

# Tweedsmuir Community Council

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## **Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 (7.00pm), Tweedsmuir Village Hall and via Zoom**

**Present:** Gavin Parker (GP, Chair), Brian Bushell (Treasurer), Debbie Cullen (Secretary), Lesley Mason (LM), Mark Cullen (MC), Ralph Glatt (RG), Drummond Begg (Scottish Borders Councillor), and 6 members of the public.

### **01.09 WELCOME and APOLOGIES**

None received.

### **02.09 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Accepted as correct.

### **03.09 MATTERS ARISING**

- **RG** reported that he had recently been contacted by a company recently appointed to explore the siting of a Radio mast at Talla. They had requested details of previous correspondence relating to this matter.
- **LM** reported having received an application form regarding membership of the Biggar Medical Practice Patient Group.

### **04.09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

None received.

### **05.08 TREASURER'S REPORT**

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Treasurers-report-September-2022.pdf>

- **LM** queried whether BB had received an invoice from Tweedsmuir Community Company for the SSE Community Action Plan Funding. BB reported having been invoiced for the Community Development hours but not the costs associated with STAR consulting.
- After discussion it was agreed that the costs associated with the Community Action Plan feedback event that had taken place at the weekend would be covered from TCC funds.
- Following a discussion re: the Ventient Micro-grant funding it was agreed that clarification be sought from Ventient regarding the requirement to use the monies currently within the Ventient Covid-19 grant to support micro-grant awards, before applying for a micro-grant 'top up'.
- **LM** queried whether an application should once again be made to SBC for the 'Path Maintenance Grant'. It was agreed that an application be made.

#### **Action:**

- **LM** to clarify the situation regarding Ventient micro-grant funding.
- Christine Parker (**CP**), Treasurer of Tweedsmuir Village Hall Committee, to submit invoice for the Community Feedback event to **BB**.
- **LM** to submit grant application re: 'Path maintenance'.

## **06.09 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS**

- **LM** and **DC** reported that the e-bike trial had been a success with most hire slots filled. A request for a further 2 hire slots had to be declined as the preferred sessions were full. Positive feedback had been received from those who hired bikes.

## **07.09 POLICE REPORT**

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Tweeddale-East-and-West-August-2022.docx>

It was noted that within the report is a link to a public consultation currently taking place regarding policing priorities for 2022/23.

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

**DB** highlighted -

- the forthcoming Merlin Conference and the potential implications for interest in Merlin related events, locations etc. on local tourism.
- the 'Get on Board to Save our Busses' campaign. Although the issues relating to the A702 bus route may not directly impact upon local residents, people are encouraged to apply for bus passes available for those under 22 and over 60. The bus service has been secured until the end of March 2023, but it is vital to demonstrate use of the service over the next few months in order to help secure future provision.

It was noted that as part of a 3-month trial SBC councillors were currently rotating their attendance across SBC's Community Councils. Councillors are meeting weekly to update and share information and where necessary individual councillors would attend individual Community Council meetings to address specific issues.

## **09.09 CROOK INN**

**LM** reported that –

- a plan is being developed to open the The Wee Crook for community events and 'pub nights' on various dates over the next few months.
- work on the garden is continuing on Wednesday evenings 7-8.30pm until the end of September. Over the autumn/winter months a program of monthly (last Friday of the month) indoor sessions is being planned – details to follow.
- Work on the Mural is progressing. It is hoped that the mural will be completed and in place by the end of September. Anyone able to help, applying second and third coats of paint (no artistic skill required) would be very welcome on Tuesday evenings at 7pm in Tweedsmuir Village Hall.

## **10.09 COMMUNITY UPDATE**

**LM** reported that –

- Community Views Surveys were distributed to 86 households, 75 responses were received.
- A feedback event was held on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August informing of the results of the Survey and providing an opportunity for members of the community to vote on their priorities from the issues raised. The display will be available at the Crook on Saturday evening (Quiz night) to enable anyone else who wishes to do so to view the feedback and vote on priorities.

## **11.09 CONSULTATIONS**

None received.

## 12.09 TWEEDSMUIR VILLAGE SAFETY PLAN

Rob Orr (**RO**), local resident, leading on this matter was not in attendance. He had however, informed prior to the TCC meeting that a Tweedsmuir Village Safety Plan is now under consideration and that the Tweedsmuir Village Safety Plan committee will be in touch with residents within the village, shortly, for feedback.

A number of queries regarding the plan were raised by Community Councillors.

In response **MC** reported having met with **RO** and **RG** during the past week to discuss the plan and it was his understanding that -

- the plan covers only the properties directly adjacent to the crossroads
- consideration is being given, by **RO**, to the siting of CCTV at the crossroads. **MC** had outlined his understanding of the legalities of such proposed surveillance and that if pursued in the way being suggested, such surveillance could only be undertaken by SBC or Police Scotland. It could also be anticipated that any such proposals would be subject to wider consultation. **MC** confirmed that TCC had received no request/mandate from the community to pursue the installation of CCTV.
- **RG** reported having carried out some preliminary enquiries regarding the 'Rural Watch Scheme' which could be considered.

