responders as a constituted group and to seek funding for equipment etc. They hoped to have the group set up officially by Easter. There were a number of representatives from Tweedsmuir, but Lesley said if anyone was interested in joining the group, they could see what was entailed at [**Scottish Ambulance Service - Community First Responders**](#)

06.01 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

The chairman reported that the council was still awaiting additional monies from SSE for its microgrant scheme and that SSE representative Gareth Shields had not been in touch so far regarding the induction of new members Brian Bushell and Lesley Kirkwood on to the SSE windfarm fund panel. Lesley offered to contact Gareth regarding this matter.

Councillor Lesley Mason said she was planning an application to help with funding for the 'Wool from the hill to the mill' production, an evening of music and poetry, to be staged at the village hall on 24 March. The meeting agreed in principle that this was a good idea. The application will be discussed in full at the next council meeting.

07.01 POLICE REPORT

The secretary reported that he had not received a police report.

08.01 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Keith Cockburn had been unable to attend due to the wintry weather.

09.01 PLANNING

16/01591/FUL: Erection of telecommunications pole and associated works on land at Quarter Hill, north-west of White Cottage, at Talla, Tweedsmuir.

The council had no objections but the secretary agreed to contact the council to point out that a number of residents had been missed off the 'neighbour contact' list.

10.01 CROOK INN

Tweedsmuir Community Company director Christine Parker said that a new, redesigned sign would be erected soon outside the Crook.

11.02 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Post Office The chairman reported that he had received a letter from the Post Office in regard to the temporary closure of the Broughton post office. Here is an excerpt from the letter, from Karen Bragg, Network Operations Manager:

I would like to assure you that we are working hard to keep any period of closure to a minimum and we are currently investigating the options available which will enable us to reinstate a Post Office service to the local community. In exploring this, it is important that any future service is sustainable for the person operating the service, and for Post Office Limited.

Railway path The chairman reported that he had been contacted by Mr Duncan Davidson, chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, to see if the council could help with the development of the walking/cycling path proposed by Upper Tweed Railway Paths to run from Tweedsmuir to the Crook Inn. One of the ideas would be for the council to lease the path from the local landowner and undertake any future maintenance. The meeting agreed to look into this and ask the advice of Scottish Borders Council on ways forward.

Archaeology night Dr Christopher Bowles, an archaeologist with Scottish Borders Council, is to give a talk on local heritage at Tweedsmuir Village Hall on Wednesday, 22 February (7:30pm). The talk is in aid of the Crook Inn Community Project. All welcome and please bring along photos or memorabilia of Tweedsmuir in the past to discuss over a cup of tea.

Family Scots night This will be held at the village hall on Friday, 3 February. Tickets can be purchased from councillor Lesley Mason.

Scottish Power The new number for outages of the power supply is 105. Councillor Rod Sibbald reported that he had complained to Scottish Power about dips in the power supply to the village. Scottish Power had undergone tests and had admitted there was a problem, which they are now investigating.

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on 2 February 2017, 7.30pm.

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Minutes of meeting held 02 February 2017 at Tweedsmuir Village Hall

Present: Chair, Gavin Parker (GP) , Lesley Mason (LM) , Treasurer, Brain Bushell (BB), Rod Sibbald (RS) , Ralph Glatt (RG), Lesley Kirkwood (LK), (three members of public)

Apologies: Paul Greaves, SBC Councillor Catriona Bhati, PC Nicola Craig.

Matters Arising: GP reported on the recent Tweeddale Community Council network meeting held in Peebles. This is an opportunity for community councils in the district to come together discuss local issues, seek support and advice on tackling concerns perhaps with others who have previous experience of similar situations. Plan is for 3 or 4 meetings per annum. Each area is invited to put forward topics for discussion. GP will inform Community Councillors of the date of next meeting which will be held in Innerleithen. It was agreed that it would be useful for a representative(s) to attend future meetings. **Action:** GP to circulate date of meeting and others to volunteer to attend.

Broadband: RS provided an update of latest emails from BT. Predicted costs have still to be confirmed and these will be required before taking this further on a community wide basis. SBC Councillor Keith Cockburn has mentioned another scheme which is funded by Scottish Government and administered by SBC. **Action:** RS to seek further information about this and to contact Bob Hunter Skirling Community Council who contacted Community Council to discuss sharing issues and potential routes to address broadband improvements.

Whitelaw Brae Windfarm: GP and BB confirmed that communication has been received from Scottish Government (SG) on a draft document which requires a response from the Community Council by 01 March 2017. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Whitelaw Brae Windfarm Sub-group should ask SG to specify pages/sections which are relevant as documents are lengthy, complicated and not readily accessible to a lay person. **Action:** BB to arrange a meeting of the sub-group to take this forward and draft a response as appropriate.

Community Council Insurance: GP advised that annual Block Policy Insurance was due for renewal. This document needs further consideration before completion. Clarification regarding Resilient Community events is needed. **Action:** RS, BB and PG to meet w/c 6 February 2017 to review and report back to full community council.

Resilient communities: LM informed the group that first aid training has been confirmed for Thursday 23rd February 2017. To be held in the Village Hall. **Action:** PG to re-issue email invite/information to ensure all interested parties are aware of the training and can confirm attendance.

A summer training scenario event is to be organised – further information will be forthcoming. Andrew Mason (Tweedsmuir Resilient Communities Co-ordinator) has successfully dealt with issue of renewing grit supplies in bin (Kirk Road). Recent snowfall/ice had provided opportunity to try out RC equipment in keeping Kirk Road passable thanks to residents efforts.

The sandbags have still to be stored in the shed at the village hall. **Action:** GP to stock in the next few days.

Discussion around spreading the word about Resilient Communities and who to contact and when. The summer training scenario would be an ideal opportunity. Discussed producing a flyer with numbers to contact for distribution directly to households not displayed on public noticeboards. **Action:** LM/AM to put together names and numbers.

Upper Tweeds Railway Path: GP and Duncan Davidson informed the group that Trustees are required for this group or it may well cease to exist due to current Trustees stepping down. There is a meeting on Monday 6th February 2017 at Bridge Inn in Peebles. Anyone wishing to attend is most welcome. As no SBC Councillors were in attendance it was not possible to ask if SBC would take on the ongoing maintenance and costs of insuring a path if it was established. **Action:** LM asked about the involvement of Countryside Rangers and agreed to find out and report back. BB commented on having contact details of someone in SBC who could potentially help and would share that with LM.

Community Plan Steering Group: Duncan Davidson and GP spoke about the next stage in taking forward the development of a Community Plan. A steering group representative of local residents needed to be set up to initiate the consultation process. Six people have volunteered initially (Duncan Davidson, GP, Robert Parker, RG, LM and LK). The involvement of all residents will be welcome as the Plan develops to ensure this captures the breadth and depth of views and aspirations for the Tweedsmuir community. **Action:** Initial meeting of Steering Group Wednesday 8th February 2017 at 7.00pm – Carn Gorm Tweedsmuir.

Also discussed was the need for future consideration of community council representation to ensure a link with Broughton School Council is maintained at meetings. **Action:** All.

Micro grant applications: BB reported that funds had been received (£1000 x 2) from SSE and Infinis Glenkerie windfarms. These funds have been slow to come to the Council and have already been allocated to applications approved at previous meetings. A further application to support the Wool to the Mill presentation evening was approved (£190). Christine Parker has helpfully created a new generic fund application form which should make it easier for people to apply for funding from either windfarm (micro grants only). These can be for individuals and/or groups. A link to the form will appear on the website soon. **Please contact any of the Tweedsmuir Community Councillors for details in the meantime.**

INFINIS panel: New members residing in the community of Tweedsmuir are needed for this panel. Further details are available in the attached file.

Tweedsmuir Community Council website: The website needs updating and information added. An offer from resident Hazel Mason to update this is most welcome. **Action:** LM/HM to email current website administrator to agree plan of action.

Police Report: None received. **Action:** GP to raise this again at Area Forum in March.

SBC Councillors: None received.

Tweedsmuir Community Company/Crook Inn: Duncan Davidson informed the meeting of an upcoming talk by Dr Chris Bowles (archaeologist) who will give a talk/presentation on 22nd February 2017 about the local area. Everyone welcome. **See Noticeboard for details.**

TCC are almost at the stage of their submission for a Community Plan and Heritage Application. New signage is due to be erected.

AOCB: A planning application was received for a phone mast (EE) near Tweedhopefoot. No objections raised at the meeting but it was not clear if residents at Tweedhopefoot had been informed. **Action:** RS to contact residents/new owners to confirm.

Newcomers Party: GP advised that a 'Newcomers Party' would be held in Broughton Village Hall on 17th March 2017. This is for all new residents (since November 2015) and an accompanying neighbour if wished, to come and meet others. **Action:** RS to work with PG and BB to contact new residents and confirm contact details and how they wish to be informed of such events. Collated details to be forwarded to Richard Carr.

Scottish Borders Council: General discussion around the best way to ensure SBC are aware of local conditions (road conditions, weather, bin collections, school transport) and how to best share relevant information. **Action:** GP to raise at Area Forum and potential for taking forward through Community Plan.

Scot's Night: LM advised that the family Scot's night is being held on Friday 3rd February 2017. Tickets available for £4. All welcome.

A701: GP raised the issues of road condition – potholes, road surface on corners and lack of clear white lines at critical points/junctions. **Action:** LK to contact Jason Hedley at SBC once again. GP advised that there is some discussion about an A701 steering group being formed and it was agreed that Tweedsmuir Community Council should be involved in this.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Date of next meeting: 2nd March 2017 at 7.30pm Tweedsmuir Village Hall. All welcome.

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir
Village Hall, on Thursday, 2 March, 2017 (7.30pm)**

Present: Gavin Parker (chairman) (GP), Paul Greaves (secretary) (PG), Brian Bushell (treasurer) (BB), community councillors Rod Sibbald (RS), Lesley Mason (LM), Lesley Kirkwood (LK) and Ralph Glatt (RG). Five members of the public

The minutes of the council's meeting on 2 February were approved

Apologies

Nicola Craig, police representative, Catriona Bhatia, SBC councillor

01.03 Matters Arising

Crossroads signage: PG reported that signs, warning of children at the crossroads, had been erected by Scottish Borders Council.

Sandbags: The sandbag store is now full, with GP reporting that the shed in which to house the resilient communities' equipment had also arrived.

02.03 Broadband

RS reported that he had attended a meeting with representatives of Skirling and Upper Tweed community councils to look at ways the three councils could come together to campaign for better broadband. He had also received an email from Robert Thorburn, of BT, regarding the council's plans to investigate whether the BT Fibre Partnership programme was possible in the area. Below is an extract from the email:

1. I am still waiting for a planner to officially confirm whether the conditions on the proposal initially changed due to new network which I fundamentally changes the costs – at present I am working in the hundreds of thousands which I know is completely out of reach, but am convinced we have found a way to bring this down – I need this ratified and have a call on Friday re this, but I am not confident I will have ratified this fully as it is complex.

