

2018 Minutes

TWEEDSMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

This document included the minutes from the following list of meetings

- March 2018
- April 2018
- May 2018
- June 2018
- August 2018
- September 2018
- October 2018
- November 2018
- December 2018

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, 8 March 2018 (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), police representatives Nicola Craig (NC) and Chris Burnside, and 3 members of the public.

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

01.03 APOLOGIES None

02.03 MATTERS ARISING None

03.03 POLICE REPORT

GP welcomed the two police representatives and thanked them for their attendance. NC read out the following report:.

07/02/2018 – A report was received regarding a single vehicle accident, Talla, Tweedsmuir, non-reportable.

13/02/2018 – A report was received regarding an overturned logging lorry on the A701 between Broughton and Moffat, non-reportable, no police requirement.

17/02/2018 – A report was been received regarding a vehicle in a ditch near Talla Farm House, Tweedsmuir, persons rescued by local farmer.

The meeting informed the police representatives that drivers were being directed by their Satnavs over Talla Linns even when the road is not in any condition to take such traffic because of the wintry conditions - a family became stranded over the Linns in the recent heavy snow. Resident Christine Parker had contacted SBC regarding responsibility for putting up road-closed signs, and whether this could be done by the community council or local resilient communities representatives. .NC promised to take up the matter with SBC for clarification.

CB warned of bogus workmen in the area and said ring 101 if anyone was acting suspiciously. BB raised the problem of signage when the A701 is closed in that the signage does not indicate the point of the closure. Anyone, for instance, who lives in Tweedsmuir does not know whether the road is closed before the turning for the village or not. NC said the best solution was to ring 101 for full details of any road closures.

04.03 BROADBAND

PG reported that he and BB had attended a meeting with Bob Hunter, of Skirling, and Jan Noble, of Broughton, to explore whether it would be possible to form an umbrella organisation to further broadband provision in the area. Further meetings were planned.

PG also reported that he was still awaiting a revised quote from BT following the broadband committee's commitment to undertake all the digging of trenches involved in the project. Resident Mark Cullen had joined the broadband committee and had contacted BT regarding the delay. BT representative Ben Campbell had informed Mark that he plans to speak with a colleague who has experience of community self dig before setting up a three-way call to discuss.

PG informed the meeting that Rural North, the company which provides broadband to rural communities in Lancashire, were not planning any involvement in Scotland.

04.03 PURCHASE OF SNOW BLOWER

PG said he had received a letter from resident Simon Goldfinch suggesting the best snow blower to buy, which would cost around £1,600. LM asked that the insurance of the snowblower should be clarified. It was also unclear whether local windfarms would fund the purchase as road clearance was a responsibility of SBC. PG promised to look into the matter and clarify the points raised.

LK suggested efforts should also be made to get another grit bin along the Kirk Road. This was accepted by the meeting.

05.03 STATE OF ROADS

GP reported that, in a telephone conversation with Mr David Richardson, head of roads at SBC, had agreed to attend a joint meeting with Tweedsmuir and Upper Tweed CCs. Mr Richardson was also planning to meet West Linton and Carlops CCs jointly. Mr Richardson was grateful for the report on the A701 supplied by the council.

The meeting heard that Talla Road was still not fixed and it was unclear who was going to take responsibility for the flooding now prevalent along the road.

LM pointed out that the road down from the A701 to Carlowse Bridge was in also poor condition, with a number of large potholes. The road was also being damaged by flooding. LM explained that the drainage under the road to take the water out on to an adjacent field had been damaged by recent cable laying and that the water was now running down the road instead of into the field..

ES agreed to ask the council to do repairs to the crossroads and the Carlowse Bridge road when they restart the Fruid Road development on 22 March.

06.03 COMMUNITY PLAN

LK asked that updates on the council's various activities should be sent to her to include in the community plan spreadsheet. Councillors agreed that at future meetings councillors would meet at 7pm to discuss the community plan before the meeting becomes open to the public at 7:30pm.

07.03 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT GP said a draft legal document had been drawn up and a meeting with the crossroads landowner would be arranged in the near future.

08.03 PLANNING APPLICATION

GP said the council had been sent a copy of the forestry plan for Menzion, which was now complete.

09.03 MICROGRANTS

Lorna Cottier/Biggar/Tinto Scouts, £500: The amount exceeded the fund's £250 limit, the application was from outside the Tweedsmuir area, and was for foreign travel, which is not allowed under SSE rules. *Rejected.*

Katie McKinno/ Voluntary work in Fiji, £200: Applicant lived outside the Tweedsmuir area and the grant was for foreign travel, which is not allowed under SSE rules. *Rejected.*

Photography evening at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, £140: Approved.

Glenkerie fund: LM said that the council was yet to complete its end-of-year report. BB reported he had now received the paperwork for this and would complete and return as soon as possible. LM also reported that Glenkerie has a vacancy for another panel member and will advertise the post locally. LM urged people from Tweedsmuir to apply.

10.03 TREASURER'S REPORT

BB said there had been no expenditure over the past month, except for the purchase of two outside cases for the village's defibrillators.

11.03 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL REPORT

ES reported that work on Fruid Road would restart on 22 March. He also said that West Linton CC was keen that all the community councils should meet with David Richardson together regarding the A70, rather than separate meetings.

12.03 AOB

Litter collection: A roadside clear-up in Tweedsmuir would be held over the weekends of 14-15 and 21-22 April. The council was looking for volunteers - maximum needed is one hour of anyone's time. Anyone interested, please contact the secretary atn

pgreavesalex@gmail.com **Resilient communities:** LK thanked everyone who helped in the recent bad weather and said that if any new members of the community wanted to get involved in the resilient communities grup, they should contact her at Tweedsmuirreslientcommunity@gmail.com

The next meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council will be held on Thursday, 5 April, 2018 (7:30pm).

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, 5 April 2018 (7.30pm)

Present: Gavin Parker (GP, chairman), Paul Greaves (PG, secretary), Lesley Kirkwood (LK), Lesley Mason (LM), Ralph Glatt (RG). Eric Small (ES, Scottish Borders Councillor), Heather Anderson (HA, Scottish Borders Councillor), and 4 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 8 March were approved 01.04 APOLOGIES

Brian Bushell, treasurer and vice chairman, Nicola Craig, police representative.

