

# Tweedsmuir Community Council

## **Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 (7.00pm), Tweedsmuir Village Hall and via Zoom**

**Present:** Gavin Parker (GP, Chair), Brian Bushell (Treasurer), Mark Cullen (MC), Drummond Begg (DB) (Scottish Borders Councillor), and 3 members of the public.

### **01.03 Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies received from Debbie Cullen (Secretary), Lesley Mason (LM) and Ralph Glatt (RG).

### **02.03 Minutes of the last meeting**

Accepted as correct.

### **03.03 Matters arising**

- SBC have re-introduced the pre-application service for planning applications. Forms are available on their website.
- SBC are aware of work needed on the 'Welcome to the Scottish Borders sign' and will address.
- Work is being undertaken on the landslip on Talla Road.

### **04.03 Planning applications**

- Radio Mast – Brawns Dod – Response made of no comments at this time.
- Oliver Forest Windfarm proposal. Reflecting comments received from a number of residents TCC lodged a response with the Scottish Government and the Developers. This response was also copied to SBC who responded that they were not seeking third party comments at this time. A copy of the TCC's response can be found at <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Response-to-proposal-Oliver-Windfarm-22-01924-SCO-ECU-00004669-PDF.pdf>  
An exhibition regarding the proposed windfarm is taking place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March between 3-8pm in Tweedsmuir Village Hall.

**GP** reported having recently attended a webinar re: Windfarm development and Community shared ownership, an option which maybe offered at a future date.

- Glenkerie windfarm extension. TCC had requested that SBC consider an uplift in the community benefit tariff, should the planned operating extension be granted as the tariff for new developments has been set at a higher rate since the initial Glenkerie build. Ventient Energy responded that the tariff rate is linked to inflation and could therefore be anticipated to exceed the minimum increase suggested.

### **05.03 Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer's report can be viewed at -

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Treasures-report-March-23.pdf>

**BB** reported –

- that the annual accounts are being prepared for submission to the independent examiner at the end of the financial year.
- having contacted Ventient regarding the windfarm grants and will be forwarding an updated breakdown and balance of expenditure and residual balance.
- SSE have agreed in principle to authorise a 'top up' payment but have requested a breakdown of grant spending.

A discussion took place regarding the process for requesting and receiving grant funding from the windfarms which can be complex and protracted. It was also noted that the current process by which new funding is applied for and released, when the existing 'pot' has been almost exhausted can create a 'cash flow' issue for the TCC and potentially work against attempts to promote microgrant and youth bursary applications. The different funding criteria and financial limits across the different windfarms also complicates the administration of the funds. It was suggested that TCC representatives on the windfarm panels may be best placed to raise these concerns regarding funding processes.

**BB** informed of his intention to stand down as Treasurer effect from the end of March 2023. **GP** expressed thanks to **BB** for all his hard work as TCC Treasurer since the TCC's inception.

**Actions:**

**BB** to forward information requested to Ventient.

**BB** to forward information requested to SSE.

**BB** has obtained the necessary forms from the bank and will be completing them with **GP** who is the counter signatory.

**06.03 Microgrant applications**

- **Satellite Broadband** – Application to SSE Microgrant for £250 from H Wood - **Not approved**
- **Grab rails** – Application to SSE for £75 from Upper Tweed Community Drivers – **Not approved**
- **Mobile phone SIM** - Application to Ventient for £216 from Upper Tweed Community Drivers - **Not approved**
- **Attendance at SCOTO (Scottish Community Tourism) Conference** –to Ventient for £279.18 from Lesley Mason & Debbie Cullen - **Approved**
- **Tree planting in Crook Garden** – Application to Ventient for £500 from Garden group - **Approved**
- **Music night at the Crook** – Application to Ventient for £100 from Frances Leckie - **Approved**
- **Sheep shearing course** – Application to Ventient for £250 from Fergus Mason – **Approved**

**BB** expressed concern that 2 of the grant applications to the Ventient Fund were in excess of the £250 limit. **GP** clarified that this limit was advisory and that applications could be made to the max value of £500.