2. Re Aspiring communities – my legal team have taken a look and we have also discussed this with Scottish Government at a high level - none of us is 100 per cent convinced the grant would be applicable for broadband for a number of state aid and legal reasons but it is worth pursuing to ask the question, but I would definitely not put all eggs in one basket.

Whilst I do not think I will have anything tangible for tomorrow night, I will see what else I can provide asap. I appreciate this is taking time and as soon as I have something meaningful, I want to come back out to explain and discuss.

RS said he had contacted the Aspiring Communities programme to clarify whether the BT Fibre partnership would be something it would fund and had also invited Mr Thorburn to the TCC's next meeting on 6 April.

RS added that he was also investigating reports that the 02/Vodafone mast in the village had been upgraded, contacting the company tasked with the work for 02 and Vodafone, CTIL, for clarification on whether the mast is now 3G (2mbs), 4G (100mbs) or H+ (21mbs) enabled. GP reported that the new manager at Stanhope, Mr Iain McIlroy, was experiencing broadband issues and had asked to join the council's database.

03.03 Whitelaw Brae wind-farm application

PG confirmed that the TCC's response to the additional documents produced regarding the application had been sent to the Government. GP and all other councillors thanked resident Kirsty Stephens for all her hard work in regard to this matter.

04.03 Council Insurance

PG reported that, following a meeting with BB and RS, the insurance documents had been completed and returned.

RS said that two things had emerged regarding the insurance:

1 That all recipients of microgrant monies should be made aware that any activities undertaken with said monies were not covered by TCC insurance, and that they had to provide their own cover.

BB said he would look into how best to facilitate this.

2 Any volunteers for the Resilient Communities programme should be given an information sheet of dos and don'ts. LM said she would pass this on to the chief Resilient Communities coordinator but thought such an information sheet might already be in the RC pack. Councillors thanked RS for all his work regarding the insurance.

05.03 Resilient Communities

GP thanked the RC chief coordinator Andrew Mason for arranging the first-aid training night at the village hall, which had been of real benefit and well attended. The first-aid trainer who had taken the session had also offered to give further training, if required, in particular in the use of defibrillators. RS suggested the council should look into purchasing more defibs and GP added that this could be done when the Tweedsmuir and Upper Tweed First Responders group was fully up and running.

In the short term, it was decided to publicise details of the location of the existing defib in the village - which is in the bothy of the Rees' household at Dykehead. It was decided that this should be done via inclusion in the minutes, an additional note using the council's database, and posters at the village hall and crossroads.

BB pointed out that there was also a British Red Cross app, available to download via Google, which is of great value in explaining the basics of first aid.

LK said that, as part of the RC programme, it was planned to hold a scenario day when a mock emergency would be staged in the village. LK was now looking to decide on what form this emergency should take and asked for anyone with ideas to contact her as soon as possible.

06.03 Community plan

Cares, the group organising the community-plan process, had sent an email explaining details of the way forward. Once the TCC had approved the schedule, tenders would be sent out to consultancies and the work would start on the community plan in April and finish in July. The plan, which will entail communication with residents over ways to improve the area, will provide - through a final document - a focus for community development - in particular, broadband and transport - and should help with future bids for funding. GP pointed out that the Tweedsmuir Community Company was also formulating a community plan for the development of the Crook Inn.

07.03 Database

PG reported that the database, with telephone numbers and emails, had now been updated and brought into one document.

08.03 Treasurer's Report

BB circulated a paper (copy attached) detailing the monies received and spent from the S.S.E. and Infinis since the community council's inception in 2015. There have been 2 awards by the S.S.E. of £1,000 each for 2016/17 and 2017/18 respectively and 1 award by Infinis of £1,000 for 2017/18. In addition, the SSE launched the Youth bursary grant in 2016/17 and following a successful bid the community council was awarded £2,862.80p. At present there is £324.80p remaining from the Youth bursary grant which requires spending before the 31st of March, and £477.11p from the S.S.E. and Infinis grants to be spent upto and including the financial year 2017/18.

BB reminded the meeting that if the monies received from the SSE and Infinis for each financial year were not totally spent in the time allocated then this would have a "knock-on" effect for the subsequent financial year ie. the subsequent grant would merely top-up the under-spend to £1,000.

BB also informed the meeting that the S.B.C. grant for 2015/16 was still awaited and that this was due to the TCC omitting to minute at the last AGM that its councillors agreed to abide by the SBC's Code of Conduct. This undertaking has to be done each year by all CCs to enable them to draw down their grants from the SBC and this was overlooked; a mistaken assumption that, as it had been done once, it was not required again. It was noted that this will be done at the next and future annual meetings. However, to facilitate receipt of the grant for 2015/16 before the cut-off date on the 14 March this year, that this meeting's minutes record that all the councillors of the TCC agree to abide by the Code of Conduct of the SBC.

09.03 Website

Resident Hazel Mason was about to start work on updating the website and a progress report would be issued at the TCC's next meeting.

10.03 Post-office provision

The meeting was told that a mobile post office had been introduced, stopping in Broughton every Friday from 1.30pm-2pm. The meeting decided that PG should contact the post office to ask if the mobile service could be extended to Tweedsmuir

11.03 Microgrant applications

There were none this month, but GP said that Glenkerie was still looking for new members from Tweedsmuir for its funding panel. BB said he had applied some months back but had heard nothing since. GP promised to investigate the situation.

12.03 Police Report

See attached

13.03 Scottish Borders Council

There was no councillor at the meeting, but GP said he had attended the SBC's Tweed Forum on 1 March, and a number of matters had been raised.

Windfarms: Anyone with queries over any windfarm application can contact Mr Charles Johnston on cjohnston@scotborders.gov.uk or 01835 826671

Pension Wise: The forum urged people to use Pension Wise, which offers free advice on the pension laws for anyone over 50. Your first point of contact is your local citizens' advice bureau, while Mr Ian Heard, Roxburgh and Berwickshire Citizens Advice Bureau, is the chief coordinator for Pension Wise in the Borders.

Police: Residents should be aware that there are a number of phone scams operating in the area.

14.03 Crook Inn

Duncan Davidson, chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, said the community plan for the Crook was almost ready. The building at the back of the Crook was being re-roofed - plans for it may include a community cafe and activity space - and that new signage had been erected.

15.03 Any other business

Retirement of Minister: Minister of the parishes of Upper Tweed Bob Milne is retiring at

the end of this month and his last service will be a joint one at Broughton on 26 March after which soup and sandwiches will be provided. All welcome

Forthcoming Event: The Wool to the Mills production at the village hall has been postponed by the performers from 24 March until 31 March.

Fruid Road: RS said the state of the road was now 'ridiculous' and 'dangerous'. Councillors agreed that something must now be done and agreed:

To ask the new councillors after the May elections to attend a site visit.

Contact the Press to publicise the state of the road.

Contact Jason Hedley, of SBC, to ascertain the council's plans for repairing the road. **Poaching:** The meeting heard that there had been two reports from residents in the village of illegal lamping near their homes - - on Sunday, 28 February and Wednesday, 1 March. Councillors agreed to contact the police on behalf of the residents and also inform Mr Doug McKenna, who has the stalking rights for the area in question, of the incidents.

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on 6 April 2017, 7.30pm.

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Tweedsmuir Community Council - Village Hall – 7.30pm
Minutes of meeting held 06 April 2017

Present: Chair, Gavin Parker (GP), Lesley Mason (LM), Treasurer, Brian Bushell (BB), Rod Sibbald (RS), Ralph Glatt (RG), Lesley Kirkwood (LK), (six members of public)

Apologies: Paul Greaves (Secretary).

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising. Previous minutes accepted.

Broadband: RS provided an update of latest developments. Predicted costs have still to be confirmed but recent developments around the 4G mobile reception and potential to use fibre optic cables servicing those units in the area have presented further delays in getting finalised costs. These will be required before taking this further on a community wide basis. RS helpfully provided a summary of 4G mobile broadband coverage in the Tweedsmuir area – attached. Thanks for RS for his work in exploring this. It is possible to purchase standalone packages which could potentially offer mobile tethering to access higher speed broadband. Individuals would have to enquire directly to providers for advice on the package that would best suit their needs. There are still issues in accessing reliable Broadband (of any speed) in some areas of the community. All of this will have to be taken into consideration as we seek the best Broadband solution for the community. **Action:** RS will pass on information, to interested residents, for potential partial funding for satellite Broadband. It is up to each individual householder to take this further. RS will also invite BT representative to attend CC meeting when finalised costs are available.

Fruid Road: Scottish Borders Council has applied to the Strategic Timber Transport Fund for monies to repair the Fruid Road. There is concern amongst the community about this bid being rejected and what plan does Scottish Borders Council have to remedy the situation. The STTF bid should be clarified in early May along with local council election results and it was agreed that Community Council will await the outcomes of both before decided on our course of action.

Resilient communities: LM informed the group that both the sandbag store and equipment stores are in place at the village hall. The sandbag store will remain unlocked. The equipment store is locked and key holders are Andrew Mason and Lesley Kirkwood. Agreed that contact numbers of key holders will be placed on the shed door. Any equipment borrowed will have to be signed out.

A training scenario has been put forward to SBC for consideration and further details will be publicised, on our website and Facebook page, once known. **Action:** LM to laminate information sign for equipment shed door.

Community Planning Group: GP advised that following a successful tending application the Small Town and Rural (STAR) Development group will

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be appointed to carry out engagement activities and produce the Tweedsmuir Community Action Plan. The Steering Group welcomes residents across the community to get involved. Further details of engagement events/activities will be forthcoming. The planned timescale for completion is late summer 2017. The funding bid to Foundation Scotland is due to be submitted.

This is a great opportunity for everyone to have their say and share their ideas about what they would like to see developed in our community over the next 10 years or so. Tweedsmuir Community Council urges people to get involved in these discussions and activities to get the most out of the process.

Action: Community Plan Steering Group meeting **Tuesday 11th April 2017 at 7.30 pm**. Venue: Carn Gorm – house nearest the village hall. **New members welcome.**

Planning Applications: One application received for comment on by TCC. Agreed that some information needed clarification and amended. Also notification to neighbours needs to include all affected parties.

Action: PG to contact SBC for clarification around the points raised.

SBC Energy Report Draft: Agreed to acknowledge receipt of the document but as there is little change included in the draft we will not offer comments at this point.

Action: PG to respond as above.

Scottish Ambulance Service – Day of Action: PG had circulated information about the recent SAS day. Attached information documents are available to residents electronically and hard copies can be circulated to residents who wish those.

Public Access Defibrillation Scheme – Tweedsmuir defibrillator is already registered on SAS database. Anyone requiring access to this, having called 999, would be directed to it. Ownership needs to be clarified and who will take responsibility for checking the unit.

