

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) Thursday 6th March 2025 at 7pm, Tweedsmuir Village Hall & via ZOOM

Present:

Present: Lesley Mason (LM, Chair), Frances Leckie (FL, Vice Chair), Mark Cullen (MC, Treasurer), Drummond Begg (DB, Scottish Borders Council) and 2 members of the public.

01.03 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Debbie Cullen and Carolynn Hoy.

02.03 Minutes of the last meeting

Approved.

03.02 Matters arising not covered in the agenda

- **Letter re: Management of Bracken** – actioned as agreed.
- LM reported that contact has been made with Whitelaw Brae. A meeting with Thrive Renewables to be arranged.
- A new supply of 50 printed copies of the Community Action Plan has been ordered.
- No update re: Ecomuseum – to be carried forward.

04.03 Planning applications

Notification received of felling application at Hearthstanes Farm. Hearthstanes Estate have applied for felling approval for a small area of Scots Pine on the track up to the farm. Approximately 40 trees that are growing immediately adjacent to the track are to be felled. During Storm Eowyn a number of trees came down and blocked the access to the farm and damaged the BT fibre cable. The trees are being felled to prevent any damage from future storms. The area will be made stock proof and replanted with a mixture of Scots Pine and Beech.

No comments made.

05.03 Treasurer's Report

The report for February can be viewed at -
<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/February-Report.pdf>

MC reported that -

- Renewal of TCC domain name and SSL certificate has been completed.
- The Community Events Grant has been approved – current balance £308.

- Work on year-end accounts is almost complete.
- There is approximately £250 remaining of our annual grant from Scottish Borders Council. TCC should therefore be eligible for the next year of funding.
- The balance in the SSE microgrant budget is getting low but funding is still available for SSE Youth Bursaries.
- £1000 remains in Nadara Glenkerie microgrants budget: Consideration to be given to allocating a bigger award for community events in September - potentially up to £500.
- The Zoom license has historically been funded through TCC's SBC Grant, accounting for nearly a third of the spending against this budget. It was acknowledged that this license delivers considerable community benefit being used by the Community Company, the Village Hall and the Community News editorial committee, as well as TCC. It was agreed that going forward the cost might be more appropriately covered by a Wind farm Grant - to be discussed further at the next meeting.

06.03 Grant applications

- The SBCAN grant-funded project is complete. **LM** has circulated the project review and will submit.
- Microgrant applications
 - Application received from Resilient Communities for £242.64 from Nadara Windfarm Fund to cover the cost of replacement defibrillator batteries and pads. **Approved.**
 - Application received from Resilient Communities for £172.80 from SSE Windfarm Fund to purchase a small fridge at the Wee Crook to be stocked with essentials for local residents. **Approved.**
 - **MC** to organise the purchase.
 - Application from 'We Can Ceilidh group' for £210 from Nadara Windfarm Fund to cover the cost of classes in the Village Hall, open to all ages and abilities. **Approved.**

07.02 Police report

February's report can be viewed at -

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Tweeddale-East-and-West-February-2025.pdf>

08.02 SBC Councillor's report

DB reported that:

- Border Buses can't meet the tender to operate the 91, 93, services so it will be brought in-house. The existing contract will be extended while new arrangements are put in place. Whilst Tweedsmuir is not directly affected, there is still an ambition to develop a responsive bus service.
- Eastgate Theatre is in desperate need of community support and residents are encouraged to support where possible.
- Merlin project - Christine Grahame MSP is hosting an event at Parliament to raise the profile and garner support for this project.

- Pop-up Bobs have arrived. Tweedsmuir to share access to one with Broughton. When positioning him, consideration should be given to road safety, placing where speeds should be slower, and make him visible.
- The unpaid work team has proved very helpful in delivering work within the Small Schemes budget. They have been working in the locality - putting up fencing behind the Wee Crook and down by the river.

09.03 Community Action Plan (CAP)

LM reported that attempts to hire a minibus via Tweed Wheels to facilitate travel to events have not been possible due to a chronic shortage of volunteer drivers. Andrew Mason has now signed up to become one of their volunteers and following a short training/familiarisation session, should be able to drive community groups to events and outings.

10.03 Destination Tweed (TD)

DB advised that the views of residents are being sought regarding proposed active travel routes through Peebles alongside the River Tweed. This is a resource for communities across Upper Tweed not just those in Peebles. The survey can be accessed at - <https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/assets-and-infrastructure/destination-tweed-peebles-priorsford-bridge-to-fot/>

11.03 Community Heat Project

MC reported that training has now been paid for. There are six people on the waiting list for a home survey. The last one scheduled had to be cancelled because the weather was too warm!

12.03 Community uplift of large items to Eshiels

CH is planning a run to Eshiels in the next few weeks. Anyone wishing to add items to the uplift please contact **LM** – lesleytweedsmuir@yahoo.co.uk

13.03 Consultations

- Active travel path along the river Tweed – see item 10.03.
- Scottish Borders Council Culture Strategy Public Engagement 2025 Survey is now open. SBC are seeking views on what is important to include within a culture strategy for the Scottish Borders. This survey will close for responses on the 26th of March 2025. Culture Strategy Public Engagement 2025 – Survey available here <https://forms.gle/hLiEKn9KCssKShjz7>

14.03 Items for information

- Proposals for the redevelopment of George V park in Broughton can be viewed at <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/UTCC-Community-Council-5-1.pdf>

15.03 Forthcoming events

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

16.03 A0B

- Nadara Glenkerie Windfarm Community Fund is recruiting panel members. Applications should be received by 20th April 2025.
- TCC has been invited to send local representatives to a community liaison group set up by Renewco Power in the context of their renewable energy projects along the M74 corridor. Please get in touch with the secretary if you are interested in being involved.
- It is anticipated that we will be seeking to recruit two new Community Councillors to join the Community Council at the AGM in May.

If you live in Tweedsmuir, are on the Electoral role and -

- interested in issues affecting the community e.g. planning, infrastructure
- willing to represent the views of the community to Scottish Borders Council & other agencies
- keen to promote access to Windfarm Grants & ensure they are used to deliver community benefit
- able to attend 10 monthly meetings either in person or via zoom

please consider joining us. Contact tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com for more info.

17.03 Date of next meeting - Thursday 3rd April 2025.

Please forward any agenda items to the Secretary

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