

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) Thursday 7th September 2023 at 7pm, Tweedsmuir Village Hall & via ZOOM

Present: Lesley Mason (Vice Chair), Mark Cullen (Treasurer), Debbie Cullen (Secretary)),Carolynn Hoy (CH), Drummond Begg (SBC Councillor), and 3 members of the public.

01.09 Welcome and Apologies

No apologies received.

02.09 Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed as correct.

03.09 Matters arising not covered in the agenda

None.

04.09 Planning applications

- Proposed 4G Telecommunications Installation for H3G UK.

TCC had been notified of an appeal against the recent decision by Scottish Borders Council to refuse this application. This notification stated '*a reporter appointed by Scottish Ministers will decide the procedure by which the appeal will be determined. A copy of your original representations will be included in the papers which I (SBC) will be preparing in relation to the appeal*'. Details were provided of where any further representations should be sent (in writing by post) within 14 days - 19th September.

After discussion it was agreed that a written copy of the oral submission made to the SBC planning committee and a copy of Tweedsmuir Community Action Plan would be sent to the recorder by the stated deadline. **MC** to action.

- Hearthstones Windfarm development at Menzion. Feedback from the Consultation event (link included with agenda).

Feedback had been received from members of the community that –

- the numbers in the first table didn't 'add up' to the total number of responses. A resident reported having made a comment in relation to this question which was not reflected in the feedback.
- the feedback does not indicate any potential conflict of interest from respondents.
- it would be helpful to have an indication of the number and nature of responses by area - Tweedsmuir / Broughton. In the initial printed literature and at the initial presentation it was stated that the proposed windfarm would have visual impact in Tweedsmuir but would not be visible in Broughton. It would be helpful to know if and how this impacted upon the responses received from the different communities.

Action: DC to write to Emily Galloway at Fred Olsen (The windfarm developers) raising these queries.

A more general discussion took place regarding planning issues including windfarms, telecommunications, and commercial forestry. A copy of a letter received by David Mundell in response to a query to the Minister for Energy and the Environment at the Scottish Government was noted, this can be viewed at <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Letter-to-Mr-Mundell-MP.pdf>. **DB** also reported on information gathered from recent discussions and correspondence with colleagues regarding concerns about 'blanket' commercial forestry and the need a robust Scotland wide planning strategy for commercial forestry and windfarm developments and the importance of meaningful consultation with local communities.

Action: DC to circulate information received from **DB** to Community Councillors

05.08 Treasurer's Report

MC had circulated his report for August to Community Councillors before the meeting. This can be viewed at <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Aug-2023-Finance-Report.pdf>

MC reported –

- Grant funds allocated from SSE have now been received.
- TCC needs to undertake a 'stocktake' of fixed running costs e.g., software licenses etc. to develop a clear understanding of potential discretionary spending.

06.06 Grant applications

- Application received for £80 from Ventient Microgrant Fund from Wendy Sethi for 2 forthcoming creative events. (Doodling at the Crook on 16th Sept and Christmas card and tag making on 1st December 2023). **Approved.**
- Letters of thanks for recent grant awards had been received from –
 - The Book club following their recent trip to the Edinburgh Book Festival
 - The Garden Group for the hedge planting
 - Aiden Mason – following his Outdoor activity experience

MC reported that TCC are required to submit an annual summary to the Windfarms re: grants awarded, to provide assurance that awards made meet their criteria. It is therefore important that feedback is received from recipients for inclusion in this evaluation.

- **Promoting applications for the SSE Youth Bursary** – **LM** informed of her intention to circulate a letter to every young person in the community eligible for a Youth Bursary award, to raise awareness of the grant and promote applications.

It was noted that the SSE microgrant application form is not available in Word format and therefore needs to be completed by hand and photographed or scanned before submission.

Action: LM to draft letter and circulate to Community Councillors, prior to distribution.

CH to enquire whether the form could be made available in word format.

- **MC** reported having spoken with Chris Dempster, Ventient Windfarm – (get his title) regarding a potential grant application to support a flexible local transport scheme.

Action: MC To continue to develop a proposal for consideration.

- **SBC Pathways Grant - LM** suggested that following the recent successful volunteer session involving employees from Ventient Energy, spending now be actioned for grass cutting sheers, trail markers and the erection of fencing and gates at the bottom of the Crook garden field. This expenditure was agreed subject to confirmation of costings.

Action: LM to confirm costings and forward to MC.