Action: Resident John Burnham agreed to check the unit and liaise with property owners where it is currently housed. LK to check registered ownership on SAS database. BB to establish who/how many hard copies of information leaflets required and distribute as necessary.

Treasurer's Report: BB updated Council on current balances (£721.79) and that accounts are currently being prepared for audit before the AGM in May.

Post Office: PG to submit and enquiry on behalf of TCC regarding the possibility of the mobile Post Office van visiting the village. This could offer alternatives for many residents as an increasing number of banks have negotiated arrangements for

customers to use PO outlets. Individuals will have been notified directly about imminent branch closures which may affect them.

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Micro-grant applications: No current applications. The previously awarded grant for the 'Wool to the Mills' evening (which has been postponed until later in the year) will remain in place.

INFINIS: GP advised that he will remain on the panel until April next year when he will have to step down. Tweedsmuir will then only have one representative on the panel. Any interested residents can apply to join the panel and if done before April 2018 they will not be subject to the usual application procedure. Beyond that date the normal route for selection will resume. This panel considers applications for the Glenkerie Wind Farm monies.

Action: Any interested residents please contact INFINIS or GP for further details.

Police Report: A written report was received and detailed the recent successful rescue of a dog from Talla Reservoir.

There have been reports of poaching in the Fruid area. Residents are asked to remain vigilant and report unusual/suspicious activity through the '101' number or directly to PC Craig (**do we have contact number/email details to add here?**)

RS has trialled the use of a small camera on the Fruid road in response to previous reports of vehicles in the area and reports of poaching.

Action: RS will consult with Fruid residents regarding the potential use of a camera/sighting etc. And how this might be taken forward with a micro-grant application.

Councillors and residents commented on recent sightings and visits to properties by a 'white van' and driver offering to tarmac driveways. Again please keep an eye out for activities and report through '101' if there are any concerns.

SBC Councillors report: No report due to upcoming elections.

GP advised that there will be a presentation on the Community Empowerment Act on 8th June 2017 at the Chambers Institute in Peebles. Interested Councillors invited to attend. Contact GP for further details.

Crook Inn update: Duncan Davidson advised that there is a focus on getting a smaller initial venture set up and running in the former Craft works building/steading which is currently being reroofed. The details of the development are not finalised but will potentially offer a café/toilets facilities. An application is being submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in the near future to fund the appointment of a specialist in

this area to carry out a feasibility study in the development of the Crook Inn and surrounding area.

AOCB:

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Welcome: A welcome was extended by Community Council to newer residents of Tweedsmuir.

Annual Community Litter Pick: Agreed that this will be carried out over the next 2 weeks (7 April to 21 April). Individual residents have volunteered to clear sections. Litter pickers, gloves, black bags, high-viz vests are available to all. Please contact Andrew Mason or Lesley Kirkwood if access to equipment is required.

Fly-tipping has been noted on the roadside near Tweedhopefoot. SBC to be advised.

Also noted that contractors working in the area are leaving rubbish behind eg Scottish Woodlands on the Talla Road.

Action: SBC to be contacted re fly-tipping and request for more bins in the area to encourage visitors to deposit rubbish there rather than roadside. Scottish Woodlands to be contacted to request their support for rubbish to be removed.

Tour of the Borders: All residents should or will have received notification of the event in September 2017. This details road closures and arrangements for contacting emergency services if required during these times.

Volunteers from local communities can contact the organisers if they wish to help. Each volunteer/marshal is paid and can opt to donate this to a local cause if they wish.

Action: LK to contact organisers to ask if the newly formed Tweedsmuir and Upper Tweed Community First Responders Group could be included as one of the groups to benefit from these donations.

Communications and Tweedsmuir Community Council website: RS proposed a community newsletter be produced to give more details around work of Community Council and to direct people toward the website and Facebook page thereby increasing traffic to these pages. Local residents would welcome more regular updating of information. Now that Hazel Mason is working on the website this can be taken forward.

Action: RS and PG to pass information to Hazel as appropriate.

Proposed crossroads development: RS and RG have worked together to devise improvements to the crossroads. The proposal would address issues such as road conditions around that area; provide designated car parking whilst still allowing

access for lorries using the turning area; opportunity to provide information on the local area; and a shelter, particularly for children waiting for school transport. General consensus was that this would be a welcome development.

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Action: RS and RG to continue discussions and seek further clarification from SBC planning around the proposal to decide on next steps.

Church: Christine Parker advised that due to the recent retirement of the Minister there is a temporary arrangement in place to ensure services can continue. Further details are in the Kirk Matters.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be the AGM on 11th May 2017. This will be held at the Village Hall and start at 7.30pm. All residents welcome to attend

5 Meeting Closed.

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

Present: Gavin Parker (GP, chairman), Paul Greaves (PG, secretary), Brian Bushell (BB, treasurer), community councillors Rod Sibbald, Lesley Mason, Lesley Kirkwood and Ralph Glatt. 3 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 4 April were approved 01.05 APOLOGIES

Police representative Nicola Craig

02.05 MATTERS ARISING

Website The meeting thanked resident Hazel Mason for updating the community council website with the minutes and agenda.

03.05 BROADBAND

RS said he had received an email from Robert Thorburn, of BT. RS had raised the issue of BT's bid to be involved with the Ettrick and Beyond scheme for a possible self-dig scheme. Mr Thorburn said the scheme was in its early stages, and RS said it was unlikely BT would be successful as he understood that the Scottish Government was unwilling to second fund BT, having already contracted them for the main superfast rollout.

On Tweedsmuir's bid for superfast fibre, via the BT community partnership scheme, Mr Thorburn apologised for the continuing delay in supplying a quote, and explained that this was due to BT waiting to see if they could use fibre planned as part of the proposed EE masts due to be erected in the area. This would reduce the cost of the community plan significantly.

In his email, Mr Thorburn also suggested the community could consider a self-dig project of its own, but the meeting agreed that the best policy was to wait for the BT quote before considering any other options.

04.05 FRUID ROAD/PATERVAN BRIDGE

PG said he had received requests for letters of support for two bids for funding due to be considered by the Timber Transport Fund. Scottish Borders Council is seeking funds to repair the Fruid Road, while Woodland Assets was seeking support for their bid to fund a new bridge at Patervan. This would take a proportion of the forestry north of the village out on to the A701 via this bridge, rather than exiting through the village and over Carlows Bridge.

The meeting agreed that both should be supported, and the secretary agreed to write the letters of support

05.05 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT

RS said representatives from construction company Graham Irvine and Sons had visited the site to look at the council's plans to redevelop the crossroads. They were positive about the

scheme and thought it achievable. RS said, however, there was still many legal and insurance issues to clarify before the scheme could go ahead, and he planned to write to SBC for its advice and guidance.

RS said he could not personally continue to progress the scheme, given his involvement in the broadband plans and other personal commitments. GP thanked RS for all his work so

far, and the meeting decided to set up a committee at the council's meeting in June to further the plans.

06.05 MENZION FORESTRY PLAN

PG reported that he had been sent a copy of the proposed 20-year plan regarding Menzion plantation, which asked for comments from the community. Samantha Billingham, a resident who lives near the Fruid reservoir dam, said she was concerned about her home's water supply once felling began. The supply comes off an adjacent tree-covered hill, which is part of the area to be felled. She asked that Scottish Woodlands notify her when felling starts and that all measures should be taken to protect her water supply once operations begin.

PG also said he was surprised that no mention was made of the Fruid Road in the document, but RS added that he believed access to the plantation was not part of the plan's remit.

The meeting decided PG should write to Scottish Woodlands, raising Samantha's concerns and also expressing the TCC's willingness to help find other options to the Fruid Road to access the plantation.

07.05 SCOTTISH ACCESS CODE

RG asked whether it would be possible to include on the crossroads noticeboard a poster, reminding dog walkers to keep their dogs on leads when walking through fields with sheep in them. The meeting agreed that this was a good idea and decided to contact the Scottish Countryside Rangers service for a pack, which includes the necessary posters. It was also decided to invite a countryside ranger to the next meeting in June.

08.05 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Re application No 17/00527/FUL. Temporary siting of 2 No 80m meteorological masts with associated anchor points for period of two years SITE: Land South East Of Glenbreck House Tweedsmuir Scottish Borders

The meeting decided that the SBC should not consider this application until the decision on whether the windfarm goes ahead is known on the basis that, If the Reporter refuses the development of the Whitelaw Brae wind farm, then, it would appear, there is no need to have these meteorological masts in situation for another two years.

PG agreed to write to SBC with the TCC's comments.

09.05 COMMUNITY PLAN

GP said a questionnaire, produced by STAR development group, asking for the community's views on ways to improve the area, was now ready and would be distributed to all residents. These should be returned to GP's home at Polmood Lodge, Tweedsmuir, by 22 May. GP added that STAR, who won the contract to produce the plan, planned to hold informal meetings with residents at the village hall before a more formal event on 1 July. It was agreed that an email to

the TCC's database, urging people to fill in the questionnaire, should be sent out a couple of days before the 22 May deadline. GP said it was imperative as many people as possible took part in the survey.

10.05 POLICE REPORT

Incidents of Note

06/04/17 – A group of youths were camping at The Quarry, Broughton, after a dispute there was damage to camping equipment reported, and a positive line of enquiry is being followed.

03/05/2017 – A report was received regarding damage to fencing at Glenbreck Cottage, Tweedsmuir, enquiry ongoing.

11.05 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No councillor was present

10.05 CROOK INN

Duncan Davidson, chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company, reported that the TCC had held met representatives from heritage consultants Jura with regard to funding of the Crook Inn development. Mr Davidson said that the meeting was very constructive, and that plans were now underway to convert the steading at the Crook into a cafe as the first part of the development. He added that the TCC would shortly be publishing a brochure setting out its vision for the Crook Inn.

11.05 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Youth bursary: GP said he would contact Gareth Shiels, of SSE, to confirm that the council welcomes the continuation of the youth bursary scheme.

Larger noticeboard: BB asked that a new, larger noticeboard be purchased to replace the existing one at the crossroads. Although the crossroads will be developed in future, BB thought the present one far too small and the need for a replacement was immediate. The meeting agreed to BB's proposal, and LM agreed to progress the idea.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

01.05 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We have come to the end of our second full year and what a busy year it has been. Three new councillors were elected on to the council - Ralph Glatt, Lesley Kirkwood and Rod Sibbald.

The decision from Scottish Government whether Whitelaw Brae wind farm will go ahead will be made shortly and thanks to everyone who took part in the appeal process, which was quite an ordeal.

Broadband has been on the agenda each meeting and I would like to thank Rod for all his hard work of many months. We are still waiting on BT to come up with a costing but the council will do its best to get fibre to premises for all residents in the community. 4G is now available on

mobile networks due to upgrades on local masts in Tweedsmuir, with more planned in the near future.

