

# Tweedsmuir Community Council

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## **Minutes of the meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 at 7pm, Tweedsmuir Village Hall & via ZOOM**

**Present:** Gavin Parker (GP, Chair), Mark Cullen (Treasurer), Debbie Cullen (Secretary), Carolyn Hoy (CH), Lesley Mason (LM), Eric Small (SBC Councillor), Viv Thompson (SBC Councillor), and 3 members of the public.

### **01.08 Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies received from Frances Leckie (FL)

### **02.08 Minutes of the last meeting**

Corrections have been received re: the following agenda items -

- 06.06 Grant applications. Amendment - Application from Aiden Mason, for £250 to SSE Youth Bursary to attend an outdoor activity camp. Grant for £200 (the revised upper limit). **Approved**, subject to receipt of grant funding from SSE.
- 08.06 SBC Councillors report - Drummond Begg informed that Health is a Scottish Govt issue so concerns are better raised directly with MSP (not SNP as noted in minute). Local SBC Councillors to meet with South Lanarkshire Councillors and will raise the issue also.

Re: Hillhall – Drummond Begg reported that this issue is still being considered. SBC officials appreciate the frustration people feel, but this is a complex matter that needs to be considered fully and thank the community for their continued patience.

### **03.08 Matters arising not covered in the agenda**

Drainage issues at Bridge into Tweedsmuir - SBC have assessed and action planned to resolve. Road closures from 14<sup>th</sup> August for 3 days – information previously circulated.

### **04.08 Planning applications**

- Erection of a temporary lattice anemometry mast. Land adjacent to Menzion Farm. Ref: 23/00729/FU - SBC Approval given
- Proposed 4G Telecommunications Installation for H3G UK. – Informed that developers are formulating a response to comments received. Suggestion made by developers that potential to increase height be removed.

It was noted that this application will be considered by the SBC Planning committee on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August. Anyone who had registered an objection with SBC has received an invitation to attend the meeting and, within the procedures stipulated by the Council, make a verbal representation to the committee. It was made clear that any objections raised at the meeting should only focus on those already raised in writing, new arguments could not be introduced.

The SBC Councillors provided a general insight into the way in which an application will be considered, and a decision reached by the committee.

A discussion took place regarding the objections raised by TCC and members of the community regarding this proposal, primarily -

- the negative visual impact of the structure in an iconic local landscape and potentially detrimental implications for maintaining/developing tourism within the locality.
- the justification for the selection of the proposed location.
- evidence from Tweedsmuir's Community Action Plan supporting both of the above.

It was agreed that members of one of the households located close to the site proposed of the mast would attend the SBC meeting and reiterate the objections raised.

*SBC has subsequently informed that this application has been rejected.*

- Extension to operating life of Glenkerie Windfarm – Approved.
- Planning application – Erection of temporary meteorological mast Ref: 23/00685/FUL – SBC Approval given.  
Windfarm development Oliver Forest – feedback document produced following the local exhibition can be viewed at <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/1st-Exhibition-feedback-report-Final-PDF.pdf>
- Plan to contact engage with MP/MSP etc. regarding local planning issues. **MC** reported on a meeting he had attended with David Mundell, MP. regarding the proposed development of 2 further windfarms within Tweedsmuir. Whilst Mr Mundell indicated he would not support such development; his sphere of influence is limited as responsibility for such planning decisions is devolved to the Scottish Government.

#### **05.08 Treasurer's Report**

**MC** had circulated his report for June and July to councillors before the meeting.

These can be viewed at - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Jun-2023-Finance-Report.pdf>

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/July-2023-Finance-Report.pdf>

**MC** reported –

- Funds allocated from SSE have yet to be received.
- SBC had confirmed that residual monies in the SBC Covid Grant budget could be transferred to TCC main funds. These have now been used to support the purchase of Community News for Tweedsmuir residents.
- SBC is conducting a review of the financial support offered to the Community Council. Information requested by SBC in relation to this review has been submitted. It was noted that it was important that SBC understand the monies that appear in our balance sheet relating to Windfarm Grants are 'ring fenced' and cannot be used to support Community Council running costs.

#### **06.06 Grant applications**

- Application for £250 from **Tweedsmuir Book Group** for transport costs to attend Edinburgh Book Festival. **Approved.**

**ES** suggested that there maybe local community transport schemes e.g., 'Tweed Wheels' or the community bus available from Newlands, that although maybe not feasible to use on this occasion, may be able to offer a transport at a competitive rate and retain funding within the more local economy.

- **Vacancies for windfarm panel members**

- **GP** informed that **CH** has agreed to join the SSE Windfarm Panel as the Community Council representative – the position recently vacated by Brian Bushell.
- Ventient Windfarm Panel are seeking to recruit an additional member – see link for details -<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Glenkerie-Recruitment-Poster-2023-.pdf>
- **SBC Pathways Grant: LM** reported that applications to this fund were made in arrears and **LM** would be happy to receive any suggestions for pathway related issues that could be addressed through access to this fund.
- **MC** reported having contacted Colin McMillan at SSE regarding the potential, in the absence of access to public transport and difficulties in securing any taxi service to/from Tweedsmuir, for developing a grant application to support funding for group transport e.g., mini bus hire.
- A resident queried whether TCC would be pursuing funding for Electric Vehicle Charging point (s) in the Community. **GP** responded that the demand for EV charging points had been noted in the Community Action Plan and as/when the opportunity arose would be pursued.

