

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) on Thursday 6th October 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), Eric Small (Scottish Borders Councillor), and 5 members of the public. Also in attendance Daphni Nianiaka (**DN**), Tree Health Officer Scottish Forestry (South Scotland) and her colleague.

01.10 WELCOME and APOLOGIES

GP welcomed Daphni Nianiaka (**DN**), Tree Health Officer Scottish Forestry (South Scotland) and her colleague to the meeting

Daphni -

- gave a presentation re: local confirmed and suspected outbreak of Phytophthora Ramorum (P Ramourum – Sudden larch death)
- played a short video showing the work of Scottish Forestry in the identification and management of P Ramourum and other diseases
- answered questions regarding the management – signage and biosecurity measures, of the current outbreak in Tweedsmuir

Comprehensive information regarding P Ramourum can be found at -

<https://forestry.gov.scot/sustainable-forestry/tree-health/tree-pests-and-diseases/phytophthora-ramorum> and biosecurity at -
<https://forestry.gov.scot/sustainable-forestry/tree-health/keep-it-clean>

Thanks were extended to **DN** and her colleague for attending the meeting and providing comprehensive and accessible information regarding this serious issue.

ES reported having found the information useful and felt awareness of this issue should be raised within SBC.

Action:

DC to forward **DN**'s contact details to **ES**

*Following the meeting **RG** confirmed that warning/information signs (see link below) would be posted at the entrance gates to Menzion, Cockiland and Hearthstones. When supplies arrive, water tubs and brushes will be provided.*

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/SF-RAMORUM-EWG-221007.pdf>

02.10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Accepted as correct.

03.10 MATTERS ARISING

None.

04.10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- Formation of a Forestry Track - see agenda for link.
GP informed that a site visit had recently taken place between himself, a local resident and Charlotte Cavey Wilcox (**CCW**) representative from Scottish Woodlands regarding the above application. The resident is concerned that the proposed track will pass directly above their water supply and as yet no detailed plans have been presented regarding maintaining the security of this supply.

GP reported that community councillors would discuss whether, in view of the resident's concerns, a formal objection to this planning application, from TCC would be submitted.

Action:

- **TCC** to consider the need to submit a formal objection to this planning application and action as appropriate.
- **RG** reported having been approached by developers regarding the siting of a radio mast on the Silver Jubilee Road, in the vicinity of Talla. **RG** had stressed the need to engage with the community regarding any proposal, before progressing a formal planning application.

05.10 TREASURER'S REPORT

This report can be found at <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Treasurers-Report-Oct-22.pdf>

06.10 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

- **Gardening Group winter programme** – Application to SSE Microgrant for £250 from Caroline Mathias – **Approved**
- **LM** reported that following email correspondence within the TCC, a pair of loppers have been purchased in anticipation of receipt of the SBC pathway grant.

07.10 POLICE REPORT

This can be found at - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Tweeddale-East-and-West-September-2022.pdf>

08.10 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

ES reported on -

- a recent visit to the newly completed High School campus at Jedburgh. The rebuild of Peebles High School to have a similar design.
- an update on the review into Electric Vehicle (EV) charging was due soon
- the current rota arrangement of SBC councillors attendance across SBC's Community Councils appear to be working well and will continue

Action:

ES to circulate information re: EV charging when received.

Now received and can be found at

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/EV-Overview-APWG-4-Oct-22-V1.pdf>

09.10 CROOK INN

LM reported that -

- the Crook has been opening on most Friday and Saturday evenings.
- Wednesday evening gardening sessions have now ceased. Indoor Gardening Group events will be taking place on the last Friday of the month. Outdoor gardening activities e.g., tree planting etc. will be scheduled through the winter months. Information can be found via the link under item 18. 'Forthcoming Events'.

10.10 COMMUNITY UPDATE

LM reported that several grant applications have been made and outcomes are awaited. Concern was expressed that the deadline for SBC grant applications and the period by which any funds awarded must be spent are becoming increasingly short.

This can make it difficult for organisations to participate in the application process and necessitates a focus on the purchasing of 'kit' rather than more innovative or longer-term projects.

11.10 COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The final plan is now at the final proof-reading stage. It is hoped the printed plan will be available by the end of November 2022. Copies will be delivered to each household and will also be available to view/download from the Community Council website.