Microgrants from both SSE and Infinis Glenkerie have been oversubscribed with applications and a SSE Clyde Borders Bursary has enabled local children to access training and sporting events. Thank you to both Andrew Mason for the bursary idea and to Brian Bushell for the administration of funds.

I was part of a local councillors' visit to view and have the amazing Victorian workings inside Talla Reservoir explained and how/when water is released. It is unfortunately not suitable to open to the public due to health and safety rules.

We are constantly in contact with Scottish Borders Council about the state of the roads and in particular Fruid road, which has been roughly patched but is in dire need of a proper repair. Fruid road is currently part of a timber transport funding application.

I would like to pass on our gratitude to our retiring Tweeddale West councillors, Catriona Bhatia, Willie Archibald and Keith Cockburn, who have been replaced following the local elections on 4 May by Heather Anderson, Kris Chapman and Eric Small. We look forward to meeting and working with our new councillors.

The Tweeddale Community Council Network was set up to raise awareness and address common concerns in our area and meet quarterly.

Tweedsmuir's resilient co-ordinator, Andrew Mason, has arranged for emergency equipment and storage outside Tweedsmuir hall. Community first aid training was held in February and was well attended, with all ages represented. Tweedsmuir and Upper Tweed Community First Responders have been trained and await equipment, funded by SSE Clyde Borders, to support early attendance to 99 calls to this rural area. A resilient community 'event' will be planned with SBC and the emergency services to test and prepare Tweedsmuir for an emergency situation. Our website www.Tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk led by Sarah Northcott is currently being updated by Hazel Mason. I would like to thank all of my fellow councillors and volunteers for their dedicated help and support over the last year.

The council is now in the process of developing a Community Action Plan with STAR development group and whole community will be asked to participate in developing a plan for the future of Tweedsmuir. An event will be held on 1 July in Tweedsmuir's village hall.

Gavin Parker, Chairman

02.05 TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report for 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017. The report consists of:-

1. a) an introduction and explanation of the annual accounts for above financial year and
2. b) a detailed breakdown of accounts by income and expenditure

a) Introduction & explanation

Income derived from 3 main sources:-

Scottish Borders Council (S.B.C.), - annual single payment received post financial year-end, comprising of 2 parts – a grant of £540 for general expenses(eg. travel/stationery etc.) and payment for hall-hire charges £340.

Clyde wind-farm (S.S.E.) – 2 forms of payment. Annual sum of £1,000 to be distributed as micro-grants by T.C.C. following set protocol and a sum of £2,862.80p as a Youth Bursary Grant (with set procedure, for people upto and including 16 year-olds).

Glenkerie wind-farm (INFINIS) – an annual sum of £1,000 to be distributed as micro-grants by the T.C.C. following set protocol.

Total income for the year ending 31 March 2017 comprises the following:-

(i) from the above 3 sources..... £ 5,742.80p

(ii) internal adjustments (2 erroneous payments of £196.50p + £10 subsequently re-paid) – see detailed breakdown.....£206.50p

Total ... £5,949.30p

Expenditure is recorded under 5 headings to correspond with the 3 main sources, plus a further 2 headings to accommodate the fact that S.B.C. and S.S.E. each have a second specialized fund, namely the hall-hire payment from the former and the Youth Bursary Grant from the latter.

Total expenditure for the year ending 31^{s t} March 2017 comprises the following:-

(i) from the above 3 sources (further detail in following pages).....£5,961.01p

This resulted in a minor over-spend of £11.71p due to an additional hall-hire charge in the last month of the financial year, which was unforeseen and unavoidable , (first-aid event by the Resilient Communities Committee, which do not have a separate budget and therefore depend on the T.C.C.). However, as there were sufficient funds of £733.50 carried-over from the previous financial year (2015/16) the T.C.C. were able to accommodate the over-spend leaving a healthy balance in the bank account at the year-end of £721.79p.

The under-spend of the previous financial year was anticipated by the T.C.C. as it was unable to formally allocate and spend the £1k received from S.S.E. within the time-scale between receipt and financial year-end. Hence it was carried over.

b) Detailed breakdown of accounts by income and expenditure (see also attached document)

The detailed accounts for the financial year ending the 31^{s t} March 2017 have been prepared and have been submitted to the Independent examiner, Mrs. K Miller for inspection and are currently awaiting return before being submitted to the S.B.C. for approval and payment. These are shown in the attached page..

Finally, I declare these accounts to be accurate and although have yet to be signed-off by the Independent examiner, anticipate no change. However, if there are any unforeseen changes they will be made known at a subsequent meeting of the T.C.C.

Brian K Bushell

Treasurer

03.05 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Gavin Parker was re-elected as chairman:

Lesley Mason proposed. Rod Sibbald seconded Paul Greaves was re-elected as secretary:

Lesley Mason proposed. Brian Bushell seconded Brian Bushell was re-elected as treasurer:

Lesley Mason proposed. Lesley Kirkwood seconded

04.05 CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillors agreed to abide by the SBC's code of conduct

The next meeting of the Tweedsmuir Community Council is at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on 1 June, 2017, 7.30pm.

Income & expenditure account for year ending 31 March 2017

<u>Income - 2016/17</u>	£
S.B.C. grant	540.00
S.B.C. hall-hire payment	340.00
S.S.E. grant for micro-grant use	1,000.00
S.S.E. Youth bursary grant	2,862.80
Infinis grant for micro-grant use	1,000.00
Adjustments (see page 2)	206.50
Total	<u>5,949.30</u>

S.B.C. grant:-	585.32
S.B.C. hall-hire payment	380.00
S.S.E. micro-grants	1,442.89
S.S.E. Youth bursary grants	2,862.80
Infinis - Glenkerie micro-grants	690.00
Total	5,961.01

Statement of Funds

Accumulated fund as at 31 March 2016	733.50
Income over Expenditure	- 11.71
Fund as at 31 March 2017	721.79

Represented by	
Bank of Scotland Current Account	721.79

Summary	Income	Expenditure	Balance
S.B.C. grant	540.00	585.32	- 45.32
S.B.C. payment - hall hire	340.00	380.00	- 40.00
S.S.E. grant	1,000.00	1,442.89	- 442.89
S.S.E. Youth bursary	2,862.80	2,862.80	-
Infinis grant	1,000.00	690.00	310.00
Total income from 5 sources	5,742.80	5,961.01	- 218.21
Internal adjustments	206.50	-	206.50
Total income	5,949.30	5,961.01	- 11.71

The above is an accurate statement of accounts for the period 1/4/2016 to 31/3/2017.

signed.....dated

Mr. Brian K Bushell, Treasurer Tweedsmuir community council (T.C.C.)

The accounts of Tweedmuir community council for the above period have been inspected and found to be accurate.

signed.....dated

Mrs. K. Miller, Independent examiner

Tweedsmuir community council

Income and Expenditure for year ending 31 March 2017

Income - 2016/17	£	£
S.B.C. grant	540.00	
S.B.C. hall-hire payment	340.00	
S.S.E. grant for micro-grant use	1,000.00	
S.S.E. Youth bursary grant	2,862.80	
Infinis grant for micro-grant use	1,000.00	
Internal adjustments - *£196.50, ^£10	206.50	
Total income		5,949.30
Expenditure - 2016/17		
<u>S.B.C. grant:-</u>		
Equipment, supplies & printing,	315.95	
Travel	74.19	
Hosting of web-site & domain renewal	145.18	
Tweedsmuir christmas party - donation	50.00	585.32
<u>S.B.C. hall-hire payment</u>		
Tweedsmuir village hall	380.00	380.00
<u>S.S.E. micro-grants</u>		
Tweedsmuir village hall - internal lights*	195.89	
Bananas Playgroup -donation	95.00	
Exercise class subsidy - Y .Waugh	250.00	
Girl-guide excursion - M. Ellis	250.00	
Goal-posts for local primary school - F. Mason	152.00	
Viewing-bench at The Crook Inn - D. Roper^	250.00	
Outdoor walking guide course - L. Kirkwood	250.00	1,442.89
<u>S.S.E. Youth bursary grants</u>		
Ruby training - Roper & Mason /Theatre workshop - Mason	1,945.00	
Ski lessons - H. Stevens	75.00	
Judo lessons - A. Mason	60.00	
Horse-riding lessons - B. White	50.00	
Ski lessons - Hewitson & Rees	408.00	
Driving lessons - M. Stevens	162.40	
Driving lessons - R. Parker	162.40	2,862.80
<u>Infinis - Glenkerie micro-grants</u>		
Exercise class subsidy - Y. Waugh	250.00	
Local history evening - L. Mason & C. Parker	190.00	
Donation for Halloween, Christmas & Burns-night parties - T. C. P. C.	250.00	690.00
Total expenditure		5,961.01
<u>Income over Expenditure</u>	-	11.71

*£196.50p received by T.C.C. - re-payment of in-correct sum paid (correct sum of £195.89p).

^£10 received by T.C.C. to correct over-payment (£250 instead of £240).

The above is an accurate statement of accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017.

Signed.....dated..... Brian K Bushell, Treasurer T.C.C.

The accounts above have been inspected and found to be accurate.

Signed.....dated..... Mrs. K Miller, Independent examiner

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday,
1 June 2017 (7.30pm)**

Present: Gavin Parker (GP, chairman), Paul Greaves (PG, secretary), community councillors Rod Sibbald (RS), Lesley Mason (LM), Lesley Kirkwood (LK). 3 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 1 June were approved 01.05 APOLOGIES

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

02.06 MATTERS ARISING

Noticeboard LM said, as requested at the May meeting, she had sought prices for a new noticeboard at the crossroads and said, for a metal construction, prices were between £250 to £300, although some were a lot more expensive. GP said a wooden noticeboard might be the cheaper option, and the meeting agreed he should seek a quote before deciding on the way forward.

03.06 BROADBAND

RS said he was still awaiting full costings from Robert Thorburn, of BT, but, in a recent email, he had suggested the figure would be lower than the £150,000 first mooted for the project to bring superfast fibre broadband to all properties in the Tweedsmuir area. Mr Thorburn had also suggested the costings would be available in the next two to three weeks.

04.06 FRUID ROAD/PATERVAN BRIDGE

PG said he had contacted James England, of the Scottish Borders Timber Transport Group, for an update over the application for funds to repair the Fruid Road. It appears no decision will be forthcoming until the week starting June 12. Regarding the new Patervan bridge, however, the Timber Transport fund has agreed to a grant, but not for the entire project. PG reported that the parties proposing the new bridge were still optimistic the project would go ahead.

05.06 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT

Councillors agreed that a committee should be set up to take this idea forward and would ask residents close to the crossroads if they would like to join. GP said he would chair the committee, and thought it should number around five to six.