**Actions:**

Given the number of TCC Councillors unable to attend this meeting **GP** to convene a separate meeting to discuss these applications. *Meeting subsequently held and outcomes reported above.*

**07.03 Police report**

The report can be found at - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Tweeddale-East-and-West-February-2023.pdf>

**MC** reported on a recent incident of poaching on the Fruid Road towards the Rigg. **RG** had been informed and has been in contact with the Police.

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

**DB** reported –

- following a recent meeting with shop owners in Peebles Councillors are promoting the 'Shop Local' message.
- local Councillors are working with the new bus route operators re: encouraging more use of the bus route.
- Peebles High School – SBC website is the most reliable source of up-to-date information regarding development of the new build. Feedback from parents has resulted in amendments to the layout incorporating more potentially 'enclosed' and less open plan areas.
- the budget was finalised with broad all party support, resulting in a 5% increase in Council Tax.

**MC** raised concerns about difficulties in TCC registering comments on planning applications via the SBC Planning Portal. There does not appear to be any facility for responding as an organisation, only as an individual.

#### **Actions:**

**DB** to make enquires re: use of SBC Portal to register comments from organisations. (***DB** subsequently clarified the process by which the TCC can make comments on planning applications*).

### **09.03 Crook Inn**

The Community Company is out to advert for an operator.

### **10.03 Community development update**

See below.

#### **11.03 Community Action Plan**

A copy of the plan has now been distributed to every household and can also be viewed online at - <https://www.tweedsmuir.scot/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/COMMUNITY-ACTION-PLAN.pdf>

The next steps will be to pull out and prioritise the actions identified in the plan. These will then be further developed into a project plan against which progress will be measured and reported.

#### **12.03 Litter pick**

Date to be confirmed.

#### **13.03 Celebrating the Coronation**

The plan is for a bring your own picnic in the Crook Garden on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **14.03 Opportunity for Community Councils in Rural & Island Areas- website design**

It was agreed this would not be pursued.

#### **15:03 Consultations**

- Tweedsmuir Forest Long Term Forest Plan – see agenda for links
- SBC Draft strategic Framework for Health & Social Care – see agenda for links  
**Christine Parker**, local resident expressed concerns about the difficulties experienced by residents in rural areas in securing social care.

**DB** reported being happy to receive information and/or comments about people's experiences of social care to support lobbying for increased local resources.

### **16.03 Items for information**

- No mow May – see agenda for link. It was agreed this was not applicable to Tweedsmuir.

### **17.03 Forthcoming events**

- Details of forthcoming events can be found at -<https://www.tweedsmuir.scot/events/>
- Southern Upland Partnership: Talla Hartfell Wildland Area Project – Natural Capital Mapping. It was agreed that Tweedsmuir would wish to be involved in this project. Event planned for 27<sup>th</sup> March, 6pm in Tweedsmuir Village Hall – info circulated.

### **18.03 Any other business**

- **GP** reported having received an email from local resident James Lawrie, regarding concerns about the impact of flooding on the Bridge in Tweedsmuir, which can only be accessed through his property. These concerns have been raised with SBC and investigation work is planned.
- **BB** reported that the grant funding for the purchase and distribution of the Upper Tweed Community News was insufficient to cover the cost of the March edition. **BB** reported that the membership of the Community News Editorial Panel has reduced significantly and unless new members come forward production may not be sustainable. **BB** suggested that an application to obtain further funding be deferred until the future of the Community News is clarified. It was agreed that the current shortfall in funding of £40 be covered from TCC's reserves. Anyone interested in joining the Community News Team should contact the Editor, Paul Greaves tel. no. 0795 6080457, email [pgreavesalex@gmail.com](mailto:pgreavesalex@gmail.com)
- **MC** reported that he will be attending an event in Moffat next week looking at the potential for developing a model of social benefit associated with woodland/forestry creation.
- Craig Hoy MSP is looking for community champions from across the Scottish Borders to join him for a reception in the Scottish Parliament to celebrate their work supporting the local community. There are three categories in health, sport and wellbeing, with an overall winner in each category. Further info can be found at - <https://www.craighoy.co.uk/nominate-your-community-champion>

**The next meeting will take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
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](mailto: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