02.04 MATTERS ARISING

Website updates: PG reported that the windfarm guidelines had been updated on the community council website to reflect that foreign travel was not allowed under the schemes.

03.04 BROADBAND

Resident Mark Cullen, who has joined the CC's broadband committee, reported that he had received the following email from Ben Campbell, of BT, regarding the promised quote for a superfast broadband installation where the village would commit to doing most of the self dig.

I have been pressing to get confirmation of a date for your quotation, but I am sorry to say I have not been successful to date. The only date I have been given is the due date for the proposal, which was two weeks ago, but with no sign of a proposal. I have escalated this internally, and have been told there is a national 30-day backlog of work coming from our planning department. I'm not at all happy about this and will continue to press for completion and release of your quotation at the earliest opportunity.

The meeting agreed that this situation - it has now been six months since BT first promised the revised quote - was unacceptable, and that a letter of complaint should be sent to the head of BT Scotland. It was also agreed that copies of this letter should be forwarded to the three Scottish Borders Councilors, and that, in future, they should be kept abreast of any developments.

PG reported that he had made contact with a community in Balquhidder, in Stirlingshire, who have recently completed a superfast installation of 200 homes for £300,000. The project was a community self dig and did not involve BT. PG said the community had agreed to meet with Tweedsmuir representatives to offer guidance and advice. PG was in the process of trying to set up a meeting.

04.04 SNOW BLOWER/GRIT BIN

PG reported the following re the proposed purchase of a snow blower for the village.

1 Insurance: Having checked with Zurich, the snow blower would be covered by the £5m public liability insurance that is in place for all community councils in Scotland. The insurers, however, insist on training for anyone operating the blower, and would have to approve the qualifications of any trainer before training goes ahead. There would also have to be risk assessments carried out.

2 Funding: It is envisaged that the cost of the snow blower will be covered by windfarm funding. In this regard, SSE has intimated that it would consider any application, while Glenkerie has said it would also do so, provided the snow blower is not used for duties already carried out by Scottish Borders Council.

The meeting agreed that a survey of residents along Kirk Road, where the snow blower would be most beneficial, should be undertaken to gauge whether all were in favour of the idea and whether residents would be willing to help with the operation of the snow blower. PG agreed to carry this out.

LK reported that SBC had agreed to site a grit bin along Kirk Road, but were awaiting notification of the chosen site.

05.04 STATE OF THE ROADS

GP thanked SBC for carrying out the repairs to Fruid Road.

PG reported that BB had written to David Richardson, head of roads at SBC, asking him if it would be possible to carry out other repairs needed in the village while the Fruid Road was being relaid. Mr Richardson replied to say that the damage referred to by Brian had been identified and that repairs would be carried out in the next four weeks.

GP said that no date had been arranged yet for a meeting with SBC re the state of the A701. GP added that the establishment of a steering group for the A701 had also been abandoned. HA explained that the area forums could set up steering groups but the organisations that succeeded the forums, the area partnerships, do not have the right to do so.

05.04 COMMUNITY PLAN

LM said one of the things the CC was not addressing, which was part of the plan, was transport and the possibility of a community bus. GP said work had been done on this in the past, but that it had been put on the backburner with everything else that was going on. He suggested that the council could look into the possibility of a community bus, which would also vie for the schools contract. This would make the operation of the bus sustainable.

LK said she had been talking with Simon Goldfinch, a local resident, re the possibility of using renewable energy in the village, and reported that he would be willing to come along to a council meeting talk to the council on the subject. The meeting agreed that this should be arranged for June. LK added that an electric car, linked with the village's renewable energy project, might be a way forward.

06.04 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT

GP said he had spoken to the crossroads landowner and the area needed for development had been agreed. GP added that legal documents were in the process of being drawn up.

07.04 PLANNING APPLICATION

New forestry planting at Hearthstanes:

RG explained that Hearthstanes farm has plans for new planting at Snout Hill, around 190 hectares, of a mix of commercial and broadleaf trees. Felling of the commercial trees would be around 2055 and it had been agreed that the exit for the timber would be at Patervan, north of the village. Councillors approved the plans.

08.04 POLICE REPORT

Rural Thefts

15/03/2018 – A report was received regarding theft of various items within an insecure property which is under renovation at Stanhope, Tweedsmuir, enquiry is ongoing.

Speeding/Road Traffic

08/03/2018 - A report was received regarding a single vehicle accident, whereby a vehicle struck a wall causing damage, details were later exchanged in respect of damage caused.

12/03/2018 – A report was received regarding a collision between a car and a lorry, north of Broughton on A701, causing serious injury to a male, enquiry ongoing with Roads Policing.

24/03/2018 – Report received regarding a single vehicle colliding with a fence 1 mile north of Crook Inn, Tweedsmuir A701, minor injury.

29/03/2018 - A report received regarding 2 vehicle accident on A701 outside Broughton, where a vehicle collided with a BT pole, causing the pole to fall onto the following vehicle, minor injuries.

09.04 SBC COUNCILLOR'sREPORT

At the council's last meeting, HA reported that the council ruling parties had been asked to review the £11,000 cut planned for the Citizen's Advice Bureau in light of the introduction of universal credit.

A motion was also raised that SBC write to the PM urging Scotland to stay in the single market. It was also asked that a survey be carried out into the impact of Brexit. HA said 23 per cent of Scotland's CAP subsidy comes to the south of Scotland and that the impact of Brexit would be huge. HA reported that the South of Scotland Alliance was also in the process of carrying out a survey into the impact.

LK urged the council to look into the online voting process for their Localities Bid Fund. LK said she had voted, but there had been no confirmation and therefore wondered whether her vote

had been registered. HA said that there was going to be a review of the scheme before the next round of funding next month

10.04 CROOK INN

GP reported that the planning application for phase one, a new cafe and bunkhouse, was due to go to the SBC shortly, and that funding was also being sought for a project officer to help with funding applications.

11.03 AOB

Litter collection: The meeting arranged for volunteers to carry out the collection over the weekends of 14-15 and 21-22 April. It was agreed an invoice for £26.50 for equipment/gloves etc for the litter collection would be submitted for payment from the TCC's funds.

