

Tweedsmuir Community Council

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

Present:

Lesley Mason (LM, Vice Chair), Debbie Cullen (DC, Secretary), Frances Leckie (FL), Carolynn Hoy (CH), Drummond Begg (DB, Scottish Borders Community Councillor)

Catriona Patience, Wild Heart Project Officer from Borders Forest Trust joined the meeting via zoom, to update on current projects and volunteering opportunities.

Current projects include:

- upgrading the Barns at Talla and Gameshope to provide a better base for volunteers.
- improving access through the construction of bridges at Gameshope Bothy and Donald's Cleugh.
- tree planting at various sites.
- providing education opportunities e.g. Botanical training, heritage walks and landscape photography.
- increasing interpretation materials including a toposcope at the top of Talla Lins.
- increasing volunteering opportunities e.g. tree planting, at Talla Gameshope every Thursday 10am – 3pm, and 1st Sunday of month.

More information about these and other projects can be found on the Borders Forest Trust website – bordersforesttrust.org

Anyone interested in finding out more about volunteering opportunities and/or wishing to volunteer should email volunteer@bordersforesttrust.org

01.03 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies from Mark Cullen (MC, Treasurer).

02.03 Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted as correct.

03.03 Matters arising not covered in the agenda

- Responses re:
 - Badlieu Forest Plan
 - Onshore Windfarm planning processes

DC reported that letters had been sent in relation to the above. No responses yet received.

Whitelaw Brae windfarm

An apology had been received from the developers regarding the lack of clarity regarding site access during the current phase of site development. The site is currently closed but an offer, to TCC of a site visit has been made for later in the year when more of the enabling infrastructure has been completed.

Conversations to commence regarding the Community Benefit associated with this windfarm.

04.03 Planning applications

- Extension to dwelling house: Stanhope House Broughton Scottish Borders ML12 6QJ. Deadline for comments 13.03.24. See agenda for details.

No comments received/made.

- Oliver Forest Windfarm

A number of residents attended the exhibition. The developers to provide feedback regarding responses received. Comments on these proposals must be received by Statkraft no later than **19th April 2024**.

05.03 Treasurer's Report

- Report can be viewed at – <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Feb-2024-Finance-Report.pdf>
- Allocation of underspend of £35.38 from SBC Coronation Grant. It was agreed this would be used to purchase fruit bushes for the community garden.

Action:

- **LM** to source fruit bushes (receipts required for submission to SBC)

06.03 Grant applications

No new applications received. Discussion and agreement reached regarding format for reporting on microgrants spending.

CH raised the issue of potential grant funding for the provision of bus shelters at Patervan, Stanhope and Kingledores at a cost of approx. £500 each. This would require a grant application by TCC, to SSE Windfarm Fund.

Actions:

- **CH** to contact residents at Kingledores re: potential need for a shelter
- **CH** to investigate SSE grant application.

07.03 Police report

- The report for January '24 – see agenda for details
- The report for February '24 can be viewed at <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Tweeddale-East-and-West-February-2024.pdf>
- **DC** reported having received an email for PC Vivienne Carsley, J Division, Community Policing Team. PC Carsley had expressed a commitment to attend a meeting of each of SBC's Community Council, in person at least one a year and possibly more frequently if meetings were held virtually. Information regarding details of in-person/hybrid meetings was requested and subsequently provided.

08.03 Scottish Borders Councillors' report

DB reported that -

- SCB Community Councillor Eric Small was currently on sick leave. TCC expressed their concern for Eric and wished him a speedy recovery.
- SBC has agreed the budget for the coming financial year. There had been positive collaboration across the political parties to reach a consensus in the context of significant financial challenges. This had only been possible by drawing on financial reserves, a strategy which is unfortunately not sustainable in the longer term.
- Waste Management is a particular area of personal interest/concern and DB had recently been finding out more about the operations of Caledonian horticulture and waste sorting at Levenseat. Information about recycling of household waste can be found at - <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/bins-rubbish-recycling/goes-bin-bag>

09.03 Community Action Plan

LM, FL and **DC** reported on their recent attendance at the SCOTO (Scottish Community Tourism) Conference which provided an opportunity to find out how other communities are addressing the challenges and opportunities associated with community lead tourism.

10.03 Destination Tweed (DT)

LM reported that she will be attending the forthcoming Destination Tweeds Partnership meeting – to feedback at the next meeting.

DT have launched a newsletter – see item 14.03 for information.

11.03 Community Council Website

It was agreed that a document specifying the work needed to upgrade the TCC website is required in order to obtain costings and seek the funding needed to undertake the necessary work. If possible, a local provider would be engaged to carry out the work required.

Action:

- **FL** to liaise with local resident for support with producing a specification document.

12.03 Unpaid Work within the community – update

LM reported that work had commenced on the polytunnel in the Community Garden.

13.03 Community litter pick

It was agreed this would take place over the period 5th – 12th April. Rubbish collected should be left in front of the Crook, to the right of the Crook Inn building behind the planters, with a view to arranging a collection by SBC week beginning 15th April.

Volunteers are needed to collect litter from across the community. Anyone able to help please contact Lesley Mason atlesleytweedsmuir@yahoo.co.uk, who can coordinate to ensure as many areas as possible are covered.

14.03 Consultations

Improving the Cancer Journey Service Consultation – see agenda for details.

14.03 Items for information

Destination Tweed have launched a newsletter – details on agenda.

15.03 Forthcoming Event

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

16.03 Any other business

- **FL** informed re: 'Fix it' workshop to be held in Tweedsmuir Village Hall on Saturday 25th May 10:00am – 1pm. Anyone with any items to be 'fixed' or anyone with any fixing skills please contact Frances Leckie at enquiries@tweedsmuir.scot or text 0776 313 9964
- **MC** sent a report on a meeting arranged by SBC to share information about Planning Processes.

From 2026, SBC has undertaken to consider locality produced 'Local Place Plans' as part of planning applications/processes. After discussion it was agreed that TCC needs to better understand the relationship between Tweedsmuir's Community Action Plan and a Place Plan to ensure the community is not disadvantaged in relation to future planning decisions by the absence of a Place Plan and the work required should a Local Place Plan be felt to be advantageous.

Actions:

DC to contact SBC to gain better understanding of the status of/relationship between CAP and Local Place Plans.

- **CH** raised the issue of the potential need for affordable housing within Tweedsmuir. It was noted that a needs assessment with respect to this had been an action identified within the CAP.
- **LM** informed a theft of tools and equipment from the works container, associated with the bridge repairs on the A701 just before Oliver Forest entrance had taken place between 5pm on 4th and 8am on 5th March 2024. Anyone with any information or dashcam footage – please contact the Police.

17.03 Date of next meeting

Thursday 4th April 2024 at 7pm.

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