## 13.09 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**LM** reported that despite the best efforts for those involved, it appears that some members of the community, and visitors to the area, are often unaware of activities and events taking place in and around Tweedsmuir. An attempt has therefore been made to identify the best place to keep such information and make it accessible to those seeking it.

After discussion with various parties, it was been agreed that the tweedsmuir.scot website, hosted by the Tweedsmuir Community Company, may be a suitable repository. At least once a month information about forthcoming events could be added to the website and would then be accessible to anyone.

The TCC minutes, rather than listing events, often with an indication that details are to follow, will now contain the link to where up to date information can be found. This link is <https://www.tweedsmuir.scot/events/>. The information can also be found by going onto the Tweedsmuir.scot website - on the Home page, click on the 'What's On' tab, then click on 'For all events click here'. This will take you to a page listing forthcoming events in and around Tweedsmuir.

Access to this list will complement and consolidate, not replace existing methods of communication e.g. Facebook, posters on noticeboards, emails, Community News and occasional direct mailings.

If you have any events you would like added to the list on the website please email them to the Tweedsmuir Community Council Secretary.

## 14.09 A.O.B.

**Forestry Update:** **RG** informed that -

- the stalking season is about to start. The red flag and red padlock system will be in use to make everyone aware when deer management is in progress. As daylight hours reduce night stalking will start. This is defined as shooting taking place 1hr after dusk and 1hr before dawn. Anyone legitimately carrying out night stalking will be licensed, and Police Scotland will be aware. Anyone with concerns re: illegal stalking locally should not approach those involved but contact either **RG** or the Police.
- Scottish Forestry has identified Phytophthora ramorum (sudden larch death) in a few trees just south of the northern Jubilee Road at Menzion.  
[https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/BiosecurityZcard\\_A4\\_Forestry.pdf](https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/BiosecurityZcard_A4_Forestry.pdf),

[https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/STH22\\_0671\\_Positive\\_site\\_map.pdf](https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/STH22_0671_Positive_site_map.pdf)

The disease has been spreading towards Tweedsmuir from Dumfries & Galloway, and most of the larch in Oliver Forest have already been infected and felled. A Statutory Plant Health Notice will be issued and the Menzion larch trees will have to be felled.

Anyone walking, jogging, and riding a bike or horse in the area should disinfect footwear, tyres, vehicle wheel arches and/or hooves, especially if one has passes lots of larch needles on the forest roads.

Attached Q & A info regarding P ramorum. [Q&A on P ramorum management policy 2021 \(3\).pdf](#)

The disease can affect larch, oak, chestnut, beech, sycamore, cherry, ash and birch.

- **LM** informed that new vehicle gates had been installed at Hawkshaw but wondered whether the landowners could be approached about installing a pedestrian gate.
- **LM** reported that it appeared that someone had tried, with a quadbike, to access Oliver Forest possibly to take wood. LM had been unable to contact the landowner and enquired as to whether anyone had their contact details.

#### **Actions:**

- **RG** to enquire about someone able to come and speak to the community about Phytophthora and actions needed
- **RG** to try and obtain contact details for owners of land at Hawkshaw and Oliver Forest
- SBC have circulated information about where people can obtain free food supplies and other advice. <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Flyer-Tweeddale.pdf>
- National Power of Attorney Day is on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – info can be found at [mypowerofattorney.org.uk](http://mypowerofattorney.org.uk)
- **BB** reported there had been an unexpected and significant rise in the cost of the web hosting for the Community Council website. As these increased payments had continued automatically there had been a corresponding unexpected increase in spending against the associated budget line. However, on investigation and following price comparison it appears that the increased price is now the market rate, and this increased cost will therefore be ongoing.

Local resident Sarah Northcott who has for many years been involved in managing the Community Council's website has recently requested to step down her involvement. Thanks were expressed to Sarah for her support with this activity.

Going forward Andrew Mason has agreed to take on this role.

**The next meeting will take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022  
at 7pm in Tweedsmuir Village Hall & via zoom**

**If you have any agenda items, please forward to the Secretary**

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[WWW.TWEEDSMUIRCOMMUNITYCOUNCIL.ORG.UK](http://WWW.TWEEDSMUIRCOMMUNITYCOUNCIL.ORG.UK)    **CONTACT:** TWEEDSMUIRSECRETARY@OUTLOOK.COM

Chair: Gavin Parker    Treasurer: Brian Bushell    Secretary: Debbie Cullen

Other Councillors: Lesley Mason; Mark Cullen; Ralph Glatt;

Resilient Communities contact : Lesley Kirkwood