GP reported that he had received a complaint about the amount of litter on a layby on the A701 near the source of the Tweed. GP had contacted SBC to ask if a litter bin could be placed there and at other laybys along the road. The council replied that there was not enough capacity in the bin lorries to empty litter bins. PG agreed to write to the council again to lodge our request. **Talking pictures:** Award-winning local photographer Kenny Martin has agreed to give a talk on photography at the village hall on 27 April (see attached poster)

The next meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council - the council's AGM - will be held on Thursday, 3 May, 2018 (7:30pm).

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council AGM, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, 3 May 2018 (7.30pm)

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). Eric Small (ES, Scottish Borders Councillor), Heather Anderson (HA, Scottish Borders Councillor), and 4 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 5 April were approved 01.05 APOLOGIES

Nicola Craig, police representative.

02.05 MATTERS ARISING

Litter pick-up: GP thanked everyone who took part in the litter pick-up, adding that it had made a big difference to the village. LK added that she had been in touch with the organisers of the Tour of the Borders to ensure that litter is collected at the end of the race and during any training runs before it.

03.05 BROADBAND

PG reported that BT had responded with a quote for the provision of superfast broadband into the village, which now amounted to £184,000. Mark Cullen, a member of the CC's broadband committee, added that he had been in contact with the planning officer at BT for clarification on some points of the quote. Mark said it now appeared that, due to regulatory changes, BT's quote included all digging, ducting and laying of cable to all properties apart from the three specified in the quote, Fruid Farm, Waterend Cottage and Talla Linfoots Farm. GP said this was great news and he believed this project was now achievable. The meeting agreed that Mark should now seek a face-to-face meeting with BT to identify the way forward.

PG added that the organisers of the Balquhiddy superfast scheme had been in touch, agreeing to a meeting with CC representatives - either on 10 May or 17 May. This community, in Stirlingshire, has recently completed a superfast installation of 200 homes for £300,000. The project was a community self dig and did not involve BT.

HA agreed to find out if Scottish Borders Council would be in a position to help with funding of the Tweedsmuir scheme - Stirlingshire council had awarded the Balquhiddy project £100,000 towards their costs.

04.05 SNOW BLOWER/GRIT BIN

PG reported that, as requested, he had carried out a survey of residents living along Kirk Road and the start of Talla Road to gauge their reaction to the purchase of a snow blower. PG said 12 homes had been contacted, with six responses, all positive and all offering to help with the operation of the blower. The meeting agreed that an application for funding should be progressed, but that it should include any costs for training, and that the training should be

cleared by the insurers. PG said Sarah Northcott had agreed to undertake the grant application and that he would contact Sarah about the way forward. PG also agreed to ask Sarah if it was still okay to site a grit bin outside her home, as offered last year, when a grit bin was discussed.

05.05 STATE OF THE ROADS

Resident Christine Parker (CP) said two people had contacted her about speeding on the Fruid Road, which has recently been relaid. The main concern was that it was a road dog walkers and cyclists use, and Christine suggested erecting a pedestrians-be-aware sign along the road.

BB said he had contacted David Richardson, of SBC roads department, pointing out that, despite his promise that repairs identified by BB in an earlier email would be carried out in four weeks, this had not been done. These repairs included potholes beyond the Jubilee Road on the Fruid Road, potholes from the A701 to Carlowse Bridge, and flooding on the Talla Road. PG added that the Talla Road was used for the Tour of Borders race in September and that, at present, the road was not safe to host that race. Christine Parker pointed out that the vintage tractor rally, on 26 May, also used the Talla Road, and the condition of the road would risk serious damage to the vehicles taking part in that rally. HA agreed to raise these points with the SBC roads department.

HA informed councillors that there had been a meeting of the four community councils in the area and SBC roads department, which had been very useful. She said there had been huge under investment over the years, but believed the meeting helped councillors understand the pressures the road department is presently under.

GP, who attended the meeting, described it as 'very positive', and reported that work was about to be undertaken on the A701, south of the village, but that no white lining would be carried out this financial year. He added that more remedial work had been carried out in the Tweedsmuir area than in many other areas in the Scottish Borders.

06.06 COMMUNITY PLAN

LK gave the following report to the meeting

Tweedsmuir Community Council continues to work with other groups in the area to progress the areas identified as priorities by the community.

Some examples of what has been achieved so far...

Road improvements – Fruid road, Talla repairs and A701 – ongoing work with SBC.

Community litter pick up – great efforts by those involved to clean up the A701, Talla and Fruid roads. Discussions with bike event organisers in the area have been productive and hopefully there will be less or no cycle-related litter from events this year. SBC supported the litter clean up and have removed rubbish deposited at the village crossroads.

Upgrading of community and visitors and increased use of facilities – improvements to the village hall building, furniture and parking area and new social events organised. Newly installed heated cabinets for AEDs at village hall and Dykehead (SSE Clyde windfarm).

Work is

progressing to develop the crossroads area for parking and information for residents and visitors.

Organised social events have proved popular and provided a great way for new and old neighbours to meet up. Feedback suggests more such events

would be welcomed. Suggestions and ideas from residents would be appreciated.

Broadband – a determined group of residents continue to work with BT Openreach. April 2018 – a revised quote for work to supply superfast broadband to premises along the A701 corridor in the Tweedsmuir area finally Received.

Transport and sustainable energy – presentation to TCC due at June 2018 meeting to explore options for developing community projects that will support use of sustainable energy possibly tying into community transport eg electric charging station.

Crook Inn – TCC continue to support work for the development of the Crook Inn. There are a number of priorities identified through the community consultation and detailed in the Community Action Plan. We encourage everyone to get involved in taking these forward. Get in touch with Tweedsmuir Community Council through email, phone, face to face, social media to find out what difference you can make to our community.

07.05 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT

GP said legal documents were being drawn up for the development and progress was being made.

08.05 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Councillors welcomed the planning application for new development at the Insch in the village.

