

Tweedsmuir Community Council

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

Present: Lesley Mason (LM, Vice Chair), Mark Cullen (MC, Treasurer), Debbie Cullen (DC, Secretary), Frances Leckie (FL), Drummond Begg (DB) Scottish Borders Councillor and 3 members of the public

Katy Leigh from The Wise Group joined the meeting via Zoom to talk about a fully funded Relational Mentoring Service in the Scottish Borders. The project aims to work with vulnerable households either in or at risk of fuel poverty and will adopt a holistic approach to support families, ultimately lifting them out of poverty. Information can be found at -

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Relational-Mentoring-Scotland-1.pdf>

Donald Greig (**DG**) from Southern Uplands Partnership attended the meeting to update on the Talla Hartfell Wild Land Area project. Information shared at the meeting can be found at <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Talla-Hartfell-Info-Dec-23.pdf>. A discussion took place re: the challenges facing the communities adjacent to the Wild Land Area - Tweedsmuir, Moffat and Ettrick & Yarrow and the potential benefits of a joint meeting with representatives from these Community Councils to identify and discuss opportunities for joint working.

Action: **DG** to set up a meeting.

01.12 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Carolynn Hoy.

02.12 Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed as correct.

03.12 Matters arising not covered in the agenda

- **Sandbag delivery** - Lesley Kirkwood (**LK**), Resilient Communities Coordinator, had confirmed that the sandbag storage at Village Hall is/was full. The residents at Glenriska will keep a supply in their barn for use by residents near the Kirk. **LK** will coordinate deliveries/collections with Broughton Resilient Communities re: resupply as and when required.

LK had also expressed her thanks to TCC for their continued support for Resilient Communities within Tweedsmuir over the past year.

- **Mobile library service** – Following the last TCC meeting **DC** contacted Borders Live Library Service regarding concerns re: the disruptions to the mobile service serving Tweedsmuir over recent months. The response received informed of the purchase of 2 new mobile library vehicles, due for delivery in Spring 2023 and highlighted SBC's commitment to maintaining and hopefully developing the service over the coming year.

04.12 Planning applications

Update re: Installation of Communication Lattice Tower, Land at Menzion Forest Block Quarter Hill, Tweedsmuir –
https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Decision-Notice-dated-22-November-2023_982131.pdf

The Community Councils and **DB** expressed disappointment at the decision, on appeal, to overturn the decision made by SBC to reject the application for the telecommunications mast at Talla.

A discussion took place regarding the potential to appeal this decision. **DB** made clear that any appeal would need to be made with respect to the legal process associated with the successful appeal and not the criteria used to reach the decision or the outcome. It was subsequently agreed that any challenge was unlikely to be unsuccessful.

Local residents and TCC expressed their appreciation of the support given by SBC Councillors with respect to this planning issue.

Concerns were expressed by those in attendance regarding the apparent 'centralisation' of decision making with respect to planning decisions re - telecommunication masts, windfarms and forestry developments.

It was agreed that an invitation would be extended to MSP's – ideally one from each political party to visit the area and discuss the concerns of residents regarding planning processes impacting on Tweedsmuir.

Action:

DC to explore dates for a meeting with members of the Scottish Parliament in Spring 2024 – giving sufficient notice to try and enable attendance.

05.12 Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report can be viewed at
<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Nov-2023-Finance-Report.pdf>
- Review of Financial Support to Community Councils. See agenda for link.

Action:

- Before end of February 2024 **MC** to identify TCC's 'fixed' financial commitment e.g. software licenses etc. to determine amount of 'pre-committed' vs 'uncommitted' funds going forward.
- **TCC** councillors to inform **MC** of any potential 'new' areas of funding that may/should fall under TCC's remit.

06.12 Grant applications

None received.

Feedback received from microgrants grants previously awarded to support – visit by Bookclub members for Edinburgh Book Festival and Tree Planting in Crook Garden.

Action:

FL to follow up re: feedback regarding grant award towards 'Doodling at the Crook' Event.

07.12 Police report

October's report can be viewed at - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Tweeddale-East-and-West-October-2023.pdf>

Novembers report can be viewed at - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Tweeddale-East-and-West-November-2023.pdf>

08.12 Scottish Borders Councillors' report

- **DB** reported that the review of the economic impact of the summer's UCI events indicated a net profit to the local economy of £6 million, mainly in relation to hospitality.
- SBC Community Councillors to continue to attend TCC meetings on a rota basis, meeting together on a regular basis to update.

09.12 Community Action Plan

- An advert for a Community Development Manager to support delivery of the Cap has recently been posted and can be found at - <https://goodmoves.org/vacancy/a4sP10000003z8bIAA/community-development-manager>
- It was agreed that further printed copies of the CAP are required. It was also agreed that whilst there maybe a small increase in cost, if possible, a local supplier rather than national online supplier would be used.