06.06 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

07.06 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS/YOUTH BURSARY

PG said BB, who unfortunately could not attend the meeting, had informed him that the cheque for the youth bursary - £2,500 - had arrived, and had also prepared a breakdown of amounts available for the SSE and Infinis funds as well as the youth bursary. GP also read out BB's suggestions regarding how to operate the funds:

1 TCC should make all residents, not only those on the secretary's mailing list, aware by a leaflet drop of the amounts available, the conditions, bid deadline and success/failure

notification and the deadline for the expenditure.

2 The microgrants need to be bid for, rather than on a first-come-first served basis as previously operated.

3 Recipients of microgrants are bound by an application clause which excludes them from receiving a second grant within a 12-month period.

After discussion, councillors agreed that:

1 the community needed to be made fully aware of the funds and youth bursary, and that this should be done digitally via the council's database, with remaining households accessed via a leaflet drop. The website would also carry details.

2 Although councillors thought first come, first served was still the best policy to distribute the grants, it was agreed that the time period for applications should run from January to December, and that, in that timeframe, there would be a stipulation that recipients of microgrants could not receive a second grant, as per BB's suggestion.

Microgrant application: Parent Council of Broughton Primary School for sports equipment, including football goals, balls and bibs (£193.42). Decision: Refused

PG added that the SSE's Scottish Borders Sustainable fund, totalling £200,000, was now open for bids, with the deadline 10 August. Full details are available from the secretary.

08.06 COMMUNITY PLAN

GP reported that all forms had been distributed to the local community. PG said, so far, 39 questionnaires had been completed online, with 30 hard copies also submitted, and that organisers were delighted with the response. The survey is still open, and can be completed online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Tweedsmuirviews>

The questionnaires will be analysed by STAR, the organisation compiling the community plan, and representatives will present the survey's findings at a community event at the village hall on 1 July. Councillors agreed that Tweedsmuir Community Council's steering committee should meet on Sunday, 11 June, to prepare for the event to which all residents will be formally invited.

09.06 POLICE REPORT

A group of four men have been arrested in regard to break-ins in the Tweeddale area.

10.06 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No councillor was present

11.06 CROOK INN

Duncan Davidson, chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company, reported that the TCC was in ongoing talks with heritage consultants Jura with regard to the re-development of the Crook Inn as part of a plan to promote the River Tweed along its entire breadth. The Crook would form the hub for anyone wishing to visit the source of the Tweed, and the scheme would, hopefully, via a Heritage Lottery grant, fund conversion of the steading into a cafe, a new bunkhouse, camping and car park facilities.

12.06 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Speed limit: RS said he had been extremely concerned over the speed of recent construction traffic building a new forestry bellmouth along the Talla road in the village. He had complained to Scottish Woodlands, the organisation undertaking the project, and asked councillors if they would agree that he should write to Scottish Woodlands, asking them to impose a speed limit on any vehicles involved in future construction work in the village. The meeting agreed to this.

RS added that Scottish Woodlands could supply wild-flower seeds to plant at the bellmouth if the council thought this was a good idea. The meeting agreed that RS should ask Scottish Woodlands how much the seed would cost.

RS added that there would be no raptor poles left on the felled site - from the village crossroads to Menzion farmhouse - and that some of the area would be re-planted with broadleaf trees. He also reported that Scottish Woodlands had promised to protect the standing stones on the Fruid Road during felling.

Bus service: LM reported that her daughter - on her way to an exam at Peebles High School - had not been allowed onto the Broughton to Peebles bus because it was full. LM asked if the council would contact SBC to bring its attention to the problem. PG agreed to do this.

Please note there is no meeting in July. The next meeting will be at the village hall on 3 August (7.30pm).

Tweedsmuir Community Council
Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 3 rd August at 7.30 p.m. in Tweedsmuir Village Hall.

Present:- 5 Community Councillors: Gavin Parker (Chairman), Brian Bushell (Vice-Chairman & Treasurer), Lesley Mason, Rod Sibbald, and Ralph Glatt; 2 S.B.C. Cllrs. Heather Anderson and Kris Chapman; Ben Campbell (BT Open-Reach) and 3 members of the public.

01.06 Apologies.

Apologies were received from Community Councillors Paul Greaves (Secretary) and Lesley Kirkwood and PC Craig (Police Scotland).

02.06 Matters arising.

No matters arose from the previous meeting's minutes.

03.06 Broadband.

Gavin Parker introduced Mr. Ben Campbell, BT (Open Reach) and asked to him provide an up-date on the status of its application to provide a quote for the provision of superfast broadband. He commenced by apologising for the inordinate delay BT (Open Reach) were taking to provide the quote and re-assured all that the matter would now receive more urgent attention under his direction. He did, however, state that the passing of time had, in fact, been to our advantage as some of the ground-work necessary for the cabling of the superfast broadband had already been done by mobile telephone companies O2 and EE to their respective mobile-telephone masts. This meant less ground-work having to be done by BT (Open Reach) which in turn would mean a lower quotation cost. A lengthy and informative presentation provided scope for a wide-ranging discussion on several allied topics (summary below). Council requested Ben Campbell to give the meeting a ball-park figure for the provision of super-fast broadband speeds (more than 24 mbs) for the Tweedsmuir area. He obliged by stating a sum of between £80,000 and £100,000 based on 8 zones or clusters of dwellings. It would have been useful to obtain the names and quantities of houses in these zones but as time was against us. However, it's the intention of Council to obtain this from Mr. Campbell before the next meeting, if only to avoid possible oversight and exclusion of premises from the quote. An example of this is the Fruid area, which when mentioned to Mr. Campbell received a vague response.

Action on Rod Sibbald.

Some of the main topics discussed were:-

- a) the Scottish Government's plan to roll out super-fast broadband to 95% of Scotland's population but unfortunately this excludes Tweedsmuir ,
- b) R[egion]100 plan – Scottish Government's stated aim NOT policy to reach 100% of Scotland's population with future-proof, super-fast

- broadband, BUT only concerning infra-structure not broadband itself. It also comes with a £1,500 expenditure limit per premise (dwelling),
- c) Universal Services Offering – a pre-emptive strike by BT Openreach to extend its existing scheme of delivering a ‘phone-line to every dwelling to include broadband – not future-proof!
 - d) Scottish Office assistance - a department exists to assist those who are interested using satellite for internet connection, because of inability to use ‘phone exchanges and lines, by arranging a 3rd party to supply equipment and to connect free of charge but with high on-going charges.

04.06 Fruid road & Patervan bridge.

Chairman Parker reported that re-surfacing work on Fruid road between the crossroads in Tweedsmuir and the Jubilee Road junction will commence upon the appointment of a clerk-of-works. The start-date and time-scale is unknown at present.

Council felt that S.B.C. roads department should be aware of the possible likelihood of broadband cable ducts being needed in the future whilst undertaking this work and S.B.C. Councillors present undertook to do this. Patervan bridge is being re-built to accommodate timber-lorries and work is expected to start in 2 weeks and be completed by the end of September 2017. The Strategic Timber Transport Group is funding both projects. **Action on S.B.C. Cllrs Anderson & Chapman.**

05.06 Crossroads development.

Chairman Parker said that there had been no further development and is seeking volunteers from the community to assist himself with taking the plans forward. Anyone interested could contact himself on his land-line, 01899-880370. As it is still unclear and unknown whose responsibility it would be to conduct negotiations with the land-owner, Mr. Ralph Glatt and building contractor(s) any assistance from S.B.C. would be most welcome. S.B.C. Councillor Heather Anderson requested Chairman Parker to provide her with background information to assist her with looking into the matter. **Action on Gavin Parker.**

Brian Bushell enquired whether it would be possible for S.B.C. to provide (free of charge) a reasonably sized (eg. 4 sq. feet) glazed notice-board (to enclose several A4 sized notices) and was informed by the councillors that it should be possible if such a request were to be made. **Action on Brian Bushell.**

06.06 Planning applications.

Cllr. Sibbald up-dated Council on its comments made to S.B.C.’s Planning department regarding a planning application to build in the grounds of a local property, Tweedside. Following Council’s comments about possible damage to nearby trees, both above and below ground level (root systems) caused by building work and any possible impact on adjacent properties, the department is seeking provision by the agent of a tree plan of the site to ensure no adverse effects, before proceeding with granting permission.

07.06 Micro-grants.

There was one application to the S.S.E. Youth Bursary Fund, from a resident, Ms. Hazel Mason for the sum of £250 towards riding lessons. This was unanimously approved and a cheque will be written shortly. S.B.C.Cllr. Chapman was interested in matters concerning youths in the area and requested a copy of the 2016 end-of-year report which was submitted by the Community Council to S.S.E. Treasurer Brian Bushell will comply on obtaining a copy from the instigator of last year's fund, Mr. Andrew Mason. **Action on Brian Bushell.**

08.06 Community plan.

Gavin Parker announced that a draft copy of The Community Plan has been prepared and has been approved. The final version is in the process of being printed and should be distributed to every household as well as to the 3 councillors in the Tweeddale West ward in the coming fortnight.

09.06 Police report.

Gavin Parker read aloud the Police report (appended to minutes) adding that there was much to be grateful for that apart from the road accident, without injury to any person, there was no other incident locally.

10.06 Scottish Borders Councillor's report.

Of the 3 Tweeddale-West ward councillors:- Heather Anderson (SNP), Kris Chapman (LibDem) and Eric Small (Scottish Conservative & Unionist), the former 2 were present. As both had much to say at their 'inaugural Tweedsmuir Community Council meeting' Brian Bushell requested, in the interest of accuracy of what was stated, that each provide a written synopsis of their report. This was to graciously agreed to by both Cllrs. (reports appended to minutes).

11.06 Crook Inn – update.

Dr. Duncan Davidson - Chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company thanked all those who were involved in the production of "The Crook Inn Plan", particularly Paul Greaves who was so instrumental in its actual production in print form. Copies of this have been distributed to all the households in the area.

12.06 Any other business.

Telephone fraud - Mrs. Parker (local resident) reported she had been the victim of a hoax telephone-call from a person posing as a bank employee seeking details. It was detected immediately and the conversation terminated. It was, however, a matter of equal, if not greater concern, that neither the Police telephone number 101, or the on-line Action-Fraud computer link were able to be contacted to report the matter. It is hoped that these minutes will come to the attention of the appropriate person to enable resolution and further Police reports will be scrutinized to see what action, if any, has been instigated.

Wool to the Mill - This event will occur on Saturday 9th September 2017 at 7 p.m. (poster appended to minutes).

Tour o' the Borders - This event will occur on Sunday 3rd September 2017 and details have been posted to all households in the area. A link to the web-site will be supplied by Mrs. Christine Parker. Volunteers are keenly sought to assist in this area and may contact Mrs. Parker by land-line 01899-880370.

Tweedsmuir Community Company - Membership. Anyone wishing to join may use the form appended to minutes.

