

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) on Thursday 2nd February (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), Viv Thomson (VT) (Scottish Borders Councillor), and 5 members of the public.

01.02 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Community Councillor Ralph Glatt (RG).

02.02 Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted as correct.

03.02 Matters arising

- **GP** reported on a recent landslip on the Talla road on the stretch towards Talla Linns in the location where there had previously been flooding a debris on the road and SBC had indicated they would undertake remedial works. This section is now only safely passable with a 4x4 vehicle.

Action:

VT to raise issue with SBC.

04.12 Planning applications

- Oliver Forest Windfarm proposal. An initial meeting was held in Tweedsmuir with representatives from the developers on 12th January 2023. At the meeting concern was raised by some residents about the potential cumulative visual impact of another windfarm in Tweedsmuir. Large view visual impact maps along with the detailed scoping report are available to view at the Village Hall. If you wish to see these please contact **GP** on 07731 896531 to arrange to view. An initial response to these proposals must reach SBC by the end of February. For TCC to make a credible, informed response on behalf of the community TCC need the views of residents regarding this proposal. Any comments should be forwarded via the Secretary or any other Community Councillor as soon as possible.
- Proposal for a Radio mast: Nothing to update. It was however noted that if erected, the mast would be unlikely to provide coverage for some households in the community currently without coverage.

05.02 Treasurer's report

Link to the Treasurer's report - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Treasurers-report-Feb-23.pdf>

- **BB** reported having contacted SSE requesting a 'top up' for the SSE Youth Bursary and Microgrant funds.
- **GP** reported having been in contact with Ventient regarding the remaining funds in the Covid grant fund. **GP** informed that Ventient have agreed in principle for the balance in the Covid Grant being transferred to the Microgrant budget but before any transfer is finalised, have requested a breakdown of the spending and balances of the 2 funds.
- **BB** mentioned that although the community council has been notified by a remittance advice, from SBC that a grant of £450 for pathways had been awarded on the 9th of January 2023 and that payment will be in our bank account in 2 working days, funds have yet to be received.

Action:

- **GP** to forward to **BB** the email contact for Ventient.
- **BB** to forward the information required by Ventient regarding the two funds.
- **LM** to follow up re: Pathways Grant Lesley Mason undertook to discuss this with SBC.

06.02 Microgrant applications

- **Sailing Experience** – Application to SSE Microgrant for £250 from A Fraser – **Approved**
- **Port & cheese event held in December 2022.** Local resident, Frances Leckie queried whether a replacement cheque could be issued for the grant for this event.
- **GP** queried whether an application should now be made to Ventient to 'top up' the Microgrant Fund. It was agreed that **BB** should forward a request.

Actions:

- **BB** to contact Ventient regarding a 'top up' of the Ventient Microgrant Fund.
- **BB** to issue a replacement cheque for the Port and cheese event. (Issued)

07.02 Police report

This report can be found at <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Tweeddale-East-and-West-January-2023.pdf>

08.02 Scottish Borders Councillor's report

VT reported on -

- Assistance available from SBC regarding Flood management. **GP** reported that the sandbag store had been replenished and was now full, should any residents need sandbags.
- Public consultation meetings re: the Peebles High School development have been extended.
- A contractor has been secured to operate the 101/102 bus service, initially for 3 years with possibility of further extension. There will be some changes to the timetable, but it is anticipated that overall any changes will be positive e.g. providing better connections with other travel routes.
- The incident involving the collision between a school bus and logging lorry is now the subject of court action.
- Mr. Toomey, local resident reported having been contacted by a company potentially wishing to use Talla as a site for filming. **VT** provided her email contact details and offered to forward the contact details received by Mr. Toomey to the relevant department at SBC.

09.02 Crook Inn

LM reported that -

- the Crook is to resume opening on Friday and Saturday evenings, all welcome. A programme of events for February and March has just been circulated.

10.02 Community update

LM reported that -

- new equipment has recently been purchased, from Grant monies, to progress the fitting out of the Wee Crook.
- plans are underway to restart gardening in the Crook Garden from the end of March – details to follow. All welcome.

11.02 Consultations

Regional Land Use Partnership – see agenda for link

12.02 Community Action Plan

This is now with the printers, distribution planned for March, after which a more detailed action/project plan will be developed.

13.02 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 4 weeks prior to this. Anyone interested in joining the Council is very welcome to contact **GP** or any other Community Counsellors to discuss potential involvement. **VT** agreed to undertake the role of Presiding Officer, supported by **BB**.

14.02 Interface with Scottish Borders Council

- **LM** reported frustration in ongoing difficulties in contacting SBC for telephone advice or support. **VT** acknowledged that this situation was not satisfactory, and it was her understanding that some departments e.g., planning were reinstating telephone contact.
- **GP** also reported difficulties in establishing contact with anyone regarding an access issue.
- **DC** expressed concerns at difficulties re: support being offered by SBC staff in relation to an SBC Grant, with meetings being cancelled and rescheduled at short notice, conveying a lack of appreciation of the part time/voluntary nature of any non-SBC staff involved.
- **VT** reported that the 3 SBC Community Councillors were meeting weekly and using a proforma to ensure they share/update key information.

Action: **VT** to share proforma with TCC

15.02 Items for information

- Contact details for Citizens Advice – see agenda for link
- Peebles High School Development – see agenda for link

16.02 Forthcoming events

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

17.02 Any other business

- **LM** fed back following her attendance of a recent meeting of the Biggar Patients Medical Practice Group.
Currently residents from Scottish Borders Council areas make up 7% of the practice population.
The Practice presented comparative information with other Practices and the Biggar Practice currently has fewer GPs per head of population than many others. As the population of Biggar increases this can be expected to further reduce the ratio of patients to GPs. However, one of the main constraints on expanding services is the lack of physical space. The plan had been to try and pursue funding for an extension to the existing building, however, a new build may now be more appropriate. Plans are underway for an 'Health Fair' in the summer to inform about local GP and other health and wellbeing services.
- **LM** passed on thanks from Lesley Kirkwood, Resilient Communities Coordination for the microgrant awarded last month to support Tweedsmuir Winter Warmer. 6 household – 10 people attended. A similar event is planned for 24th February 2023.

- As he was not able to attend the meeting **RG** had requested 2 items be noted –
Thinning work has started along the bottom of Cockiland Hill. It will start close to Talla dam and progress north over the next 2 months.
Hearthstanes have and will continue to sweep sections of both Tall and Fruid Road when forestry debris is noticed. However, the recurring issue on the Talla road is due to a blocked drain on the verge an issue that has been reported to SBC. The dirt will continue to be swept but is not necessarily related to forestry related traffic. Any vehicle leaving the tarmac onto the verge will spread mud.

Action:

VT to find out who is responsible for maintaining the verges.

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

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

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