

# Tweedsmuir Community Council

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## **Minutes of the meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025 at 7pm, Tweedsmuir Village Hall & via ZOOM**

### **Present:**

Present: Lesley Mason (LM, Chair), Frances Leckie (FL, Vice Chair), Mark Cullen (MC, Treasurer), Carolynn Hoy (CH), Eric Small (ES, Scottish Borders Council) and 1 members of the public.

### **01.04 Welcome and Apologies**

None received.

### **02.04 Minutes of the last meeting**

Approved.

### **03.04 Matters arising not covered in the agenda**

- Save Scottish heather' - Management of bracken.  
DC reported that a response had recently been forwarded from Christine Grahame (MSP) re: this matter and circulated to TCC members.
- Whitelaw Brae Wind farm  
A meeting has been scheduled with the developers for the end of April.
- Ecomuseum – Carry forward
- Response re: Planning application for Oliver Forest Wind farm  
Link to this document circulated with agenda.

### **04.04 Planning applications**

None received.

### **05.04 Treasurer's Report**

The report for March can be viewed at -  
<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Mar-Report.pdf>

MC reported that -

- The End of year accounts are almost complete and will be submitted to the Independent Examiner next week.
- There is approximately £250 remaining of our annual grant from Scottish Borders Council. TCC should therefore be eligible for the next year of funding.
- MC suggested that to simplify reporting monies in the 'SSE Communities Fund' – legacy monies, predating the current Treasurers tenure, be moved into the Contingency Fund. It was noted that any monies in the Contingency Fund could not in future be used to make any grant(s) to registered charities.

- Zoom license. At the last meeting it was agreed that going forward the cost might be more appropriately covered by a Wind farm Grant.

**Action: LM** to confirm with other organisations thought to be using the license that this would still necessary.

#### **06.04 Grant applications**

- Microgrant applications
  - Application from young person for £200 from SSE Youth Bursary for driving lessons. **Approved.**
  - Application received from Sarah Northcott for £250 from Nadara Windfarm Fund to contribute to cost of venue hire for proposed 'Crooked sessions'. **Approved.**

It was noted that the application form for SSE microgrants is more complicated than that for Nadara and that this may be a disincentive for potential applicants, particularly young people wishing to apply for a Youth Bursary.

It had previously been recommended that the young person seeking a Youth Bursary should complete the application form themselves. After discussion it was agreed this would not be a requirement.

#### **Actions:**

- **LM** to draft a simplified application form for SSE microgrants
- **CH** - TCC representative on the SSE Windfarm Panel to forward to Colin McMillian

#### **07.04 Police report**

February's report can be viewed at

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Tweeddale-East-and-West-March-2025.pdf>

#### **08.04 SBC Councillor's report**

**ES** reported that:

- The 91, 93 bus services will be provided by SBC from services so it will be brought in-house. The bus services will have -
  - new fully accessible 16 seat buses
  - more journeys than on current contract
  - offer a six day service
- A new timetable will be published asap.

**LM** expressed thanks to the Unpaid work team who have completed a significant amount of work at the Crook site – fencing and gates, funded from SBC's Small Grants Scheme.

- **DC** reported that a resident from Broughton on the A701 had contacted TCC regarding concerns relating to the speeding traffic along this route and requesting support for an 50mph limit to be trailed across a number of other main routes between Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway.

**Action: DC** to contact Phillipa Gilhooley at SBC regarding this matter.

- **DC** reported having recently viewed the survey circulated by SBC re: the current 'Non financial review of Community Councils' and expressed concern at the format – quantity and presentation of information respondents would need to read to respond.

**Action:** To feedback comments to SBC.

#### **09.04 Community Action Plan (CAP)**

**LM** reported that –

- an advert has been placed for a Community Development Officer focused on the Community Garden.
- the Year 1 report re: Community Development Manager has been completed and submitted.
- a set of interpretation Boards for several locations across Tweedsmuir are nearing completion.
- UTCN have recently launched a photo completion.
- Tweedsmuir Community Company have informed that Planning permission for the erection of the Pods on the Crook site has been received.
- Tweedsmuir Community Company has received a grant of just over £1million to build a Bunkhouse on the Crook site. Work is underway to finalise the building spec, business plan etc.

#### **10.04 Destination Tweed (TD)**

**LM** reported that –

- There are 24 work packages to address the construction of the trail along it's length. It is hoped that over the next year the path between the Crook and Peebles will be completed.

#### **11.04 Providing support re: Windfarm Grant admin**

**FL** reported that she had been approached by Niome Lucjan, Community Fund Adviser regarding the potential for TCC to administer Microgrant funding on behalf of another Community Council. The Community Council concerned does not currently have the capacity to administer the grants themselves.

After discussion it was agreed that the initial step would be to meet with Niome and a representative from the community Council concerned to better understand the issues and how any arrangements might work.

**Action:** **FL** to feedback to Naomi.

#### **12.04 Community Council membership**

It was noted that **MC** will be standing down as Treasurer at the next TCC meeting. **FL** has previously indicated a willingness to take on this role. However, the Council is already carrying 1 vacancy and unless at least one other member of the community is prepared to join the Council the number of Councillors will be reduced to 4. Meetings would still be quorate, if all Councillors were in attendance, but in order to be more representative of the community and enable a more equitable sharing of responsibilities, at least one additional Council member is required.

Anyone interested in joining the Community Council, please contact the Secretary.

#### **13.04 Community Litter Collection**

It is planned for this to be completed by the end of April. Anyone willing to get involved please contact **LM** - [lesleytweedsmuir@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lesleytweedsmuir@yahoo.co.uk)

Equipment required – rubbish bags, pick up sticks, gloves, high viz tabards etc can be obtained from the Resilient Communities cupboard at the rear of the Village Hall.

Rubbish collected should be left at the rear of the Village Hall. At the end of the month SBC will be contacted to arrange collection.

#### **14.04 Consultations**

- See the agenda for details.

#### **15.04 Items for information**

- Borders Forest Trust have been nominated for a prestigious national award. The winner will be decided by Public vote. To vote click – <https://www.eocaconservation.org/vote/>

#### **16.04 Forthcoming events**

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

#### **17.04 AOB**

- **Biggar Medical Practice Patient Group** – **LM** feedback following a recent meeting.  
The trial of only taking calls between 8-9am for patients requiring an appointment that day has been adopted as a permanent arrangement. Forward appointments can be booked after 9am.  
It was noted that on the day appointments will be by phone or following a telephone consultation in person.
- **Community Uplift To Eshels** – CH reported that this had proved quite difficult to organise but hopes to be able to take an uplift in the next week.
- **LM** reported thanks had been received from SBCAN following the launch of the Recycling facilities in 'The Green Hut' at the Village Hall.

#### **18.04 Date of next meeting & AGM** - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

Please forward any agenda items to the Secretary

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[www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk) Contact: [Tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:Tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com)

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Secretary: Debbie Cullen, Councillor: Carolynn Hoy

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