09.05 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

Hazel Mason, youth bursary, for funds for a horse riding camp - £250 approved
Fergus Mason, youth bursary, for funds a multi-sports summer camp - £250, approved

10.05 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Heather Anderson gave the following report:

1 Saving the 101/ 102 bus service – I have started a petition – please circulate this and gather signatures – <https://chn.ge/2JR8Dsb> Please note that the service is not being axed – the re-tender process comes up every 5 years and there are 3 options – as is; as is without last service in evening and a third option including the removal of the Sunday service. There are also 2 options to expand existing services from Peebles via West Linton, Carlups and onto

Penicuik. Signing the petition will demonstrate the strength of demand – please visit my facebook page Heather Anderson SNP to sign or use this link directly <https://chn.ge/2JR8Dsb>

2 Consultation on a new Enterprise Agency for the South of Scotland
The aim is to establish this new Enterprise Agency, covering SBC and D & G by 2020 and the consultation is to gather people's views on what they think the agency should have powers to do. Here's the link - <https://consult.gov.scot/economic-policy-unit/new-enterprise-agency-for-the-south-of-scotland/>

3 Tweed Valley Tourism BID launched last week – key person to contact is Emma Guy – tweedvalleyemma@gmail.com to discuss future tourism plans

4 Peebles High School – reports in paper about PHS being at the back of the line for repair/rebuild – we are pushing hard to argue that SBC could invest some of their own capital to

ensure the High School is not left out of the next stage of the school estates programme – check Peeblesshire News

5 Early Learning and Childcare investment – Scottish Government have now ensured that SBC have all the funds they need to roll out the provision of FREE early learning and childcare provision for all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds. The roll out will include Broughton in January 2019. There is also provision to ensure the partner providers can be funded to enable them to pay the real living wage – there should also be an article in the Peeblesshire News

6 Consultation on Disability Strategy for the Borders – the deadline is 2 July

The link to the consultation is www.scotborders.gov.uk/physicaldisability and the consultation is open until 2 July 2018.

Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, the Integrated Joint Board and the third sector have drafted their strategy for improving support for people over the age of 16 with physical disability or long term conditions to enable them to live, contribute and thrive in the Scottish Borders. It aims to increase choices, support people to live independently and participate fully.

The strategy has 6 key ambitions for people with disabilities or long term conditions:

1 Support services should be designed and delivered to support all people to have control, make informed choices and have support to communicate at every stage of their lives.

2 People should be supported to participate fully in education and paid employment

3 Housing, transport and the physical and cultural environment should be designed and adapted to enable people to participate fully as equal citizens

4 People should feel confident that their rights will be protected and that they will receive fair treatment

5 Negative attitudes, stigma and discrimination must be addressed and social isolation must be reduced

6 Informal carers should be recognised and have rights as carers

30% of our population have one or more long term condition and 16% of respondents to household surveys identify themselves as having some form of physical disability. Many of us know or support someone with a physical disability.

Please take a few minutes to contribute your ideas to this strategy consultation to ensure we genuinely increase the quality of life, opportunities to contribute and community engagement of all people with physical disabilities and their carers. The strategy will only be as good as we make it.

12.05 CROOK INN

Duncan Davidson, chairman of the Tweedsmuir Community Company, said architects were in discussion with SBC regarding the planning application for the new cafe and bunkhouse on the Crook Inn site. He had that there was also a possibility that a part-time project manager would be appointed to help with grant applications.

13.05 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

GP thanked local photographer Kenny Martin for his talk on photography at the village hall on 27 April, which GP said was excellent.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Chairman's report:

We have come to the end of our third full year and again a very busy year for us all.

We eventually heard from Scottish Government that permission for Whitelaw Brae windfarm has now been granted and thanks to everyone who took part in the appeal process, which was quite an ordeal. We will now need to make full use of the benefits promised to our local community through existing and now this new windfarm community fund.

Broadband has been on the agenda each meeting. After an estimate of £150,000, the long awaited quote for supplying fibre to all premises came to an astronomical amount of £449,411 (exclusive of VAT), and I would like to thank the sub group for all their persistence over the many months. A request for the price to be reviewed, just received, came in at £184,177 (exclusive of VAT), and involves self dig at Talla and Fruid, and we now need to consider this proposal.

After many years and application to the timber transport fund, Scottish Borders Council match funded the recently completed relaying of Fruid Road from the crossroads to just above the Silver Jubilee road. The rapidly deteriorating condition of the A701 through the winter has caused damage to many vehicles. A meeting was arranged involving local community and council representatives, where we were told, basically, that SBC has no money. The road has been surveyed, potholes have been filled (April 2018) and there are planned roadworks for patching at the bends south of Tweedsmuir on 10 and 11 May when the road will be closed from 8.30am and 5pm each day. SBC said it is important to keep them notified of any problems either through the website or on 0300 100 1800.

The council developed a Community Action Plan with STAR development group when the whole community were asked to participate in developing a plan for the future of Tweedsmuir. The discussion event, held last July in Tweedsmuir hall, brought together old and new residents for a meal and the resulting plan has now been circulated to all, identifies our priorities for improvement and supports funding applications.

The resilient communities programme was put into action when we rescued three snow-bound Russians from the Beef Tub and put them up in the village hall for the night. The village was cut off for two days, and the council is looking into funds for a snow blower and sourcing an additional salt bin, Lesley Kirkwood is our coordinator and if you wish to help or have any problems, contact tweedsmuirresilientcommunity@gmail.com

Two public access defibrillators have now been provided at the hall and Dykehead. The cabinets are secured by codes which are given when phoning 999 in an emergency. Tweedsmuir and Upper Tweed Community First Responders are now full equipped and operational.

Our community litter pick-up was undertaken over a couple of weeks and resulted in a record amount of rubbish. Car parts, plastic bottles and cans being the most prevalent. The difference that we made is amazing.

Borders Forest Trust is developing a woodland plan for Gameshope and welcome anyone who wishes to become involved.

We welcomed new SBC Tweeddale West councillors, Heather Anderson, Kris Chapman and Eric Small and we look forward to their continued support.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors, SBC councillors and all the volunteers who give up their time and effort to make our community a better place to live

Treasurer's report:

Report for 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018.

The report comprises of 2 components:-

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

1. Introduction and explanation.

T.C.C.'s budget for financial year 2017/18 was derived from 4 main grant sources:- 1. Scottish Borders Council (S.B.C.)