07.09 Police report

See agenda for link to July's report. August's report can be viewed at <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Aug-2023-Finance-Report.pdf>

08.09 Scottish Borders Councillors' report

DB –

- expressed thanks to members of the community who had volunteered during the Tour O' Borders event.
- reported that Glentress had received an international award following the hosting of the recent cycle championships. **DB** confirmed that some elements of the championship course had been taken down as they were judged too hazardous for noncompetitive cyclists. However, some new routes established for the championships will remain. Efforts will be made to evaluate the local impacts and legacy associated with this event.
- encouraged members of the community to support Eastgate Theatre. The theatre is experiencing financial difficulties and has recently received a loan from SBC which it is hoped will help provide some financial stability and ensure longer-term viability.
- **LM** expressed concerns regarding the Mobile Library service. The mobile library is scheduled to visit Tweedsmuir twice a month. However, on a number of occasions, often at short notice, the service has been withdrawn due to mechanical difficulties with the library van. This is disappointing as efforts are being made, by volunteers, to open the Wee Crook once a month to enable library visitors to also enjoy a chat, cuppa and cake.

Action: LM to write to **DB** outlining concerns about this service, particularly with efforts being made to provide 'associated' community services.

- Following discussion at last month's TCC meeting **DC** enquired whether **DB** had any information from SBC regarding Private Water supplies. **DB** replied that he did not and that this would best be followed up with Viv Thompson (**VT**).

Action: DC to email **VT** regarding any update.

09.09 Community Action Plan

FL reported that going forward James Welsh will be liaising with TCC on behalf of Tweedsmuir Community Company with respect to the progression of the Community Action Plan.

10.09 Recruitment to the Community Council

Following Gavin Parker's (**GP**) resignation there is now a need to recruit a member of the community to join TCC, until the next AGM this would need to be on a co-opted basis. It was agreed that -

- a formal letter of thanks be sent to Gavin for his work as TCC Chair
- effort be made to recruit an additional member of the community to TCC

Actions: **DC** to draft a letter of thanks to **GP** and draft a letter re: recruitment of a new councillor.

11.09 Community Council website

FL reported that it had recently become apparent that although documents are uploaded to the TCC website usually linked to the agenda or meeting minutes there is no easy way of locating specific documents e.g. the CAP.

Action: **FL** to liaise with one or more members of the community regarding the current functionality of the website and how accessing key documents might be improved. This information could then be used to assess the cost of engaging a software developer to undertake the necessary modifications to the website.

12.09 Proposal – Installation of defibrillator at Stanhope

An approach had been received regarding the siting of a defibrillator at Stanhope. It was reported that potential sources of funding have been identified but the views of the community were being sought before any further action was taken.

In light of comments received from Lesley Kirkwood (**LK**), Tweedsmuir's resilient communities coordinator it was agreed that given the distance between Stanhope and the nearest defibrillator -currently the Village Hall but to be moved to the Wee Crook and the number of people living and visiting the Stanhope area access to a defibrillator at Stanhope would be advantageous. However, it was noted that -

- the existing defibrillators - are currently checked and maintained by **LK** a role which couldn't be extended to any additional defibrillators.
- the cost associated with maintaining and charging the existing defibrillators is covered by TCC. The TCC would be unable to cover these charges in relation to another defibrillator.

Action: **DC** to relay the outcome of the discussion to those concerned.

13.09 Community Christmas Afternoon Tea

After discussion it was agreed that TCC will organise a Christmas Afternoon Tea, a community sharing tea at the Wee Crook on the afternoon of Sunday 17th December. TCC has previously funded presents for children in the community, to be distributed at a Christmas event. It was agreed that a similar amount be made available this year, with any monies not needed for presents to be used to support the costs of the event e.g. venue hire etc.

14.09 Opportunity 5G Hub

LM reported that Destination Tweed had approached Tweedsmuir Community Company about the potential for the siting of a 5G hub at the Wee Crook.

15.09 Consultations

- SBC consultation survey regarding shared access routes – see agenda for link.
- Scottish Government Consultation re: Changes to the higher rates of Council tax, closing date 20.09.23 - [Council tax consultation - Scottish Government](#)
- Responsible tourism strategy - [online survey](#)

13.08 Items for information

Waste and recycling updates

SBC have informed that Community Councils will receive missed bin emails when significant issues may impact upon the Councils ability to uplift waste and provide advice to residents on what to do with their bins.

The aim is to return for missed collections asap but this may not always be possible before the next scheduled collection date. In these instances, they will collect extra bagged waste at the next scheduled collection.

Alert notifications will be posted on the SBC website and residents are asked to check here for updates before reporting a missed collection.

17.09 Forthcoming Events

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

18.09 Any other business

- SBC are forming a group looking at River Flooding issues. Anyone interested in participating please contact TCC Secretary.

CH expressed concern about the lack of consultation that had taken place regarding their Estate in relation to the Destination Tweed Programme.

Action: LM to forward details of person to contact to **CH**.

19.06 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 5th October 2023**.

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