Action:

LM to obtain quote of printing.

10.12 Destination Tweed

LM reported on a meeting recently attended a 'Partner' meeting involving many of the stakeholders involved in/impacted by Destination Tweed. Work has already taken place across the various work streams including 'Connecting Threads' (which has supported activities in Tweedsmuir). Work is underway to create the 'Source to Sea' walking route with sections of the route being prioritised in terms of 'importance' and 'achievability'. **LM** reported having requested a map of the proposed route through Tweedsmuir from Destination Tweed but had yet to receive this.

A local resident reported that discussions had been taking place with Destination Tweed regarding a section of the path across Oliver Field Forest.

A discussion subsequently took place regarding the route of the '*Low level, unpaved path, from the Crook Inn to the site entrance, kept open for public access and cut back annually*' associated with the planting of Oliver Field Forest. There was a lack of clarity as to who was responsible for the path - Scottish Woodlands or the landowner. It was therefore agreed that the landowner be contacted to enquire who was responsible for the path, whether the path had been created and the precise route.

Action:

DC to contact Hearthstones Estate regarding the above queries.

11.12 Community Council Website

FL provided a brief report on recent feedback received regarding the Community Council website. A number of recommendations were made regarding the style and content of the website including –

- The need for fixed content on the homepage with links to other information and websites.
- the importance of developing a search function to enable visitors to the site to search for key documents – currently they are embedded within meeting agendas and minutes.
- making the website 'feel' less formal and more accessible.

The role of the Community Council's Facebook Page was also discussed. It was agreed that going forward, information regarding the TCC would only be posted on the main Tweedsmuir page to avoid confusion/duplication.

Action:

LM to make enquiries regarding a local web designer/developer who could support the recommended changes and obtain associated costings.

12.12 Citizens Advice Clinics

These have unfortunately had to be cancelled in December. Sessions are scheduled for Thursday 4th January 2024 - 10-12 2024 and Thursday 1st February 2024 - 10-12

DC reported that Richard Callaghan, Outreach Development Adviser had reported that use of this service in Tweedsmuir had been much as expected and in keeping with other rural 'clinics'. Funding for this service to be reviewed by the CAB service in early 2024.

13.12 Consultations

- Review of Polling Places. Link - on agenda.
- Tour O' Borders – info previously circulated.
- The annual SBC budget survey – is now open and be found at www.scotborders.gov.uk/budgetsurvey. It is open until 31 January 2024.
- Regional Land Use Framework CRLUF– Consultation

The RLUF following a period of extensive stakeholder engagement in 2022/23 and sets out a concise vision and objectives for land use across the region, providing information on existing land uses, the benefits they provide, and drivers for land use change. Organisations, communities and individuals to comment on the Consultation draft.

Details of the consultation, the consultation draft RLUF and information about a series of events promoting the Consultation can be found at: <https://sosrep.dumgal.gov.uk/whats-happening>. The Consultation closes on 23rd February 2024.

14.12 Items for information

- The Biggar Patient Group Newsletter can be viewed at - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Patient-Group-Newsletter-Winter-2023.pdf>
- Tree felling - Whitelaw Brae windfarm. Felling contractors have moved to site 27/28 November and are preparing the area for the tree felling. Initial activity will consist of track improvements in and around the forested areas to enable the removal of the timber. Trees will be felled, and the logs removed from the area in stages.

This phase is expected to take nine months to complete. Updates can be found at <https://www.baywa-re.co.uk/en/wind/whitelaw-brae#project-status>

- Tree planting will be taking place at Talla on Saturday 13th Jan, Sunday 4th Feb and Sun 3rd March. Borders Forestry Trust is offering a range of volunteering opportunities and workshops – for more info contact volunteer@bordersforesttrust.org

15.12 Forthcoming Events

- **Sunday 17th December** - Community Afternoon Tea – December 2023, 2:30pm, RSVP to the secretary by 10th December. Funded by donations and Tweedsmuir Community Council.
- Info about forthcoming events can be found at <https://www.tweedsmuir.scot/events/>

16.12 Any other business

17.12 Date of next meeting

Please note there is no meeting in January 2024. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 1st February 2024.

If you have any agenda items, please contact the secretary.
Tweedsmuirsecretary.outlook.com

**Wishing you all a very
Merry Christmas &
best wishes for the coming year.**

www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk Contact: Tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com

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

Other Councillors: Frances Leckie Carolynn Hoy

Resilient Communities Coordinator: Lesley Kirkwood - resilienttweedsmuir@gmail.com