2. Southern Scottish Electric (S.S.E.)

3. Infinis

4. Community and Renewable Energy Scheme(C.A.R.E.S.)

Details are as follows:-

1. S.B.C. made its single annual payment to T.C.C. of £920 for the financial year 2017/18. The payment of £920 has two components; a fixed Annual Support Grant (general expenses etc.) of £540 as well as a variable sum for re-payment for hall hire charges for meetings, since the number of meetings depend on local circumstances. As payment is made annually in arrears, the amount received for hall-hire in 2017/18 depended on the expenditure incurred in 2016/17 and as T.C.C.'s accounts showed the sum of £380 for the hall-hire, this amount was added by S.B.C. to the fixed grant of £540 giving a total of £920.

The sum actually spent this financial year was £360.23p (£110.23 for general expenses and £250 for hall-hire). As £920 was received, a surplus of £559.77 arose. This is partly due the hall not being used as much as it was when the £920 was calculated; to be precise the hall-hire figure was £130 less (£380 received and £250 spent). This will impact on the amount that S.B.C. will be making to T.C.C. for 2018/19 (as explained earlier). In addition to the annual grant of £540 there will be £250 paid for the hall-hire making a sum of £790.

So it is prudent when budgeting to only consider the Annual Support Grant figure of £540 as actual income. The sum received for hall-hire is simply an "in/out transaction" which, if not closely monitored, can cause a cash-flow issue due to income arriving yearly in arrears .

1. S.S.E. – In the 2017/18 financial year T.C.C. received £2,500 as a Youth bursary grant for them to administer and distribute. It spent a total of £1,425.20p leaving a balance of £1,074.80p which will be carried over to the next financial year.

T.C.C. has awarded £582.89 of the £1,000 received in January 2017 and has a balance of £417.11p for use as micro-grants.

T.C.C. also applied for a grant of £1,665.40p for the purchase and installation of two cabinets to house the 2 locally placed defibrillation machines and received the entire sum but still has £467.26p awaiting outstanding invoices from a third party.

1. Infinis – Although Infinis is an existing funder of T.C.C. and made available £1,000 in the 2016/17 financial year, it was not possible for T.C.C. to seek funds during the 2017/18 financial year because it as it had not spent at least 75% of previous year's allocation. As this is the pre-requisite amount stated in a clause in the Infinis award-letter, it meant that even though £690 was spent it was 6% short of the £750 (75%) sum needed. As a result

there remains a balance of £310. Once the figure of £750 is met or exceeded a request will be made to Infinis to release more funds to a maximum of £1,000.

1. Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (C.A.R.E.S) – This was the source of a grant of £9,950 for the Tweedsmuir Community Action Plan – an initiative set up by the T.C.C. which cost £9,978. The slight overspend of £28 was covered by the general budget of the T.C.C.

NB Grants from S.S.E. and Infinis cover a 12-month period from award which may be different to the S.B.C. and T.C.C. financial year period of April to March.

Summary of Income v Expenditure.

Income from the above 4 sources.....£15,035.40p Expenditure by the above 4 sources£13,101.57p

Balance –

(i)
(ii)
(iii) £1,933.83p (iv)

Amount carried over from previous financial year.....£721.79p (v) Amount “ “ “ current “ “£2,655.62p

1. Detailed breakdown of accounts by income and expenditure – please see attached.

The detailed accounts for the financial year ending the 31st March 2018 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 following page.

Finally, I declare these accounts to be accurate and although have yet to be signed-off by the Independent examiner, no changes are anticipated. 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

Change of constitution

Councillors agreed that the constitution should be amended to show that the council would meet only ten times in a year, with no meetings in July and January.

Election of office bearers

ES then took the chair for the election of office bearers and councillors

GP re-elected as chairman - proposed, PG; seconded, LK
BB re-elected as treasurer and vice chairman - proposed, CP; seconded, GP PG re-elected as secretary - proposed, GP; seconded, CP

LM, RG and LK re-elected on block - proposed, GP; seconded, BB

Mark Cullen co-opted on to the council - proposed, BP; seconded, PG

All councillors agreed to abide by the SBC's code of conduct.

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

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir
Village Hall, on Thursday, 7 June 2018 (7.30pm)**

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) and 4 members of the public.

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

01.06 APOLOGIES

Eric Small (Scottish Borders Councillor), Heather Anderson (Scottish Borders Councillor), Kris Chapman (Scottish Borders Councillor), Nicola Craig (police representative), Mark Cullen (Tweedsmuir Community Council)

02.06 MATTERS ARISING

None

03.06 RENEWABLE SCHEME FOR TWEEDSMUIR

Tweedsmuir resident Simon Goldfinch accompanied by colleague Dr Tom Grassie, a senior lecturer in renewable energy at Napier University, gave a presentation on the possible renewable power schemes suitable for the village. A copy of the presentation is attached.

GP thanked both Simon and Dr Grassie for their attendance, and the meeting expressed interest in continuing with this research. It was suggested that windfarm monies could be applied for to help with the project, and PG agreed to contact Simon to discuss a way forward.

04.06 BROADBAND

PG reported that an extremely useful meeting had been held with Steve Johnstone, of BT, with regard to the superfast scheme set for Tweedsmuir. GP, who had attended the meeting, said the project was now very much do-able, and councillors agreed that the way forward should be to send out a letter to all residents, inviting them to a public meeting at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Friday, 29 June (7:30pm). PG said that the broadband committee would meet shortly to make arrangements. It was also agreed that a £100 microgrant should be sought by the TCC to fund light refreshments at the meeting.

05.06 PURCHASE OF SNOW BLOWER

PG reported that he had forwarded on Simon Goldfinch's credentials as a possible trainer in the use of the snow blower to the insurers, but was awaiting a response. PG added that a site for a new grit bin along Kirk Road had now been identified, and that he would contact SBC to decide on the way forward.

06.06 STATE OF THE ROADS

GP reported that all of the potholes on the village roads had now been repaired and thanked SBC for undertaking this work. LM added that the flooding problem along the Talla Road had also been addressed, but that the poor drainage along the road to Carlowse Bridge had still to be rectified.

LK reported that there was erosion occurring underneath the A701, opposite the entrance to Oliver House, which, given the heavy haulage using the road, posed a potential danger. PG promised to bring this matter to the attention of SBC.

