

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) on Thursday 6th April 2023 (7.00pm), Tweedsmuir Village Hall and via Zoom

Present: Gavin Parker (GP, Chair), Brian Bushell (Treasurer), Debbie Cullen (Secretary) Mark Cullen (MC), Lesley Mason (LM), Ralph Glatt (RG) and 5 members of the public.

01.04 Welcome and Apologies

No apologies received.

02.04 Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted as correct.

03.04 Matters arising

- Tweed Glebe shooting restrictions. **GP** informed that information had been received from local resident Rob Orr, that discussions had been concluded regarding shooting rights at Tweeds Green. Consequently -
 - All tenant game shooting rights have been removed.
 - All tenant rights to authorise third parties to shoot in/on/over the glebe have been removed.
 - All vermin control within the glebe now requires the tenant to ensure that the fields' access gates are closed and locked and that warning signs are posted on the gates prior to all vermin control measures taking place.
- Feedback re: recent Upper Tweed Community Drivers Grant application – **GP** confirmed that whilst the application was not approved, UTCC have been advised regarding a more appropriate funding route.
- Concerns of local resident re: impact of flooding on the bridge in Tweedsmuir. Resident informed a site visit by SBC has been scheduled for later in the month.

04.04 Planning applications

- None received.
- It was noted that the deadline for submission of responses to the proposal to develop a windfarm at Oliver Forest has now passed. The TCC submitted a letter of objection and several residents submitted written responses. TCC will relay any new information regarding this proposal as/when received.

05.04 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer's report can be viewed at -

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/finance-report-2022-23.pdf>

BB reported –

- that the annual accounts have been submitted to the independent examiner and will be forwarded to SBC when returned. The examiner has notified of their intention to stand down, so recruitment of a new examiner will be required prior to the submission of the TCC accounts at the end of the financial year 2023-24.
- following a recent meeting of SSE windfarm panel, it has been agreed the monies remaining in the Covid fund be split equally between the microgrant and youth bursary funds.

- having stood down as a SSE Windfarm Panel member a new TCC representative will be required. It was agreed that a decision regarding a replacement would be deferred until after the forthcoming TCC elections.
- **GP** reported that Ventient Windfarm Fund are increasing their microgrant funding allocation to £2000/year and TCC need to request their allocation. After discussion it was agreed that whilst the TCC could award up to £500 per microgrant, a limit of £250 would be set to enable a greater number of applications to be approved.
- It was agreed that TCC would fund the purchase and delivery of the next edition of Upper Tweed Community News to Tweedsmuir residents at a cost of £80. A decision regarding longer-term arrangements are dependent upon decisions made by the Community News Editorial Team regarding the sustainability of this publication.
- **BB** confirmed that the TCC's financial records have been handed over to **MC** as an interim arrangement until the appointment of a new Treasurer following the forthcoming election.
- It was agreed that £30 donation be made to be Mr & Mrs Rees for citing of the defibrillator at Dykehead.
- **DC** reminded that a sum needed to be set against next years budget for the outstanding additional insurance premium to cover the Snow Blower.
- After some discussion it was agreed that **BB** would continue as an authorised signatory until the AGM in May. **MC** and **LM** to be added as authorised signatories. The authorised signatory list will be reviewed after the TCC elections.

Actions:

- **BB** to draft letter to SSE regarding drawing down funds. **GP** to action.
- **GP** to contact Ventient Windfarm re: draw down of this year's allocation.
- **BB** to coordinate with **LM** and **MC** re: authorised signatories.
- **TCC** to review authorised signatory list after the TCC elections.
- Following the AGM, **TCC** to consider matter of a new representative to the SSE Windfarm Panel.
- **TCC** to appoint an independent examiner before the end of financial year 2023-24.

06.04 Microgrant applications

GP reported having received 2 Youth Bursary applications – forms to be circulated to Councillors for consideration.

07.04 Police report

Report to follow on receipt.

08.03 Scottish Borders Councillor's report

No Councillors available.

09.03 Crook Inn

LM reported that a lot of work has taken place on the Crook site recently, with earth being moved and hedges and borders being created.

Weekly gardening sessions to recommence on Wednesday 12th April from 6:30pm.

10.03 Community development update

A number of events are coming up –

- **Saturday 23rd April** from 10:30am: Outdoor tasks at the Crook – something for everyone, planting, erecting the Polytunnel, fixing bike racks, moving outdoor furniture. Refreshments provided.
- **Sunday 24th April** 2:00 – 4:30pm: Storybones –An interactive workshop to build storytelling skills, delivered in conjunction with Connecting Threads. Booking essential.

