

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) Thursday 5th December 2024 at 7pm, Tweedsmuir Village Hall & via ZOOM

Present:

Present: Lesley Mason (LM, Chair), Frances Leckie (FL, Vice Chair) Mark Cullen) MC, Treasurer, Debbie Cullen (DC, Secretary), Viv Thomson (VT, Scottish Borders Council) and two members of the community.

01.12 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Carolynn Hoy.

02.12 Minutes of the last meeting

Approved.

03.12 Matters arising not covered in the agenda

- **Letter re: Management of Bracken** – Deferred to next meeting
- **Route of Destination Tweed Path** - DC reported having had been contacted by Destination Tweed regarding meeting minutes earlier in the year outlining the proposed route for the path through Upper Tweeds, which was inaccurate. Updated information can be found on the DT website.
- **Road condition at Talla** - Following discussion at October's TCC meeting VT raised concerns with colleagues at SBC re: the condition of the road at Talla following the works associated with installation of cabling. SBC to raise this issue with contractors.

04.12 Planning applications

Discussion took place re: the Pre-panning application received associated with the Installation of Telecommunication Column on A701 to support the proposed 5G Hub at the Crook site.

TCC and residents will have the opportunity to comment on this application when it progresses through the formal planning stage.

05.12 Treasurer's Report

The report can be viewed at <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/November-Report.pdf>

It was noted that income from the Pathways Grant had been received.

06.12 Grants update

- An application received for £250 from Tweedsmuir Community Christmas Tea Committee to SSE to subsidise the forthcoming Afternoon Tea. **Approved.**
- **FL** provided feedback from the recent meeting of the Nadara Glenkerie Wind farm Panel. Larger grants approved were –
 - An application from Biggar Museum Trust for Educational Packs for use in local schools.
 - Coulter Village Hall to support the community to purchase their Village Hall, to develop as a Community Hub.
 - Broughton & District Bowling Club – to improve access to the facilities.
 - An application form Edinburgh Science Foundation was not approved.

It was noted that the demands on funding may soon outstrip funds available within the current funding period. The Panel would therefore need to decide whether to use monies from the Endowment Fund to address any funding shortfall.

As part of the Review of this fund a discussion took place regarding funding priorities. It was agreed that these should be slightly amended and also make mention of the alignment with applications to local priorities as set out in Community Action/development plans. It was also agreed that Tweedsmuir and Broughton would continue to be defined as ‘priority areas’ for the allocation of funds.

LM reported that the meeting of the SSE Wind farm Panel had been postponed and therefore the application for the Community Log Grant has yet to be considered.

07.12 Police report

The reported can be viewed at [-https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Tweeddale-East-and-West-November-2024.pdf](https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Tweeddale-East-and-West-November-2024.pdf)

08.12 SBC Councillor’s report

VT reported that –

- progress is being made regarding budget setting – to take place in February 2025.
- the outcome of the bus tender should be known in the next few weeks.

11.12 Community Action Plan (CAP)

- **Place Planning** – **LM** reported that following discussion with representatives from SBC the view was that Tweedsmuir has a robust Community Action Plan and that there would be little advantage in working to develop a Place Plan at this time. Consideration should be given to developing a Place Plan when the current CAP is updated.

LM also reported having made contact with Mike Staples, Chief Executive of South of Scotland Community Housing OSCH who may be able to support with a local housing needs assessment.

- **Feedback on Community Services Survey** – **LM** summarised the results of the survey and actions being taken in relation to this. A link to the results of the survey will be made available shortly.

- **SBC Small Schemes Grant - LM** reported that with support from **VT**, SBC's Small Schemes budget will be funding the provision and fitting of a fence and gates at the lower end of the Crook Garden, adjacent to the Tweed. They will also carry out work to improve the hard standing of the Disabled Parking Spaces outside the wee Crook café.

10.12 Destination Tweed (TD)

LM reported on the work being undertaken at the rear of the Wee Crook and the new bridge on the route between The Crook and Drimelzier. The Project Group is developing business cases for the support services required along the DT route e.g., transport, hospitality etc.

11.12 Community Heat Project

The four volunteers for Tweedsmuir have now undertaken their training. It is hoped to carry out 'practice' surveys during December/Jan with a view to launching the booking site for application from the community from February 2025.

12.12 Community Christmas Afternoon Tea

FL reported that there had been a good level of interest. A reminder of the need to purchase tickets would be circulated.

13.12 Community Uplift of large items to Eishels

LM presented the information which will be made available to the community regarding this service.

MC raised the issue of the need to consider the cost of providing this service in the context of the TCC's overall budget.

In early 2025 the plan is to train volunteers to support and deliver this service. Community uplifts can then be scheduled.

14.12 Biggar Medical Practice

LM reported that the revised appointment system appears to be working well. Those requiring an on the day appointment who ring between 8 – 9am have been offered appointments and those contacting from 9am have been able to forward book an appointment.

15.12 Consultations

Erection of Pylons associated with cross border extension Gala Noth to Scottish Borders deadline 23/12/24

https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/cross_border_connection.aspx

16.12 Items for information

Road closure at Rachan – information circulated via email.

17.12 Forthcoming events

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

18.12 A0B

- **Bin collection over Christmas & New Year** – Collection in Tweedsmuir should be unaffected.
- **Tweedsmuir Little Library** - DC reported on what appears to have been 2 thefts from the Little Library over the last few months. It was agreed that trying to increase the security of the library e.g, installing a key pad or similar would be counter productive to the concept of a community library. At the moment the number of books on display has been reduced to try and mitigate the impact of any further theft.
- **MC** raised concerns with **VT** having tried to register an issue with SBC's Environmental Health department re: start times for tree feeling. Contact had been made twice and on the second occasion they appeared to have no record of his first contact and he had received no feedback following either contact.

Action: VT to follow up with SBC.

16.12 Date of next meeting - Thursday 6th February 2024.

Please note there is no meeting in January 2025.

**Wishing you a Merry Christmas
&
best wishes for 2025**

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

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