Tweedsmuir Resilient Community Group - Membership. Anyone wishing to be more aware of this group may use the form appended to minutes.

Tweedsmuir Community Council – Database. If anyone wishes to be part of the data-base which is used solely for the purpose of contacting residents and circulating minutes/notices please use form appended to minutes. NB. Information held will not be disclosed to anyone other than the community council councillors unless permission is granted by the person on whom the data is held. The data-base is also subject to the Data Protection Act.

Next meeting - Thursday 7th September at 7.30 p.m. Tweedsmuir village hall

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, 7 September 2018 (7.30pm)
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Present: Gavin Parker (GP, chairman), Brian Bushell, (BB, treasurer and vice chairman), Paul Greaves (PG, secretary), Lesley Kirkwood (LK), Lesley Mason (LM), Ralph Glatt (RG). Duncan Davidson (DD, chairman Tweedsmuir Community Company), Heather Anderson (HA, SBC councillor), Eric Small (ES, SBC councillor), and 3 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 2 August were approved 01.09 APOLOGIES

Community councillor Mark Cullen and police representative Nicola Craig.

02.09 MATTERS ARISING

None

03.09 BROADBAND

HA reported that she had been in conversation with Bryan McGrath, head of economic development at Scottish Borders Council. Mr McGrath, who is also in charge of broadband development in the region, had given Tweedsmuir's scheme the thumbs-up, describing the community partnership route as a 'great deal and the right way to go.' Mr McGrath had also suggested getting in touch with Duncan Nisbet, the head of the Scottish Government's R100 programme, for further support. PG asked HA if it would be possible for McGrath to write a letter of support for the scheme, which could accompany the proposed bids to the SSE and Glenkerie windfarms. HA said she would ask Mr McGrath for such a letter.

PG reported that the Gigabit Voucher scheme had now raised £96,000 and that there had been a further meeting with Steve Johnstone, of BT Openreach. During that meeting, Mr Johnstone had suggested the council should keep back a certain number of vouchers to be able to replace any residents or businesses who drop out once the contract is signed. In the event of that happening, the council becomes liable for any shortfall. After discussion, councillors agreed that it would be prudent to hold back £10,000 in vouchers, leaving £86,000 to go towards the overall cost. PG said a list of voucher pledgers would be going to BT Openreach shortly. BT would then forward this on to Westminster for verification. PG added that residents who had pledged would receive an email from the government to verify their details and their acceptance of the scheme's terms. PG confirmed that a newsletter would go out to let people know the procedure as soon as possible.

HA said SBC was not in a position to carry out the self-dig work, but suggested that monies could be raised via the Localities Bid fund. She also suggested that advice was available at SBC regarding other funding routes and promised to send contact details of the person to talk to about this at SBC.

Councillors also decided that any application should be joint between Tweedsmuir Community Council and Tweedsmuir Community Company.

04.09 SOURCE OF THE TWEED MONUMENT

HA said she was still awaiting a response with regard to accessing Scene Route Fund monies to undertake improvements at the monument. GP said that the council would be

willing to keep the site clean and tidy but were reticent about adopting it and having the responsibility of more wide-scale development at the site.

05.09 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT

GP said he had received one quote for undertaking the development at the crossroads and added that an application to the windfarms was imminent. However, GP added that priority was for the broadband applications and it was imperative to ensure that an application for crossroads monies did not clash with those for the broadband scheme.

06.09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

07.10 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS/WINDFARMS

SSE, Youth bursary: Kirsty Stevens, Blacklaw Cottage, Tweedsmuir, £50 for son to attend rugby camp: Approved.

Broadband costs: Councillors agreed that any expenses incurred re the council's broadband applications to the windfarms - ie the cost of printing the brochure - should come out of community council funds.

Windfarms: GP said there were three places available on the Glenkerie panel and urged Tweedsmuir residents to take them up. GP added that there are four meetings a year and full training would be provided. The application process was now open and details could be found in the latest edition of the Community News.

08.10 POLICE REPORT

See attached

09.10 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Buses: HA said the Edinburgh bus service cuts were still a major issue. She had attended a meeting in West Linton when residents vented their anger that Stagecoach was finishing its service to Edinburgh at 7:30pm. HA added that an evening shuttle service, run by the community, was at the moment being costed.

Localities Bid Fund: HA said that all applications should be in by the end of September.

Windfarm: ES reported that a windfarm application for a site near Hawick had been rejected by the SBC planners.

Scottish Borders Police Community Action Team: ES said this had been set up in April to tackle local issues across the area. The team had now produced an impact report from April to June, which can be accessed via xxxxxxxxxxxx

10.11 CROOK INN

DD reported that a project officer - Bruce Clarke - had been appointed to take the Crook Inn project - and wider community development - forward. Mr Clarke would take up his post later in September.

11.12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Broughton shop: A meeting will be held regarding the re-opening of the village shop at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, September 12 (7pm).

Visit: MP David Mundell will hold a surgery at Tweedsmuir Village Hall on Monday, September 17 at 9:30am.

Tour of the Borders: LM said the Tour of the Borders had been a great success and had gone off without incident. However, LM asked if organisers could be asked if it would be possible to open the section of the road from the A701 down to the village crossroads at the same time as the main A701 is opened. It is always opened later, which means villagers have to wait for access on to the A701, although it is, in fact, open.

Layby signs: LM suggested that SBC should erect a sign at their laybys, pointing out that there was no litter bin and urging people to take their litter home. LM said she had seen such signs at laybys outside Scottish Borders, and they seemed a good idea. HA said she would raise this with SBC.

Mobile post office, Broughton: It was pointed out that times for this service had now changed to 10-10.30am every Friday outside Broughton school.

The next meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council will be held on Thursday, 4 October, 2018 (7:30pm).

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on
Thursday, 5 October 2017 (7.30pm)**

Present: Gavin Parker (GP, chairman), Brian Bushell (BB, vice-chairman and treasurer), Paul Greaves (PG, secretary), Lesley Mason (LM), Lesley Kirkwood (LK), Ralph Glatt (RG). Eric Small (ES, Scottish Borders Councillor) 6 members of the public.

**The minutes of the council's meeting on 7 September were approved 01.00
APOLOGIES**

Police representative Nicola Craig

02.10 MATTERS ARISING

Fruid Road: PG reported that work would begin on the Fruid Road repairs on October 16, as outlined in an email from Scott Learmouth, assistant engineer, at Scottish Borders Council:

As you may be aware Scottish Borders Council have been given substantial funding from the STTF (Strategic Timber Transport Fund) to carry out road improvement works on roads that have been significantly damaged due to timber haulage. The D53/1 at Fruid is one of the roads that have been awarded significant funding.

Our proposal is to carry out extensive preparatory works to improve drainage and existing passing places, followed by the installation of a new bituminous surface course. The proposed works include the formalisation of existing and construction of new passing places, which will help alleviate further potential verge damage and assist the passage of all vehicles on the road. The proposals also includes the improvement of the existing surface water drainage systems by renewing roadside ditching, relocating existing ditches and installing a number of new road crossings. The extents of the above works are shown on the attached plan.

SBc Contracts, on behalf of Scottish Borders Council, will be carrying out the preparatory works. As part of these works a new kerb line will be installed at the C8 junction to separate the existing unbound car park and the public road.

These works are due to commence week beginning 16th October 2017 lasting approximately 5 weeks. During the works access will be maintained to all properties.

Once the preparatory works are completed the resurfacing works will then be carried out. This element of the works has yet to be fully programmed, but we will notify you as soon as this is finalised. Unfortunately some access restrictions will need to be put in place during the surfacing works.

A letter outlining the above was issued to all residents on the D53/1 today. 04/10.17. I have also consulted Scottish Woodlands and Scottish Water regarding the works.

I hope the above information is helpful, however if you wish to discuss it further please don't hesitate to contact me.

0310 BROADBAND

GP said Rod Sibbald had decided to step down as coordinator of the broadband scheme, and also as a community councillor, which he described as a 'great shame'. GP thanked Rod for all

the hard work he had done on the broadband project, and said it had would not have been so advanced without all his help and guidance. PG said he had now become the contact for BT, and was expecting a price from them to bring superfast broadband to all properties in the Tweedsmuir area on 17 October. The meeting decided to set up a committee to take the project forward, with BB and residents Andrew Mason and Phil Rees volunteering to join the committee, along with PG.

ES reported that Scottish Borders Council were in discussions with EE with regard to the R100 scheme, which aims to bring superfast broadband to areas not covered by the

government roll-out. ES suggested that TCC contacted SBC chief executive Rod Dixon for more details. **Action:** Once BT submits its quote, a meeting of the new committee should be set up to take the project forward. PG should also contact Mr Dixon for details of SBC's involvement in the R100 scheme and whether this would be applicable, and suitable, for Tweedsmuir.

03.10 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT PG said, following an appeal for volunteers for a committee to take the crossroads development forward, resident Mr Eric Stephens had come forward. GP said he would also be part of the committee, and would contact resident Gill Rees, who had also expressed an interest, to see if she would also join it. The Tweedsmuir Community Company had also sent to PG a copy of its memorandum and articles of association, which did seem to indicate that it would be able to take the matter forward on behalf of the community council. Resident Kirsty Stephens, who has expertise in this field, offered to look at the the articles, which PG agreed to send on to her.

04.10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS None

04.10 MICROGRANTS

There were no new microgrant applications, but BB reported that he had paid out the sums outlined at last month's meeting.

Grants:

GP said that the village had been successful in two bids to e windfarm funds:

A grant for the village hall to replace windows and doors.

A grant to the Crook Inn, to fund architects' plans for the development of a new cafe/bunkhouse and camping facilities.

Panel:

GP said he had been on the Glenkerie panel, latterly as a community council representative, for four years, but, under panel rules, will now have to step down. GP suggested LM should replace him on the panel. LM agreed to this, and the meeting voted in favour of the appointment. **Community Company:**

LK reported that a SSE representative had said there would be no a conflict of interest if the Tweedsmuir Community Company applied for funding for more than one cause. At last month's meeting, the community company had been suggested as the vehicle to take the broadband and crossroads developments forward, particularly as the community council does not appear to have the legal capacity to do so, following correspondence with SBC. Worries were, however,

expressed that the community company might not be able to bid for funding for other projects if it was also bidding for funding for its main cause, the Crook Inn development. The SSE representative, however, had said there would be no problem for the community company bidding for more than one project.

Defibrillator:

PG reported that the community council had now received a new defibrillator, from SBC, which meant the village had two, with the original positioned in the bothy at the home of Gill and Phil Rees in the village. The new defibrillator would be housed on the outside of the village hall, which meant the need for a protective casing.

Action: The meeting agreed to seek a windfarm fund grant to buy the casing, which should be around £600. The meeting also agreed to check if the defib at Rees' household needed to be replaced given its age. If this was the case, an application for both casing and a new defib would be made. LK agreed to make the application on the community council's behalf.