07.06 SOURCE OF THE TWEED MONUMENT

On Friday 4 May, a meeting was held at the monument with Mr David Younger, Tweedsmuir CC representatives Paul Greaves and Brian Bushell, SBC councillor Heather Anderson and SBC official Elaine Nicol. The meeting had been called by Mr Younger, who has become increasingly concerned about the state of the monument. At the meeting there was much discussion about the cleaning of it and undertaking basic maintenance round the site to cut back overgrown vegetation etc, and Councillor Anderson asked whether the community council would be prepared to take on this project, given its access to windfarm monies. PG said that it was unclear who owned the site, and GP added that his understanding was that the TCC would have to take on ownership in order to apply for windfarm grants. Councillors agreed that they would be willing to take on the cleaning of the monument, but that SBC would probably be more suitable to take on any development at the site. PG said he would pass on the TCC's comments to councillor Anderson.

08.06 COMMUNITY PLAN

GP said most of the items in the plan were now being progressed.

09.06 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT

GP reported that a meeting was due to be arranged with the landowner to move the project on.

10.06 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

11.06 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

None

12.06 POLICE REPORT

On May 13, a motorcyclist was fatally injured on the A701 near Tweedshaws. No rural thefts reported.

13.06 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No councillor was in attendance

14.06 CROOK INN

DD reported that architects were in discussion with the SBC's planning department regarding the new development of a cafe and bunkhouse at the site, and that a planning application would be submitted shortly. DD added that a grant had been obtained to finance a company to help with funding applications and monies were also now available for a project manager, working two days a week.

15.06 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Database: PG reported that, under new data regulations, the TCC was obliged to contact each household on the database, giving residents the opportunity to be removed from it, should they so wish. PG said this must be done every year. The

meeting agreed PG should send out an email to the database as soon as possible, and that this should be done every year just before the annual meeting.

Glenkerie windfarm: LM said two more members were needed for the windfarm panel, with organisers hoping to attract young people to join as well as being keen that Tweedsmuir should add to its representation.

Talla Linns: Drains on the side of the road, which had been cleared by a local resident in the past, were now blocked again. GP said this would be reported to SBC

Rubbish: PG said that some of the rubbish from the recent litter pick-up had still to be collected from the crossroads. PG agreed to contact SBC about this.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer informed the meeting that the 2107/18 Accounts had passed inspection by the Independent Examiner, Katie Miller and had been submitted and approved by SBC.

The expenditure for the 1st Quarter ending 31st of June is as follows:-

£500.00p - 2 applications of £250 each to the SSE Youth bursary

£17.99p - internet host fees

£170.40p - installation of one de-fib.cabinet at the village hall

£26.50p – bin bags, gloves etc for annual clean-up exercise

£714.89p TOTAL

At the next meeting in August a table will be submitted showing expenditure v allocation for the entire budget.

The next meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council will be held on Thursday, 2 August, 2018 (7:30pm). Please note there is no meeting in Jul

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, 2 August 2018 (7.30pm)

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, Heather Anderson (HA, SBC councillor), Eric Small (ES, SBC councillor), Tweedsmuir Community Company) and 3 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 7 June were approved 01.08 APOLOGIES

None

02.08 MATTERS ARISING

None

03.08 BROADBAND

PG reported that, as of 2 August, the community had raised £90,500 through the Gigabit Voucher scheme towards the cost of the BT Openreach superfast broadband scheme (£184,177). This sum is made up of the following:
25 business vouchers@£3,000 per voucher £75,000

31 residential vouchers@£500 per voucher £15,500

Total £90,500

Shortfall (to be raised from remaining 21 responses and from external funding) £93,677

PG also reported that the council's broadband sub-committee is currently:
a Regarding the self-dig element of the project (Fruid and Talla Linns), planning to obtain consent from the landowners for contractors to access their land to lay the ducting/fibre . We hope to have all permissions in place by 15 September
b Preparing a tender for the self dig to distribute to several contractors by 15 August. In discussion with BT Openreach regarding the tender spec.
c Preparing applications to go before SSE and Glenkerie windfarm funding panels in October, with decisions expected in December.
d Preparing a prospectus which will accompany all applications to grant bodies

PG asked both HA and ES if the SBC would consider undertaking the self-dig part of the project on behalf of the community. HA said she would contact the relevant department at SBC to investigate this possibility. HA also suggested that the new South of Scotland Enterprise Agency might be able to point the council in the direction of further funding opportunities.

04.08 SOURCE OF THE TWEED MONUMENT

HA reported that the SBC had no responsibility for the site, according to its legal department. HA said that this opened up options for the administration and improvement of the site, including the possibility of the community council adopting it. She added that an information board was required, perhaps to be sited at the back of the monument, and that a bin for rubbish collection should also be sited there. HA thanked the council for cleaning the monument, and said she would now investigate accessing the Scenic Route Fund for money to undertake improvements.

05.08 SNOW BLOWER

PG reported that he had forwarded on local resident Simon Goldfinch's credentials as a possible trainer in the use of the snow blower to the insurers, and that they had responded: **"Our policy will cover the Public Liability aspect of this Snow Blower. We would expect that any person using this has appropriate experience/training to use the equipment."**

Further help from the department that deals with insurance for community councils in the Scottish Borders, had suggested that :

- 1 Trainees should sign a waiver of any claim
- 2 All training should be documented

3 Simon Goldfinch should sign off on any training

PG also reported that he had attempted to find other options regarding snow blower training, and had found one from a company in England. They proposed training for eight residents, but at a cost of £3,500.

Councillors agreed to go ahead with an application to the windfarms for the cost of the snow blower and to accept Simon Goldfinch as trainer in the event of a successful bid.

RG, who has snow-clearing equipment on his farm at Hearthstanes, had also offered to help with snow clearance in the area and LM asked if the council could contact SBC to make them aware of this resource. PG agreed to contact SBC in this regard.

06.08 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT

GP reported that prices for the groundworks had been provided and that the project was close to an application for funding. GP also asked for volunteers to form a committee to help take the development forward.

07.08 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Blacklaw Cottage - Ref. No: 18/00631/FUL.- Approved

08.08 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

SSE, Youth bursary: Callum and Vicky White, Carlowse, Tweedsmuir, £75 for son to attend football camp: Approved.

09.06 POLICE REPORT

See attached

10.06 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A701: Cllr Heather Anderson led representatives from the four Community Councils in a round table Discussion on the state of the A701 with officers from the SBC roads department.

