

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) on Thursday 1st December 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 4 members of the public.

01.12 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Community Councillor Ralph Glatt (RG).

02.12 Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted as correct.

03.12 Matters arising

- **DC** reported having received a prompt response from SBC regarding the poor condition of the road at Talla. An inspection has been made and remedial work to be undertaken.
- **BB** expressed concern that no communication had yet been received from Ventient Windfarm Fund regarding the possible transfer of monies from the Covid19 Grant to the microgrant budget.

Action:

LM to forward email to **GP** follow up with Ventient.

04.12 Planning applications

- Nothing to update regarding proposals for 2 new Radio station masts
- Extension of operation of Glenkerie Windfarm – no comments or issues raised

Action:

DC to inform Ventient that there are no comments/queries in relation to the plan to extend the operational life of the Glenkerie Windfarm

05.12 Treasurer's report

Link to the Treasurer's report - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Treasurers-report-Dec-22.pdf>

BB reported having received invoices from STAR in relation to the Community Action Plan. **LM** reported that payment should be postponed, as a revised invoice was being raised.

BB queried whether the TCC supported a £50 donation towards the Christmas Party, which councillors confirmed they were. **LM** reported that as far as she was aware there were no plans for a party this year. However, local resident Helen Wood (**HW**) had offered to purchase gifts for the children/young people which would be delivered before Christmas.

Action:

LM to confirm to **HW** regarding the purchase of gifts.

06.12 Microgrant applications

- **Broughton Christmas Fair** – Application to SSE Microgrant for £250 from Gill Rees – **Approved**
- Tweedsmuir Winter Warmer – Application to SSE Microgrant for £250 from Lesley Kirkwood - **Approved**
- **Port and Cheese tasting** – Application to SSE Microgrant from £250 from Andrew Mason – **Approved**

LM informed that noted that SEE Windfarm Panel were hoping to develop a 'fast track' system for grant applications of up to £5,000 with decisions being made within a few weeks.

Deadline dates for the coming year for applications to the Ventient can be found at - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Glenkerie-Poster-2023-Deadlines.pdf>

Actions:

- **BB** to contact SSE re:
 - 'top up' of Microgrant funding
 - future grant funding for provision and distribution of Community News across Tweedsmuir

07.12 Police report

This report can be found at - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Tweeddale-East-and-West-November-2022.pdf>

08.12 Scottish Borders Councillor's report

DB reported on -

- progress in relation to securing the 101/102 bus service. The deadline for submission of tenders is imminent.
- management of flooding issues at Mountbog – Discussions are ongoing within SBC as to how this issue will be managed/resolved.
- Closure of B712. There have been several complete closures over the past few months, the most recent with no notice being given, causing disruption to residents, visitors and businesses. Discussions are underway to identify systems for carrying out road repairs that do not require a complete road closure.
- There appeared to be some confusion amongst TCC re:contacting SBC regarding the condition of the 'Welcome to the Borders' sign

Action:

LM to contact SBC regarding last item.

09.12 Crook Inn

LM reported that –

- the Crook continues to open on Friday and Saturday evenings, all welcome.
- Activities are ongoing to use grants recently awarded. One, primarily to improve the appearance of the old Crook building and improve site security and the second, to further kit out the kitchen and interior of The Wee Crook. Both grants need to be fully spent by March '23.

10.12 Community update

LM reported that –

- the mural is now in in place.
- forthcoming events are being updated to the website.

11.12 Consultations

- The future of Education of Scotland – see agenda for link.
- Future bus travel across the Borders – see agenda for link.

12.12 Community Action Plan

To be distributed in early 2023, after which a more detailed action/project plan will be developed.

13.12 Biggar Patient Medical Practice Group

LM reported having recently attended her first meeting, as the representative for Tweedsmuir. The Practice has just been awarded 'Scottish Medical Practice of the Year'. There are currently no plans to return to face:face contacts without telephone triage.

LM had enquired whether a consultation option via zoom might be offered as an alternative to a phone contact, as some may feel more comfortable with this. The Practice agreed to consider this. On occasions when patient demand exceeds capacity the surgery switches to 'urgent care' where only patients with urgent medical needs, as judged by the patient themselves, will be offered an appointment. Anyone registered with the Practice who has issues they wish to be raised at the Practice Group meeting, please contact a Community Councillor.

14.12 Snow blower

A snowblower, for the Village, is kept at Heatherlea, Kirk Road. It can be used by residents who have received training, there is a training form with a checklist signed by the user. The training isn't complicated and doesn't take long. Those who were trained several years ago need to have a quick update. If there's a big fall of snow, it's helpful if anyone in the vicinity can take a turn with road clearing before the snow compacts too much. There are supplies of fuel, snow mitts and safety glasses. To borrow the snowblower or help with snow clearing, contact Sarah on 07845 969754.

15.12 Community Council Elections – May '23

All 6 seats on the Community Council will be up for election/re-election in May 2023 and nominations will be sought prior to this. If the number of candidates exceeds seats available an election will be held. It was agreed that a time- line for election planning be confirmed at the next (February) meeting.

16.12 Items for information

- The Environmental rights Centre – see agenda for link
- NHS Scotland SHARE initiative – see agenda for link

17.12 Forthcoming events

- Details of forthcoming events can be found at -<https://www.tweedsmuir.scot/events/>
- Reference was made to the Cycling World Championships being held across Scotland including Tweeddale next summer (<https://www.cyclingworldchamps.com/visit/venues/>) and the potential impact upon local infrastructure etc. due to the large number of visitors anticipated. **DB** confirmed SBC would be communicating with Community Councils regarding arrangements for this event.
- **BB** enquired as to whether an event to celebrate the 100th Edition of Community News might provide an opportunity to invite members of neighbouring communities to The Wee Crook.

18.12 Any other business

- A report by Forestry Planning Group can be found at <http://www.forestpolicygroup.org/blog/communities-experiences-of-new-forest-planting-applications-in-scotland-the-final-report/>
- Communities for Diverse Forestry have produced a new report in response to the development of the revised UKFS (UK Forestry Standards) (<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/UKFS-and-biodiversity-improving-delivery-3rd-draft-Nov-22.docx.pdf>) and have contacted organisations including Community Councils, to ask if they wish to be signatories to this report.
- There will be no Community Council meeting in January 2023.

Action:

To add discussion re: UKSF and Diversity report to February's TCC meeting.

**The next meeting will take place on Thursday 2nd February 2023
at 7pm in Tweedsmuir Village Hall & via zoom**

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

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*

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