Thanks were again extended to everyone who took the time to respond to the survey and attended the follow up events.

12.10 CONSULTATIONS

Proposal for a National Park in the Scottish Borders. See agenda for link to documents. A brief discussion took place regarding the potential merits and disbenefits of this proposal. Views are being sought from individuals and Community Councils with a deadline for responses of 15th November 2022.

Action:

DC to draft a TCC response and circulate to councillors.

13.10 TWEEDSMUIR VILLAGE SAFETY PLAN

MC gave a brief overview of the history of this project. Since the last TCC meeting, Rob Orr (**RO**) local resident, leading on this project had designed and circulated a questionnaire to residents adjacent to the crossroads, seeking their views on a number of potential safety initiatives. RO, RG and MC subsequently met to review the responses.

MC summarised the results –

- Fifteen questionnaires were delivered, and nine responses received.
- The only suggestion to receive unanimous support, was seeking agreement with the Kirk Glebe Field's owner and tenant restricting who can shoot there and under what conditions.
- The CCTV proposal was supported by a 5 to 4 majority. However, as this proposal did not receive overwhelming support it will not be progressed.
- The proposal for a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was supported 7 to 2. It was agreed that any such scheme should cover the whole of Tweedsmuir and would need the support of the wider community.
- The proposal for a Neighbour Support Network was defeated by 5 to 4.
- The proposal for a Police Reporting Protocols proposal was supported 7 to 1.
- Other potential hazards and control measures were considered and the following supported – speeding vehicles, theft and vandalism

Action:

- **RO** to progress discussions with Kirk Glebe Field's owners
- **DC** to add Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to the next TCC agenda
- **MC** to draft info for circulation re: Police Reporting Protocol
- Speeding vehicles to be addressed through the CAP (**TCC**)

A short discussion took place re: Water safety at Talla and Fruid Reservoirs and in the Tweed. Local resident Lesley Kirkwood (**LK**) reminded that information regarding water safety had been circulated earlier in the year.

Action:

DC - To ensure info re: water safety is posted on the Community Council website

14.10 MENZION BRIDGE

RG advised that in the absence of appropriate specifications and permissions this structure will need to be removed. If, however, anyone has ideas/suggestions regarding similar projects please raise them with a Community Councillor

15.10 PROVISIONAL PREMISES LICENSE APPLICATION

GP reported having made an application for a liquor license at the Wee Crook. See agenda for link to details.

16.10 BIGGAR MEDICAL PRACTICE

- A link to the minutes of the last Patient Group Meeting can be found on the agenda.
- **LM** reported having completed her induction onto the Biggar Medical Practice Patient Group.
- Women aged 50-70 are being encouraged to complete a short online questionnaire regarding their preferred location to access Breast Screening services – Biggar or Lanark. The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9BJTN39>

17.10 DESTINATION TWEED MISSION STATEMENT

See agenda for link to details.

18.10 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 21st October, 8pm – Dark Sky Evening at the Wee Crook facilitated by local resident Sonny Sethi. The Bar will be open from 6.30pm.

Details of this and other forthcoming events can be found at - <https://www.tweedsmuir.scot/events/>

19.10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- There is still time to respond to the questionnaire regarding the 101/2 Bus service. <https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2F101-102-buses&data=05%7C01%7C%7C521d97c1cfba48ce883108daa70560e4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638005938786251097%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLlCjB%7C%7C%7C%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2Fcb4yv3P6i6VqPNjasYJYBjxIXtDQShs2xrLTPR3Tb8%3D&reserved=0>
- Local resident Christine Parker (**CP**) raised concerns regarding the ongoing issue of flooding along sections of the A701. **ES** reminded of the need to take photos when the issue arises and report via fixmystreet website.
- **LM** expressed concerns about the poor condition of the road at Talla, with landslips onto the road alongside the reservoir. The road surface is also very poor at the top of Talla Linns and would become very hazardous in wet or icy weather.
- **LM** reported that many of the sandbags in the Resilient Communities store have now perished and need to be replaced.

Action:

- **DC** to write to SBC regarding the road conditions at Talla. Who is the contact?
- **GP** to action replacement of sandbags

**The next meeting will take place on Thursday 3rd November 2022
at 7pm in Tweedsmuir Village Hall & via zoom**

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