Cllr Anderson is also keen to attract funding to develop the A701 as a real tourist route to Edinburgh and create more jobs. "This road has a great story to tell and interesting places to stop – including the source of the Tweed and conservation villages like West Linton".

Village Centre: Following a shock announcement that West Linton Village Centre was to close, Cllr Anderson is delighted that a very active group of Lintonians are working to come up with a plan to ensure this much-loved hall remains a village asset.

Business development: Cllr Anderson is working with officers to try to secure more sites for businesses and economic development in Tweeddale West. If you are looking for work space or have space you can contact Cllr Anderson at 0300 100 0220 or

Heather.Anderson@scotborders.gov.uk

High School: In October Scottish Borders Council will decide which High Schools will be rebuilt or substantially refurbished. In the first round of consultation, Peebles came third despite being nearly at capacity. Cllr Anderson, who led the opposition budget team, said "We allocated £32.3m funds to ensure that at least 3 High Schools could be rebuilt over the next 10 years. Peebles has to be one of those schools. This shouldn't be a popularity contest – Peebles is a priority!"

Local bus service: Over 3,460 people signed Councillor Anderson's petition in support of the local 101/102 bus service connecting Dumfries, West Linton and Edinburgh – that's over 30% of the Tweeddale West population! Cllr Heather Anderson, explained "Scottish Borders Council reduced the bus subsidy by £100,000, but whatever happens, we will continue to fight to protect and improve, not reduce, vital local bus services".

Universal Credit: Cllr Heather Anderson and Christine Grahame MSP visited Job Centre Plus in Galashiels to find out if staff are prepared for the introduction of Universal Credit in Scottish Borders. Across Scotland people have experienced real hardship, with up to 52% being worse off. Every person who claims universal credit must travel to Galashiels for an Identity Verification Interview. Cllr Anderson is worried that people might not get the support they need to make the first on-line claim and manage to travel to Galashiels for the interview.

"Public transport from this side of the Borders is extremely limited and expensive and travel costs are not reimbursed. That's why we argued for new Universal Credit Officers to assist with claims and we will continue to campaign against Scottish Borders Council cuts to vital welfare rights and Citizens Advice services".

11.06 CROOK INN

DD, chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company, reported that a grant had been awarded to the TCC from the Holyrood government's Strengthening Communities Fund.

This would be used to:

1 Contract Jura Consultants to help with the business plan and to raise funding for the new cafe and bunkhouse

2 To employ a part-time project manager for six months, although this may be extended.

12.06 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Windfarm: GP reported that he had received a letter from e.on regarding their plans to build a windfarm at Daer Reservoir, South Lanarkshire. E-on have now received planning permission to erect two masts at the site and again asked if anyone from the council would be willing to attend a proposed Community Liaison Group.

Village hall: A night of entertainment and food, featuring the group Jellyman's Daughter, was being arranged by the Tweedsmuir Community Company in conjunction with Eastgate Theatre for November.

The next meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council will be held on Thursday, 6 September, 2018 (7:30pm).

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, 7 September 2018 (7.30pm)

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, 3 October 2018 (7.30pm)

Present: Gavin Parker (GP, chairman), Paul Greaves (PG, secretary), Lesley Kirkwood (LK), Lesley Mason (LM), Ralph Glatt (RG). Duncan Davidson (DD, chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company), Heather Anderson (HA, SBC councillor), Eric Small (ES, SBC councillor), Bruce Clarke, new community company project officer, and 3 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 7 September were approved 01.10
APOLOGIES

Community councillors Mark Cullen and Brian Bushell, police representative Nicola Craig.

02.10 MATTERS ARISING

PG reported that a suggestion made by LM that all laybys should include a sign urging people to take their litter home had been welcomed by Jason Hedley, of SBC, who was exploring ways that this could be put into operation.

03.10 BROADBAND

PG reported that verification emails from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport should now have been sent out to all residents regarding the Gigabit Voucher scheme, with BT Openreach promising to keep the broadband committee abreast of residents who had responded. PG also reported that the committee had submitted an initial application to Glenkerie wind farm for funding for the project, and was now awaiting the all-clear to go ahead with a full application. The deadline for this would be January 18, with a decision in March. An application to the SEE windfarm fund would be made before the deadline of 24 October. A decision would be made by SSE in December.

The committee has also arranged a meeting with Duncan Nisbet, of R100, the Scottish Government's scheme to bring superfast broadband to all of Scotland. Mr Nisbet has welcomed the Tweedsmuir project and is seeking to align R100 with it. PG said the committee had also received a number of letters of support, including from Westminster MP David Mundell and SBC councillors Heather Anderson and Eric Small. PG thanked them all for their backing.

04.10 SNOW BLOWER

PG reported that the council had been successful in its bid for funding from SSE, but were waiting for the monies to arrive before proceeding with the purchase of the snow blower. PG thanked SSE for its decision.

05.10 SOURCE OF THE TWEED

HA reported that SBC had submitted a bid for funds to the Borderlands Initiative, a cross-council project to encourage growth, and if successful, money would be made available to upgrade the site. GP said the council would strongly support any bid for funding, but reasserted that the council would not be keen to adopt the site. The council, however, would be prepared to undertake cleaning and tidying duties there.

06.10 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT

GP said that this was slowly moving forward but that any bids for funding were taking a back seat because of the broadband project.

07.10 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

None

LM reported that the distribution of a free copy of the Upper Tweed Community Council News to every household in the area had been a great success and that the News was planning to repeat this every September, the issue that includes the local directory. Each community council in the area was now being asked if it would contribute to funding this project. Councillors agreed that this would be a good idea and that a windfarm application would be the best way forward.

08.10 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A701: ES reported that the A701 would be closed from 15 October for five days from Romanno Bridge to Mountain Cross for resurfacing work. PG asked why there was a need to close the road altogether when most resurfacing projects included keeping half the road open with a traffic-light system to control traffic. HS said she would contact SBC for clarification.

Forestry: ES reported that the Scottish Government was looking to increase commercial forestry in the Scottish Borders and is planning to talk with stakeholders in any areas earmarked for development. GP said this might be a good time to urge that the forestry industry sets up community funds aka wind-farm development to enable communities to realise some benefit from forestry activity.