05.10 COMMUNITY PLAN

PG said he needed access to the original community brochure in order to use the cheapest printer he had found to ensure the brochure meets that printer's specifications. GP agreed to look into this. BB explained that all bills needed to be sent to Cares, the funders for the community plan, before they would pay the grant, which meant there may be a problem using the printers as suggested because they needed to be paid up front.

06. 10 POLICE REPORT

26/09/2017 – A report was received regarding sheep on the road on A701 near The Crook Inn.

27/09/2017 A report was received regarding sheep on the road on A701 near Oliver Farm. Sheep returned to field prior to police arrival.

07.10 TREASURER'S REPORT

BB said there was no change from the last meeting, other than paying out the sums outlined then.

08.10 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

ES said the localities bid fund was now up and running and urged residents and the community council to bid for the £91,000 available. Details can be found at www.scotborders.gov.uk/localitiesbidfund or by phoning 0300 100 1800 or 01835 826659.

ES said the A701 action group had not been set up yet, but agreed that a member of the Tweedsmuir Community Council should be represented on it. The group is being established in the wake of the latest fatal accident along the road.

ES also noted that work on the Fruid Road was due to start shortly.

09.10 CROOK INN

Mr Duncan Davidson, chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company, said the company was delighted to receive the windfarm grant that will now enable design work to start on the development of a cafe, bunkhouses and camping facilities at the inn.

10.10 AOB

Eastgate Theatre: Resident Christine Parker reported that she had been contacted by Eastgate Theatre, Peebles, to see if they could attend a TCC meeting to give a presentation of the theatre's work. The meeting agreed that the theatre representative should come along to the TCC's next meeting in November.

Halloween party The party will take place at the village hall on Saturday, 28 October

First Responders Resident Christine Parker reported that the Upper Tweed first responders group was now up and running.

ResilientCommunities–Emergencyexercise. A sResilientCommunitiesco-ordinator, Mr. Andrew Mason was present at the meeting, BB asked him whether the proposed exercise discussed several months ago was still going ahead. Mr Mason replied that it had subsequently been decided that such an exercise was considered unnecessary by the Resilient Communities team. It was felt by the team that awareness of the local community that such an organisation existed - and that it was in a state of preparedness - was sufficient until action was needed.

Local community funding.

BB requested community council. support for a case he was making to the S.S.E. for a fund to be set up to directly benefit individual households in the community. He has for some time thought about how the local community could benefit more from the funds available from electricity generating companies operating locally and an opportunity arose recently to

discuss the matter.

He is a member of a panel formed by the S.S.E. which meets quarterly to consider and award/reject applications made by local organisations for expenditure up to £25,000 and was made aware that the current balance of the S.S.E.'s Community fund is £178,798 and set to grow to c. £250,000 this financial year. In view of this he raised the matter of another fund being set up to be used to directly benefit individual households. This fund would be an additional, not a replacement of the present funds and was being proposed to facilitate the expenditure of funds currently amassing at an exponential rate. BB argued that, as the S.S.E. state they wish to help communities then what better, totally inclusive way of benefitting the community than by making money available directly to households constituting the community. BB used a precedent set by another generating company operating in the Beattock area that does precisely this, but goes one step further by actually paying the eligible households' electricity bills direct. Although not wishing to go down this particular type of payment, which is contrary to the S.S.E.'s code of practice – as voiced by the S.S.E. representative, Mr. Gareth Shields – BB did express the ability for individual households to receive money. Mr. Shields said that this would be considered if the community council would formally request for this to be so. Accordingly, this was sought at the meeting. A general discussion followed which

reached a decision that it would not support this initiative for various reasons, eg. it would reduce the amount of money available for existing types of funds and new applications for grants operating under the present scheme, that it was seen as personal benefit rather than for the whole of the community. The point that it may be contrary to some form of legislation was also raised. BB was disappointed particularly as there currently existed a form of personal benefit in the form of the Youth Bursary awards, but undertook to look into the legislative aspect of such an award and the form of some community benefit to individual households eg. a form of insulation plan for all homes or subsidised tariffs.

The next meeting will be at Tweedsmuir Village Hall on 2 November (7.30pm).

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on
Thursday, 2 November 2017 (7.30pm)**

Present: Gavin Parker (GP, chairman), Brian Bushell (BB, vice-chairman and treasurer), Paul Greaves (PG, secretary), Lesley Kirkwood (LK), Ralph Glatt (RG), Eric Small (ES, Scottish Borders Councillor) 6 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 5 October were approved

01.11 APOLOGIES

Community councillor Lesley Mason, SBC councillors Heather Anderson and Kris Chapman and Police representative Nicola Craig

02.11 MATTERS ARISING

LK reported that a grant application had been lodged with SSE for outside casings for the council's two defibrillators. LK said that it was felt the defib already in situ - at the bothy at Dykehead - would be better positioned on an outside wall, while a casing was also needed for the new defib planned for the village hall. LK also reported that she had contacted Peebles Cycling Club to ask if it would contribute to the running costs of the defib at Dykehead..

03.11 EASTGATE THEATRE

Cathy Shepherd, community consultant at Eastgate Theatre, said the theatre was looking to its services to communities outside Peebles and was interested in discovering how it could work with the Crook Inn hub, once it was open. Duncan Davidson, chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, said the company would welcome working with the theatre.

Ms Shepherd thanked the community company for its feedback on how the community would benefit from the theatre's outreach plans. This would help the theatre's Big Lottery application for a grant to pay for planned improvements. Ms Shepherd, who was given a copy of the new Tweedsmuir community plan, also appealed to residents for any suggestions regarding changes they would like to see at the theatre.

Resident Andrew Mason suggested that windfarm funding should be sought to take residents to the theatre, and Ms Shepherd added that Tweed Wheels could help in this regard by providing subsidised transport to and from Tweedsmuir.

ACTIONS:

The TCC agreed to put a link to the theatre website out on its database.

A poster of forthcoming productions at the theatre should be put up at the village crossroads. Resident Christine Parker to distribute the Eastgate Theatre brochures with Kirk Matters.

04.11 BROADBAND

Ben Campbell, of BT, visited the meeting to explain the recent quote submitted to the council for the implementaton of fibre-to-premises superfast broadband in Tweedsmuir. The sum

quoted by BT was £449,000, nearly five times what BT had intimated would be the cost in earlier talks with the community council. BC admitted that the quote was higher than expected.

PG added that the council had been shocked given that Rural North, a fibre company based in Lancashire, had initimated that to lay cable was £5 a metre. On that basis, the council had estimated that the cost of taking fibre to Fruid, for instance, would be £15,000, but BT had quoted £68,000. To Talla, costings based on Rural North's quotation would be £22,500, compared with BT's quote of £102,000

BC said the main cost was provision of the cable - using existing duct if there is one, or cabling overhead - and that costing was all about distance from the main spine - the Moffat to Broughton road. BC said Talla was farther away from the main road than Fruid, for instance. BC then distributed maps which showed the BT plans.

GP said he was shocked that the figures had gone from a ballpark £100,000 to nearly five times that amount in the actual quote, adding that, if the TCC had known this figure two years ago, we might not have gone ahead. GP said it felt like two years had been wasted.. BB asked BC to explain the increase. BC said that, when he first came to see TCC, he was six weeks into his job and was given the ballpark figure by company representatives already dealing with the plan. These representatives, however, were not, at that stage, in receipt of the detailed planning work, and it was this that had revealed the inflated figure. BC said the sums now being mooted had been a shock to him.

BC then outlined a number of options, going forward:

The project could be done in stages - for instance, if £80,000 were the budget, how many houses would this cover?

BC pointed out that Fruid and Talla contribute largely to the cost - so the project could be remodelled without these areas.

The community could look at self dig, which had been successful in other areas of Scotland. BC said self dig would reduce the cost considerably.

GP added that it looked like BT were pricing themselves out of the job, because it was too much hassle. BC said this was definitely not the case. It may appear that way but it is not that way, he added.

BC then went on to explain R100 - the Scottish Government policy to get superfast broadband to the five per cent of Scotland not included in the most recent rollout.. BC said tenders for R100 would be released in the next few weeks, with 30mbps offered as part of the scheme. BC pointed out that speeds of 330mbps were being offered by the scheme outlined for Tweedsmuir..

BC said he was shocked at the cost of taking superfast broadband to around 80 homes in Tweedsmuir and was worried that the government's budget of £400m to £600m for R100, split into three areas of Scotland, would not be enough. BT policy, he added, was to use as much fixed fibre as possible due to its long shelf life and the fact that it is future proof, but worried that BT may miss out on contracts as the government may be forced to offer solutions like wireless and satellite - which he did not think were suitable ways forward - due to the cash constraints.

GP concluded by saying TCC would like to keep in touch with BT and that the aim was still to get FTTP to each premise. He urged BC to break down the quote as much as possible to enable the CC to consider all the options, GP also urged BT to quicken its response, which BC promised to do.

GP thanked BC for his attendance.

ACTIONS

BC promised to break down the quote as much as possible and come up with various options - how many homes could be supplied for a certain amount, for example.

He would look at self dig as an option, and not just Fruid and Talla, but the entire project.

(BC said that, with self dig, BT was still responsible for the maintenance of the laid cable).

BC added that one idea for R100 was to bring the fibre to the village and residents to then pay for the connection to each household. A community self-dig operation, funded by windfarm funds, could form part of this idea..

BC would also look at remodelling the project without certain areas, and added that the TCC should also talk with other companies regarding the superfast implementation.

05.11 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT

GP reported that a sub-committee to take this project forward had now been established and would be meeting soon.

06.11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

PG said there were no applications to consider but noted that the council was still awaiting a decision from the Scottish Government on the Whitelaw Brae windfarm proposals.

07.11 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS None.

08.11 COMMUNITY PLAN

GP said the brochures had now been printed and would be distributed to every household in the Tweedsmuir Community Council area.

ACTION:

BB to distribute with invitations to the Tweedsmuir Christmas party.

09.11 POLICE REPORT

Rural Thefts

There were no incidents reported in your area. However another report of theft of sheep has been received at Moffat. No reports in this area.

Speeding/road traffic

29/10/2017 – A report was received regarding 2 vehicles that collided near to Mossfennan Farm, Tweedsmuir, no injury, damage to vehicle only.

29/10/2017 A report was received regarding a motor bike collision, near to Fingland Farm, Tweedsmuir, the motor cyclist sustained a significant leg

injury.

Indiscriminate Parking

10/10/2017 – A report was received regarding a possible abandoned vehicle, between 07/10/2017 - 10/10/2017 near Glenbreck, Tweedsmuir, the keeper was contacted safe and well, they were camping in the area. **25/10/2017** - A report was received regarding a possible abandoned vehicle, between near Stanhope, Tweedsmuir. Contact was made with the keeper, who had broken down.