11.04 Community Action Plan

A meeting is planned for 25th May 7-9pm in Tweedsmuir Village Hall to prioritise actions and plan next steps. All welcome.

12.04 Litter pick

The Community litter pick will be taking place between 12th – 19th April 2023.

GP to co-ordinate. Anyone able to take part should text or message **GP** on 07731896531 to confirm they happy to litter pick along the route they have covered previously or discuss picking at a different location. Anyone who has not litter picked before should contact Gavin to agree a litter picking location.

Black bags, litter picking sticks and gloves are all available from the Resilient Communities store at the Village Hall. Supplies and/or access to the Code for the supply cupboard can be obtained from **GP**. Rubbish collected should be left at the Crook. Arrangements will be made with SBC to uplift at the end of the collection period.

13.04 Celebrating the Coronation

The plan is to celebrate on Saturday 6th May from 2:30pm with a 'Bring your own picnic' at the Crook. It was agreed that a grant application be submitted to SBC for the purchase of commemorative cupcakes and premium soft drinks to be made available free of charge at the event.

Action:

DC to submit grant application to SBC.

14.04 Community Council Elections

A discussion took place regarding the timetable for, and actions associated with, the forthcoming Community Council Elections.

Actions:

DC to –

- Contact Drummond Begg, SBC Councillor, regarding the SBC Returning Officer
- edit the Notice of Election and Nomination Forms
- on 12th April, circulate the above documents to all on the TCC email list
- ensure the documents are uploaded to the Community Council website
- ensure paper copies of the Nomination Forms are available in Tweedsmuir Little Library
- ensure Notice of Elections are posted on Community notice boards
- receive completed nomination forms either by email or collected from the letterbox drop off, scan and forward to the Returning Officer

15.04 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships at Glentress

The main cycling events in Peebles are scheduled between 6th-12th August 2023. Information regarding the event can be found at glentress2023.com

16.04 Consultations

None received.

17.04 Items for information

None received.

17.08 Forthcoming events

- Details of forthcoming events can be found at -<https://www.tweedsmuir.scot/events/>
- Broughton Primary School are holding a Table Quiz Fundraiser at the Crown Biggar on Friday 21st April at 8:30pm.

18.03 Any other business

- **DC** and **LM** reported on a recent initial meeting with Richard Callaghan (RH), newly appointed Citizen's Advice Outreach Worker, based in Peebles. **RH** was keen to find out about Tweedsmuir and to discuss the possibility of offering a monthly outreach advice session in Tweedsmuir. It was agreed that **RH** be invited to the AGM to talk about his role and any specific benefits advice that may be relevant to residents.
Action:
DC to forward invite to **RC**.
- **MC** reported on an event recently attended as TCC representative regarding the potential for developing a model of 'Community Benefits' associated with new Commercial Forestry developments. Discussions are at an early stage and the purpose of the event was to gather the views of a range of stakeholders. The suggestion of a mandatory 'Community Survey' to be submitted by the developer as part of the planning process was an idea favored by many in attendance.
- Lesley Kirkwood (**LK**), Resilient Communities Coordinator, reported having been informed of the potential purchase of a third defibrillator, to be located at the Wee Crook and raised several queries in relation to this. As a result of the discussion, it was agreed **LK** would discuss the matter with a member of the Community First Responders Team. (***LK** subsequently informed Councillors that having spoken with a member of the Community First Responders Team three defibs in the community are not needed. The Community First Responders will look at other venues in the Upper Tweed area to place a defib where a need has been identified by the community. The defibrillators in Tweedsmuir are all still in working order so no updating of equipment is required at this time. This might be something that needs to be planned for in the coming years as well as the ongoing maintenance costs (pads, batteries etc).*
*Arrangements will be made between the parties concerned to relocate the defib and cabinet at the Village Hall to the Wee Crook. **LK** confirmed she was happy to ensure monthly checks on the defibs continue and update 'The Circuit' database on that basis).*
- **BB** queried when Superfast Broadband is expected to reach Tweedsmuir. **MC** informed that on the Scottish Govt website, accessible to any resident, the date currently given is 2025. The possibility of developing an interim community wide satellite provision is still being explored but anticipated to be problematic.
- **Dementia Friendly Tweeddale (dft)**
See link for details. <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/dft.docx>
Anyone from Tweedsmuir interested in being involved with this initiative please contact **DC**.

- **RG** reminded of importance, during the current lambing season of keeping dogs on leads when in the vicinity of sheep and closing gates.
- Road closure A701 at Romannobridge – info circulated.

**The AGM and next meeting will take place on Thursday 4th May 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