

# Tweedsmuir Community Council

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## **Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 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), Drummond Begg **DB** (Scottish Borders Councillor), and 5 members of the public.

### **01.11 Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies received from Community Councillor Ralph Glatt (RG).

### **02.11 Minutes of the last meeting**

Accepted as correct.

### **03.11 Matters arising**

- **Planning application:** Following the last meeting, TCC submitted an objection to the planning application for amendments to a Forestry Track. SBC subsequently informed that TCC should not have been consulted on and any feedback would be disregarded.
- **Bridge at Menzion:** As this structure had been erected without the landowner's permission it has been removed. A request from a resident had been received asking if a bridge could be erected. **LM** reported having spoken with **RG** and offered to try and seek funding for a properly constructed crossing. **RG** however, did not feel the siting of a bridge would be possible at the present time.
- **Road at Talla:** **DC** reported not yet having contacted SBC regarding the road conditions at Talla. Local resident Lesley Kirkwood, agreed to provide photos to be included in the notification to the Council.
- **Consultation re: Scottish Borders National Park:** A response from TCC has been submitted.

### **04.11 Planning applications**

- Erection of glamping pods and toilet block – see agenda for link. No comments yet received.
- TCC have been notified of the plans for work to commence on the development of the Whitelaw Brae Windfarm. Info can be found at – <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/BAY-L-0530-WLB-Newsletter-1.pdf>

### **05.11 Treasurer's report**

As there have been no transactions since the last meeting. The report circulated last month provides the current financial position.

### **06.11 Microgrant applications**

- **Broughton Christmas Fair** – Application to Ventient Microgrant for £250 from Erica Revell – **Approved** in principle, subject to clarification.
- It was noted that information is still required regarding whether the residual monies in the Ventient Covid Grant can be transferred to the Microgrant funding 'pot'.
- **LM** reported that she was stepping down as a member of the Ventient WindFarm Fund Panel and **DC** will be joining the panel.

### **Actions:**

- **BB** to contact Microgrant applicant to clarify a number of issues.

- **LM** to contact Ventient Windfarm regarding the Covid grant.

### **07.11 Police report**

This can be found at - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Tweeddale-East-and-West-October-2022.pdf>

### **08.11 Scottish Borders Councillor's report**

**DB** reported on -

- progress in relation to securing the 101/102 bus service. The route will be going out to tender shortly.
- discussion of the Agriculture Bill.
- management of ongoing road condition issues e.g., significant flooding at Mountbog. **DB** reported that this issue had been raised by local SBC Councillors to try and obtain a permanent solution to the problems at this location.
- Christine Parker (CP), local resident raised concerns about the reporting mechanism for other similar serious and ongoing issues with road conditions – those which cannot be remediated by patching/filling etc. Local resident, Christine Parker described having reported the repeated flooding near Kingledores on 'Fix my street' and encouraged others to report this and other local issues.
- **LM** reported that the 'Welcome to the Scottish Borders' sign to the south appeared to be falling down.
- **LM** asked whether Eric Small (Scottish Borders Councillor) had received any feedback from SBC regarding an information strategy for Sudden Larch Death, discussed at last month's meeting. **DB** reported that it was his understanding that SBC is responsible for the management of any tree diseases on their property and landowners for any outbreaks on their land. **LM** reiterated that whilst this was understood, there is need for some level of public information/awareness raising to ensure visitors to woodland and forestry areas are aware of the importance of adhering to biosecurity measures where required.

#### **Action:**

- **CP** to forward information re: flooding to **DB** for escalation.
- **LM** to send **DB** a photo of the 'Welcome' sign for action.
- **DB** to pursue with SBC the issue of public information re: Sudden Larch Death

### **09.11 Crook Inn**

**LM** reported that –

- the Crook has been opening on most Friday and Saturday evenings.  
Forthcoming events – Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Nov: Open for a 'Fireside' sausage & chips and a drink Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November – Piano night, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November – Making wreaths and Christmas deckies

### **10.11 Community update**

**LM** reported that –

- several grant applications have been successful – i) funding for landscaping and improving exterior of the Crook Inn ii) further fitting out the Wee Crook, purchase of crockery, cutlery, coffee machine etc.
- work has commenced with Connecting Threads – the cultural/heritage strand of the Destination Project, to develop some community events around storytelling, capturing peoples stories of Tweedsmuir, possibly creating some new tales and developing storytelling skills. The first event is planned for 16<sup>th</sup> December – details to follow.

### **11.11 Consultations**

- The Scottish Land Commission – see agenda for link.
- Public support for tree planting and forestry – see agenda for link.

### **12.11 Community Action Plan**

Proof reading is nearly complete. It is hoped that copies will be available for distribution with the next edition of Community News. **BB** offered to help with distribution of hard copies to each household.

### **13.11 Public transport in Tweeddale West**

Covered under item 08.11

### **14.11 Tweedsmuir Kirk**

**CP** informed that the Church of Scotland had given notice of its intention to 'dispose' of the Church building in Tweedsmuir within the next 5 years. The 'church' consists primarily of the building as the graveyard and car park are owned by SBC. It was agreed that the Kirk is a building of significance within the community and consideration should be given to whether, if repurposed, it could be a useful community asset. Anyone with any suggestions for a future use for the Kirk for the benefit of the community, please contact one of your community councillors.

### **15.11 Forthcoming events**

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

### **16.11 Any other business**

- **LM** informed of a new source of grant funding – Scottish Forestry Community Fund. <https://forestry.gov.scot/publications/1404-community-fund-2022-to-2023>
- The Mobile Post Office visits Broughton every week on Wednesdays between 1:15 – 1:45, either outside the school or near Broughton Village Stores. You can post letters and parcels etc. as well as withdraw/deposit cash from most banks.
- The mobile library visits Tweedsmuir – at the top of Church Road, on Tuesdays at 10:30-11:30 every fortnight. Next visit 15<sup>th</sup> November. You can join the library at the mobile library van or online at [www.liveborders.org.uk](http://www.liveborders.org.uk). Via the website you can also search the catalogue and reserve books for collection from the van. Library membership also gives access to online newspapers, magazines and audiobooks.
- **BB** noted that several Community Councillors will be required to step down at the next AGM in May 2023, although they will be able to stand for re-election if they wish/are nominated. It was agreed that Community Council elections should be added to the agenda for the next meeting to ensure all are clear re: processes and timescales.
- There will be no Community Council meeting in January 2023.

**The next meeting will take place on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022  
at 7pm in Tweedsmuir Village Hall & via zoom**

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

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

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

Resilient Communities contact: Lesley Kirkwood