#### **07.08 Police report**

Links to monthly report can be found at - This can be viewed at -  
<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Tweeddale-East-and-West-June-2023.pdf>

#### **08.08 Scottish Borders Councillors' report**

**VT** reported that –

- Borders Live - A review of SBC wide recreation, leisure and cultural facilities is currently underway. Residents are encouraged to provide feedback regarding this important review. Info re: the sessions being undertaken as well as the link to the survey can be found below-  
Events: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/joint-review-of-sport-culture-leisure-services-2374859>  
Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LiveBorders2023>
- there has been a backlog in processing planning applications, which is now being addressed.
- there will be a safety review following the recent incident on the Eddlestone Path. A small amount of funding is available to further extend this path.
- work to redevelop Peebles High School is currently behind schedule but contractors are hopeful that this will be back on track shortly.
- Peebles swimming pool has recently re-opened with improved facilities.
- a significant amount of work is being undertaken to improve road surfaces across the area ahead of the UCI bike championships.

#### **09.08 Community Action Plan**

**GP** reported that the Community Company's AGM is taking place on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August, following which it is hoped to be able to confirm how the Community Council and Community Company will work together to deliver the Community Action Plan.

Members of TCC and Tweedsmuir Community Company are continuing to work to secure windfarm grant funding for the Community Development Manager post.

## **10.08 Resilient Communities – Private water supplies & water resilience**

Lesley Kirkwood (**LK**), Resilient Communities Lead contacted TCC having been informed that the Scottish Government has allocated some funds to Councils and/or Scottish Water, it is not clear which, to help with water scarcity for Private Water Supplies (PWS). A request was made to enquire whether SBC Councillors were aware of this and the plans in place across Scottish Borders to address water scarcity for PWS.

**LK** also suggested, given the issues with water scarcity experienced by some households across Tweedsmuir residents with PWS may be interested in coming together to request a contingency plan from SBC in the event of water scarcity. Anyone interested in participating in such a group please contact the TCC Secretary.

### **Actions:**

**VT** to enquire within SBC regarding access to monies from Scottish Govt to address water scarcity for PWS.

## **11.08 Citizens Advice Outreach Service**

The first 'drop in' session will be held in Tweedsmuir Village Hall on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 10-11am. Ideally appointments should be booked in advance, by contacting the Peebles office on 01721 721722, or via [Adminuser@peeblescab.casonline.org.uk](mailto:Adminuser@peeblescab.casonline.org.uk). However, anyone needing to access the service urgently can 'drop in'.

## **12.08 Consultations**

Live Borders – see agenda item 08.08

## **13.08 Items for information**

- 'We have Listened- Phase 2.
- Update – Plans for Scottish Borders National Park

See agenda for links.

## **14.08 Forthcoming Events**

- **LM** reported that following a really successful summer opening the Wee Crook Café will cease regular opening on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August, when Hazel Mason who has been managing the café returns to university. The café has received considerable positive feedback from locals and visitors. It has also provided paid employment opportunities for local young people and been well supported by community volunteers. The Community Company will continue to explore options for re- opening on a more regular basis.
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August: Tweedsmuir Community Company AGM 7pm in the Wee Crook. All welcome.
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023 9.30am – 10.00am David Mundell is holding a surgery in Tweedsmuir Village Hall on in the Village Hall
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 13:00 -13:30 - Christine Grahame is holding her summer surgery in Tweedsmuir at the Crook.
- Tour O' Borders – information regarding local road have been circulated to every household. Volunteers are still required to help deliver the event in the locality. Anyone able to help should contact [info@tourotheborders.com](mailto:info@tourotheborders.com)
- Information about any other forthcoming events can be found at <https://www.tweedsmuir.scot/events/>

### **16.06 Any other business**

- **LM** reported that following a 'chance' meeting with members of SBC's recycling team she was able to explain, that due to the distances involved, residents have difficulty accessing recycling facilities. The alternative, to pay for a collection, for what maybe a relatively small item is expensive. The team agreed to explore the possibility of a reduced charge, annual collection of larger domestic items and a bottle recycling point in Tweedsmuir.
- **GP** informed that he has reluctantly taken the decision to step down from the Community Council both as Chair and Council member effective immediately. **MC** expressed his thanks to **GP** for his commitment to and leadership of the Community Council since it's inception and his considerable contribution as Council Chair in supporting the development and sustainability of the community. SBC Councillors also expressed their appreciation of **GP**'s professionalism, approachability, and dedication as Chair of the Council.

### **17.06 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023**.

**Please forward any agenda items to The Secretary –  
tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com**

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[www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk) Contact: [Tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:Tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com)

Vice Chair: Lesley Mason Treasurer: Mark Cullen Secretary: Debbie Cullen

Other Councillors: Frances Leckie, Carolynn Hoy

Resilient Communities contact: Lesley Kirkwood