Speedwatch scheme: Upper Tweed Community Council has expressed an interest in becoming the first pilot for this scheme in which the speed of traffic would be monitored by a

villager or villagers at the side of the road using a hand-held camera, with footage used by police to prosecute anyone travelling over the speed limit.

Single public authority: HA reported that plans to merge SBC with NHS Borders into a single public authority had been scrapped following the resignation of the chief of NHS Borders. **Buses:** HA said she had attended a public meeting in West Linton protesting at the cuts to the 101 service. However, HA reported that SBC was refusing to give any further funding and that plausibility of a taxi service was now being investigated by the protest group.

09.10 CROOK INN

DD introduced Bruce Clarke, who has been appointed as the new project officer for Tweedsmuir Community Company. Bruce will help take the Crook Inn, and other community initiatives, forward.

The community company's annual meeting will be held at the village hall on 25 October, 7:30pm, when the new vision for the Crook site will be discussed. Present at the meeting will be Paul Jardine, of Jura consultants. Jura has been commissioned by the community company to help raise funds and formulate a business plan for the proposed new cafe and bunkhouse on the site.

10.10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Halloween party: Tweedsmuir's Halloween Party is being held at the village hall on 27 October. **Broughton shop:** A very successful meeting was held in Broughton on 12 September, and residents of Upper Tweed were now being asked whether they would be willing to take part in a community share scheme at www.broughtonvillagestore.co.uk

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir Village Hall, on Thursday, 1 November 2018 (7.30pm)

Present: Gavin Parker (GP, chairman), Brian Bushell (BB, treasurer and vice chairman), Paul Greaves (PG, secretary), Mark Cullen (MC), Lesley Mason (LM), Ralph Glatt (RG), Duncan Davidson (DD, chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company), Heather Anderson (HA, SBC councillor), Eric Small (ES, SBC councillor) and 2 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 3 October were approved 01.11 APOLOGIES

Community councillor Lesley Kirkwood and police representative Nicola Craig.

02.11 MATTERS ARISING

None

03.11 BROADBAND

MC reported that the broadband committee had held two meetings over the past month, with Duncan Nisbet, of R100, and a representative from a company which offered an alternative solution - wireless - to the self-dig part of the project. With the latter, a further site meeting was planned to see if the solution was possible. MC said the meeting with Mr Nisbet had been very promising and that he had subsequently sent a letter of support for the council's project.

PG reported that the initial application to Glenkerie had been approved, which meant the committee could now submit a full application in January, with a decision expected in March. He added a full application had now been submitted to SSE, with a decision due in early December. Regarding the voucher scheme, PG was still awaiting an updated list of those residents who had verified their pledges, but was hopeful most had now been completed.

04.11 CHANGE WORKS

GP reported that Change Works was a new venture in Peebles to offer people advice on their heating bills and ways to insulate their homes. The organisation wanted to make a presentation to Tweedsmuir residents. Councillors agreed that this would be a good idea and that the meeting should be held out with the normal community council meetings.

05.11 SOURCE OF THE TWEED

HA said there was little to report, although she was seeking a meeting with Mark Rowley, portfolio holder for Rural Economic Development at SBC, to discuss the monument.

06.11 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT

GP said this development was taking a back seat as the council's main thrust was broadband provision, but that details and costings were being sought for what was planned for the crossroads, including a bus shelter and new signage board.

07.11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. Alterations and single storey extension to dwellinghouse The Toll House Tweedsmuir Scottish Borders ML12 6QS Ref. No: 18/01454/FUL |
2. Partial demolition, alterations and extension of existing inn building, change

of use and alteration of existing outbuilding into cafe, office and ancillary facilities, erection of bunkhouse and biomass boiler outbuilding together with infrastructure, amenity and landscaping works

Crook Inn Hotel Tweedsmuir Biggar Scottish Borders ML12 6QN

Ref. No: 18/01342/FUL

3. Internal and external alterations

Crook Inn Hotel Tweedsmuir Biggar Scottish Borders ML12 6QN

Ref. No: 18/01333/LBC

All applications were approved by the community council

Cor Water forestry planting: GP said the council had received details of this replanting plan. Councillors agreed that there were no objections to the plan, as it was simply replacing existing forestry. However, it was agreed to write a letter to the Forestry Commission, asking for the introduction of community funds where new commercial forestry takes place. This would be in line with present policy regarding new wind farms.

08.11 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

Community News: Application for £188 in order that the Upper Tweed Community News (four issues) could be distributed free to all Tweedsmuir residents over the next 12 months - **approved**.

Paramedic equipment: Application for £198 from resident John Burnham to go towards the cost of equipment to help with his mountain rescue duties - **approved**.

Broughton Farmers Dance: Application for £250 for hire of Broughton Village Hall - **Deferred until next month**.

09.11 POLICE REPORT

No rural thefts

No reports of speeding or accidents

Housebreaking - West Linton: Between 9 and 10 October persons entered a secure property at The Smith, West Linton, and removed two sets of vehicle keys and then stole both vehicles from the driveway

09.11 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Food and farming meeting: HS reported that SBC was planning to hold a meeting in January next year for all stakeholders in food and farming to discuss the future.

Brexit: HS said SBC had promised a full report into the impact on the Scottish Borders of a no-deal Brexit. This would be available this month.

A701: ES said work on the A701 - from Romanno Bridge to Mountain Cross - had now been completed.

Rubbish collection: ES reported that SBC had discussed changing rubbish collection to a three-week cycle, but nothing had been agreed as yet.

10.10 CROOK INN

DD reported that Tweedsmuir Community Company had held a very well-attended annual meeting in which there were presentations by Jura Consultants, the architects WTA and the new project officer for the Crook Inn development, Bruce Clarke.

The planning application for new bunkhouse and cafe was now with SBC and a decision was expected early in the new year.

10.10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Snowblower: BB reported that the council was still awaiting monies from SSE for the snow blower.

Christmas tree: Resident Christine Parker there had been an offer of a Christmas tree for the Crook Inn grounds and asked if the council would consider funding, via a windfarm grant, for solar lights for the tree. Councillors agreed this was an excellent idea and agreed Christine should progress the project.

Next meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council will be held on 6 December at the village hall (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.