

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 7pm, Tweedsmuir Village Hall & via ZOOM

Present:

Present: Lesley Mason (LM, Chair), Frances Leckie (FL, Vice Chair), Carolynn Hoy (CH), Lesley Kirkwood (LK, Resilient Communities Coordinator), Eric Small (ES, Scottish Borders Council), Andrew Mason (AM, Community Heat Project) and two members of the community.

01.10 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Mark Cullen and Debbie Cullen.

02.10 Minutes of the last meeting

Approved.

03.10 Matters arising not covered in the agenda

- Carlowse Bridge - an inspection has been made by SBC which confirmed that the mortar has deteriorated around the coping stones. The dangerous stones have been removed, and the outstanding issues will be added to SBC's repair work list.
- DC has contacted SBC regarding support with developing a Place Plan for Tweedsmuir – awaiting a response.

4.10 Planning Applications

Eight communications have been received regarding the Oliver Forest Wind Farm planning application raising objections to this proposal. TCC is meeting on 9th October to formulate a response to be forwarded to the Energy Consents Unit by Friday 18th October 2024.

05.09 Treasurer's Report

The report can be viewed at <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/September-Report.pdf>

On behalf of Mark Cullen, Treasurer **LM** reported that -

- budget lines within the main budget had been created for –
 - the Community Events Grant with the grant money deposited.
 - the Community Heat Project in anticipation of receipt of the Grant monies from SSE Wind Farm.

- £50 from SBC's Pathways Grant has been spent on bulbs for the junction.
- Three months' hall rental for TCC meetings has been paid.

06.09 Grant applications

- No microgrant applications have been received.
- The TCC's grant applications to SSE Wind Farm Fund to support –
 - the continuation of the Community Development Manager role until Feb 2027
 - the printing and distribution of the Upper Tweed Community News
 - delivery of The Community Heat Project community heat project in Tweedsmuir and Broughton, which we are leading

have been successful.

FL reported that Upper Tweed Community News (UTCN) is applying to Nadara Glenkerie for a grant to support a photography competition/ exhibition project, 'Capturing Tweedsmuir'.

Action:

FL to email details of the UTCN Grant application to **ES** who will provide a letter of support.

07.10 Police report

Report not yet received.

08.10 SBC Councillor's report

Nothing reported.

9.10 Community action Plan

- The CAP Steering Group steering group, made up from members of TCC, Tweedsmuir Community Company and local residents held it's second meeting to discuss, identify and agree priorities for the next 6 months.
- The next project will focus on developing outdoor recreational facilities at the Wee Crook. **LM** meeting with Tweedsmuir Community Company next week to present options and discuss priorities.
- A directory of local services has been compiled and will sit on TCC website. Skirling CC have expressed an interest in also hosting on their website.
- **LM** has drafted a Lottery Fund grant application focused on the continued development of the Crook Garden as a Community Resource.
- Community Logs: **AM** described a windfarm grant funded project operating in another area. An identified supplier provides logs from a sustainable source to offset carbon delivered to individual households. Logs would only be available to those whose primary residence is in Tweedsmuir.

In order develop a viable grant application TCC needs an indication as to how many residents might wish to take up this provision. Volunteers would also be needed to help elderly and/or disabled community members to stack wood.

The deadline for submission of a grant for consideration by SSE Wind Farm Fund Panel is closing shortly.

Action:

- **DC** to circulate information about this project and ask for expressions of interest by specified date.
- **LM** and **AM** to pull together Grant application.
- **Community Transport** - **LM** met to discuss with SBC Councillor Viv Thomson. Various options e.g. Dial a bus, a taxi voucher scheme already running in another community are being explored.

LM reported on some uncommitted monies remaining in the CDM budget which could be used to purchase the annual Zoom license, used by TCC, Community Company, community groups and users of the Village Hall and to support the costs associated with provision of satellite broadband in the Village Hall.

10.09 Destination Tweed (TD)

DT - Path development. The path will be complete from the Crook to Easter Dawyck farm by February 2025 and through to Peebles by the summer. There is however, a small section at Stanhope where ideally a bridge is required but falls outside the DT budget. **LM** suggested consideration be given to submitting a windfarm grant application to cover the costs, helping to deliver a long awaited path between Tweedsmuir and Broughton.

DT have now launched a new website and informative newsletter. This can be viewed at <https://destinationtweed.org/>

11.10 Community Heat Project

AM presented information about the project. Volunteers survey individual houses for heat loss using a thermal imaging camera. Data goes into an automatically generated report, and if appropriate, householders can then get advice regarding mitigation measures to reduce heat loss from Home Energy Scotland. The report is specific to each individual house. This is a three year project, as surveys can only be conducted during the winter, and it is hoped to cover every property where a survey is requested, within this time.

A Launch meeting for the project will take place on **17th October at 7:30pm** in Tweedsmuir Village Hall. Four volunteers from Tweedsmuir and six from Broughton are required to carry out the surveys, training will be provided. There will be priority sign-ups for a survey at the launch meeting.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering to carry out surveys please contact **AM** - andrew@environ-it.co.uk

12.10 Consultations – none.

13.10 Items for information

- From SBC - New regulations re: how householders and businesses can dispose of waste upholstered domestic seating
(WUDS)https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/WUDS_flyer_AUG24_A5_INTERACTIVE.pdf
- **Research on Private Water Supplies**
TCC have been contacted by a researcher from the University of Stirling investigating private water supply quality in Scotland. Details can be found at - <https://forms.office.com/e/4LvZqeU64J>

14.10 Forthcoming events

Info can be found at - <https://tweedsmuir.scot>.

15.10 AOB

- **ES** advised that sandbags are being delivered to Broughton and could be delivered to Tweedsmuir. It was confirmed that this was not required as Tweedsmuir currently has an adequate supply.
- A farewell event has been held for outgoing Lord Lieutenant, Sir Huw Strachan, who has handed over to Ms Catherine Maxwell Stuart DL, Tweeddale's first female Lord Lieutenant.
- **CH** raised the issue of bracken encroaching fast into heather. It can no longer be sprayed, despite the fact that the spray will only kill bracken and there doesn't currently appear to be an effective alternative solution. The bracken is thriving in the warmer and wetter climate, and concern was expressed Scotland could lose its heather. **ES** advised TCC should raise this as an issue with local MSP and MP.

Action:

- **CH** to draft letter on behalf of TCC.
- **ES** to pass on any information received.

16.10 Date of next meeting - 7th November 2024

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

Chair: Lesley Mason, Vice Chair: Frances Leckie, Treasurer: Mark Cullen,

Secretary: Debbie Cullen, Councillor:Carolynn Hoy

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