10.11 TREASURER'S REPORT

Since the Treasurer's report produced for the September meeting there has been no further expenditure or income to date. However, following a successful application for a grant by the Tweedsmuir Community Council to the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) for £9,950 to fund the Tweedsmuir Community Action Plan which has recently been printed for distribution to all residents and interested parties, there will be a spate of expenditure to cover the cost of its production once payment of the grant has been received from CARES. There is an overspend of £28 but this will be covered from community council general funds.

Details of expenditure are as follows:-

a) Preparation cost of contractor – STAR Development Group.....	£8,550
b) Action Plan Design cost - Sophie Roxburgh.....	£ 400
c) Printing cost of report – Caledonian colour printers.....	£ 433
d) Hire of Tweedsmuir village hall.....	£110
e) Tweedsmuir Community Company – reimbursement for event launching the report....	£
595 Total.....	£9,978

11.11 SBC COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

ES said that bids for grants from the first round of the new Localities Bid Fund had to be in by 1 December. A total of £30,000 was available in this round.

The SBC councillor also reported that the A701 Action Group had still to be established, with councillors in talks with the SBC roads department, who wanted to extend the remit of the group to other roads. ES suggested that the community council should prepare a report on its stretch of the A701. Councillors agreed to this, and also expressed the view that the action group should be kept to the A701 and not expanded.

ACTION:

The community council to prepare a report as suggested by ES.

12. 11 CROOK INN

Duncan Davidson, chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, reported that the project, Connecting the Tweed - in which the Crook Inn would have been part - had been refused funding by the Big Lottery's Heritage Fund.

Mr Davidson said architectes had appointed by prepare plans for a new cafe, bunkhouse and camping at the Crook Inn site, with a planning application scheduled for the end of February.

13.11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Flooding on Talla Road: PG reported that since the erection of a new EE mast, the road was subject to significant flooding, with the suspicion that workmen had damaged the draining pipes alongside the road during construction. RG added that he had reported the flooding to EE two months ago, but had received no reply.

ACTION:

To report the flooding to Scottish Borders Council

The next meeting will be at Tweedsmuir Village Hall on 7 December (7.30pm).

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, 7 December 2017 (7.30pm)

Present: Gavin Parker (GP, chairman), Brian Bushell (BB, vice-chairman and treasurer), Paul Greaves (PG, secretary), Lesley Kirkwood (LK), Lesley Mason (LM), Ralph Glatt (RG), Eric Small (ES, Scottish Borders Councillor), Pip Tabor (PT) of Southern Upland Partnership and 6 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 2 November were approved 01.11
APOLOGIES

SBC councillors Heather Anderson and Kris Chapman, and Police representative Nicola Craig

02.11 MATTERS ARISING

Whitelaw Brae windfarm PG reported that the Scottish Government had notified the community council that the application to construct Whitelaw Brae windfarm had been approved. The community council had opposed the application and had taken an active role in the public enquiry last year, but the meeting agreed that there was little the council could now do as there was no right of appeal, except on legal grounds, which the CC could not afford. GP said it was now imperative that the community received the benefits promised by the Whitelaw Brae developers in the run-up to the enquiry last year.

03.11 WILD LAND

Pip Tabor, of Southern Upland Partnership, attended the meeting to discuss the promotion of the Tweedsmuir area as a wild land area. PT said a few years ago Scottish Natural Heritage was tasked with identifying areas in Scotland that could be designated as wild land. SNH came up with two in southern Scotland - Galloway and Talla Fell/Tweedsmuir. PT explained that Southern Upland Partnership was keen to use this designation to boost tourism to the area. This would potentially help businesses in Moffat, Ettrick and, once open, the Crook Inn in Tweedsmuir. As part of the promotional plans, SUP had held discussions with an organisation called Rewilding Britain, which had offered to pay for a report into the benefits of the wild land area to southern Scotland, and in particular the two designated areas. The report would help when SUP had to approach the Scottish Government for monies to develop the wild land areas. Community councillors agreed that this was an excellent idea and fully supported SUP's work to develop the wild land area. GP thanked PT for his attendance.

04.11 DEFIBRILLATORS

LK reported that the CC was awaiting a decision regarding its application to SSE windfarm fund for monies to pay for two outdoor casings for the defibrillators available in the village. LK added that Peebles Cycling Club had agreed to meet the running costs, including the cost of a new set of pads, for one of the defibs.

05.11 BROADBAND

PG reported that Benjamin Campbell, of BT, had emailed to the TCC as follows:

Breakdown of Costs:

We are not able to provide a broken-down quotation for the various parts of the quotation. However, as I said on Thursday, if the civil engineering part is done by you, this will be beneficial on price.

Self-dig:

This would involve Tweedmuir Community Council performing the physical dig work. Openreach would provide the ducting material, junction boxes, and fibre. Openreach would blow the fibre (put it in the ducts). The costs of a civils contractor to Openreach would be saved. This option doesn't really work for the main road, as there are too many overhead to underground junctions, A-road closures required, etc. For both the Talla and Fruid farms, this would be a good option.

Can you please let me know which properties other than the farms at Talla and Fruid for which self-dig should be considered? I was thinking there may be some of the properties on the road to the Talla reservoir.

Timing and Next Steps:

Given that most of the design work has now been done, we would be able to turn around a quotation quicker than previously for this. However, it is in neither of our interests to go back and forward with many quotations. I realise though that we have to strike a balance, and make sure you get what you need. Please can you check on the attached list which properties would be suitable for self-dig, and then we can discuss getting a quotation to you.

Following this email, the council's broadband committee met for the first time, and decided that it would seek a new BT quote on the basis that the community would self-dig to all properties on the list. It was felt that this would keep the project simple, and Mr Campbell was notified of the decision. PG said since then he had not heard from BT, which he described as disappointing. **ACTIONS**

PG promised to contact Rural North, a not-for-profit company in Lancashire which has connected a number of rural villages to superfast broadband there, for advice about self dig. Other companies should be contacted for quotes for the development as a whole.

06.11 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT

GP said the committee set up to further this project had now met and talks with the owner of the crossroads land were now underway to come up with an agreement for the development to take place. Once these were in place, plans would be drawn up and a planning application would be submitted to SBC.

07.11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

08.11 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

None. LM pointed out that monies were still available for the youth bursary. The deadline for applications was 31 March next year.

09.11 COMMUNITY PLAN

PG thanked BB for delivering the community plan brochures to residents in the area.

10.11 POLICE REPORT

No report was available, although the council heard that there had been a break-in at the Crook Inn, which had been reported to the police.

11.11 TREASURER'S REPORT

See attached.

12.11 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

ES reported that there had been a good response to the first round of the new Localities Bid Fund. **ES** added that the first meeting of the Area Partnership, which is replacing the Tweed Forum, would be held in Peebles on 10 January with the theme of economy, skills and learning. As part of the new Partnership set-up, four community council representatives would be present from the 12 community councils in the area. **ES** said it was up to the community councils how to operate this system. Partnership meetings will also be open to the public.

ES reported that talks with the SBC roads department were still ongoing regarding the establishment of a group to look into the state of the area's roads.

Action: The council agreed that a letter should be written to SBC to urge that the roads group be set up as soon as possible.

13.11 CROOK INN

Duncan Davidson, chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, said WTA architects had now completed the first draft of plans for a new cafe and bunkhouse on the Crook Inn site, which had been presented before the community council meeting. WTA was now attempting to cost the plans, which, once approved by the community company, would be the subject of a planning application to SBC. **DD** added that a meeting with Big Lottery was also scheduled shortly.

14.11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Fruid Road: **PG** reported that the council had received the following update from SBC:

Following on from my previous email, sent to you on the 4th October 2017, I can now confirm that SBC Contracts have now completed the preparatory drainage and passing place works and are now programmed to start the kerbing and further drainage works at C8 junction.

The kerbing and drainage works are due to take place from Wednesday 10th January to Friday 19th January 2018. During the works access will be maintained to all properties.

Once the preparatory works are completed the resurfacing works will follow starting Monday 22nd January for a duration of 7 days. The extents of the resurfacing works are indicated on the attached plan.

To comply with current Health & Safety Legislation, it will be necessary to close this section of road from 08:30hrs to 16:00hrs daily, Monday 22nd January to Tuesday 30th January 2018. Excluding weekends.

It is anticipated that the resurfacing works will start from the second access to Menzion forest and proceed down the hill towards the car park at the C8 Junction. Throughout the closure periods pedestrian access will be maintained to all businesses and properties. Unfortunately vehicular access will not be maintained during working hours. Although, it is the Contractors intention to open the road for a 30 minute window between 12:30 and 13:00hrs daily to help with access requirements. However, this may alter slightly due to unforeseen circumstances.

In the event of adverse weather it may be necessary to temporarily postpone the works.

I have liaised with our refuse team and Royal Mail to ensure any deliveries or collections will be made on the normal dates however, these will be made out with the working times.

A letter outlining the above will be issued to all residents on the D53/1 tomorrow, 8th December 2017. I will also contact Scottish Woodlands and Scottish Water to update them.

Tour of the Borders: GP reported that he had received the following email from race organisers:

We are writing to you from Hillside Outside, organisers of the award-winning [TweedLove Bike Festival](#) and [Tour O The Borders](#). We are always keen to keep Community Councils informed of our event plans, establish a point of contact should it be needed, and highlight the positive effects and economic impact our events have on the local community/economy. This year, our events had a total economic impact of well over £1 million in the Scottish Borders.

Tour O The Borders (the mass-participation closed-road sportive) with over 2000 riders taking part, is taking place on Sunday 2 September 2018. The event will start and finish in Peebles. Please see attached route map, which is unchanged from this year. We have only recently had confirmation that we can go ahead with this date (the preferred weekend as specified by SBC) as Pedal for Scotland/Cycling Scotland and Contraflow have confirmed date clashes can be avoided. We have moved quickly to get the event on sale and initial take-up is good.

We will now publicise this date information throughout the region as widely as we can, and planning will aim to restrict any road closure times to the minimum possible. Arrangements will be shared through local media, social media channels, online through web forums, and through community networks.

Every business and household around the route will also be sent road closure information by post early in 2018. Plans will also be published online, in local media and sent to communities as early as possible, as soon as logistics have been worked out and proposals checked by the Safety Advisory Group, traffic management and SBC officials.

We hope to continue to grow and develop our events, and with continued support from SBC and the local community, we believe that we can continue to put the Tweed Valley and Scottish Borders on the world cycling map.

If you have any questions or would like any further information, please let us know. **Action:** To write to Hillside Outside to point out problems regarding this year's race, which, hopefully, can be avoided in 2018.

Village hall: Councillors were told that improvements to the village hall, including new doors and windows, had now been completed. The annual meeting of the village hall committee will be held at the hall on 1 February, and residents were urged to come forward to join the committee.

The next meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council will be held on 1 February, 2018. Please note there is no TCC meeting in January.

