

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Minutes of the meeting and AGM of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) Thursday 1st May 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), Councillor, Scottish Borders Council) and 1 members of the public.

01.05 Welcome and Apologies

Gary Baumont – Community Police Officer.

02.05 Minutes of the last meeting

Amendments to Item 06.04 should read ‘It was agreed that it would be preferable but not essential for a Youth Bursary application form to be completed by the young person themselves.’

03.04 Matters arising not covered in the agenda

- Ecomuseum
LM reported that it is hoped to secure a substantial grant to support the long-term funding for this project. In the meantime, additional options for interim short term funding are being explored.
- 50 mph speed limit trial
DC reported having received feedback for SBC regarding the potential for this trial to include A701. SBC informed that the selection of routes included in the trail were, in discussion with Police Scotland based on the number of motorcycle accidents. There are no plans to extend the current trial but once this trial has been evaluated a public consultation is planned regarding any future initiative.
- Providing support - Windfarm admin
FL reported that this issue had been resolved and no further action required.
- Save Scottish heather’ - Management of bracken
CH advised that no further action is needed at this time.
- Community Litter Pick

Collections for most of Tweedsmuir are underway or have been completed, final ‘picks’ to be made over next 10 days.

04.05 Planning applications

None received.

05.05 Treasurer’s Report

See AGM - Treasurer’s report

MC reported that TCC had received a 'one off' cost of living grant from Nadara Windfarm Fund to be used to support any community event/activity. Suggestions were discussed about how this funding might be used. A decision to be taken to be taken at the next TCC meeting.

06.05 Grant applications

- Microgrant applications
 - Application from young person for £200 from SSE Youth Bursary for residential outdoor activities. **Approved.**
 - Application received from Frances Leckie for £155.88 from Nadara Windfarm Fund to purchase zoom license for use by a number of community organisations. **Approved.**

Action:

DC to contact main users of the license – Tweedsmuir Village Hall Committee, Tweedsmuir Community Company and Upper Tweed Community News of this renewal and inform that this arrangement will be reviewed annually.

- Revision of SSE microgrant forms

LM presented suggestions for amendments to the forms. These were agreed.

Action:

LM to forward to Colin McMillan at SSE.

07.05 Police report

Not yet received.

Sadly, in the last week 'Pop up Bob' has been stolen from his position outside the Crook.

Action:

ES to enquire whether he was insured in order to obtain a replacement.

08.05 SBC Councillor's report

ES reported that:

- Broughton School had received a positive report following a recent inspection focused on areas previously identified as needing improvement.
As part of a process of reducing SBC's capital spending the transfer of Assets e.g. specific buildings etc. from SBC to other bodies is being explored in various locations across the Borders.

09.05 Community Action Plan (CAP)

LM reported that –

- The Watercolor journaling sessions have started in the Village Hall/Crook Gardens
- The UTCN photo completion is now underway
- The recent film night was well supported and received. Options are being explored for further film showings.
- The Wee Crook café has been nominated for a Thistle Award.

10.04 Destination Tweed (TD)

Nothing to update.

11.05 Whitelaw Brae Windfarm

DC and LM recently joined a 'virtual' meeting with representatives from Thrive Renewables regarding the progression of Whitelaw Brae windfarm.

Main points for information –

- This is the biggest development yet undertaken by Thrive, both in terms of infrastructure and investment.
- The timescale for construction – Turbines to be in place by next spring with the windfarm being fully operational in late 2027.
- It is anticipated that the main access route will be from the south via the A701. Large elements associated with the construction e.g. turbines will be transported overnight. Local stone will be extracted from quarry pits and other materials e.g. concrete will be delivered during the day but deliveries likely to be concentrated over short periods of time associated with specific stages of the build.
- The Community to be kept informed of any issues likely to impact upon local travel.
- The connection to the grid will be via the existing Southern Clyde windfarm. Except for 2 pylons through an area of existing forestry, the connection will be underground, including under the A701 and River Tweed. Thrive to provide further details.
- The site will be closed throughout the construction phase. However, the intention is that once completed access will be facilitated for walking routes etc.
- TCC expressed a preference for working with Thrive in conjunction with Foundation Scotland to develop the framework for the future Community Benefit Fund. Funding strategy to be informed by the Community Action Plan.
- Thrive would be keen to attend a future TCC meeting to further update and respond to questions/queries from members of the community and the potential to explore Community Ownership.
- Thrive would like to take opportunity to provide an update in future edition of Upper Tweed Community News.
- TCC informed of services provided by Wee Crook café and how their use would be of benefit to the local economy.
- **DC** to be main point of contact between Thrive and TCC.

Actions:

- DM to forward -
 - contact details for Foundation Scotland
 - copy of Tweedsmuir's Community Action Plan
 - contact details for Upper Tweed Community News
 - contact details for Destination Tweed re: Tweed Trail and local access

12.05 Consultations

- None received.

13.05 Items for information

The new organisational strategy for NHS Borders can be viewed at - www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/organisational-strategy

14.05 Forthcoming events

Upper Tweed Meet 'n' Greet is taking place from 2 – 4 pm on Sunday 15th June in the Crook Gardens. Organised by Upper Tweed Community News, all local residents are welcome to come along. You can meet and chat with representatives of around 30 organisations and interest groups from the Upper Tweed area, have a tour of the Crook gardens and enjoy a free cuppa and cake.

If anyone would like to get involved in helping, please contact Frances Leckie on 0776 313 9964 or francesleckie2@gmail.com

Info about this and other forthcoming events can be found at - <https://tweedsmuir.scot>.

15.05 AOB

- If you have any items of clothing to donate please note the Clothing Recycling Bank is being emptied on 21.05.25.
- The insurance claim for the loss of items associated with the theft of the container from the Village Hall has now been settled and replacement items to be purchased. Additional security at the Village Hall site is also being explored.
- **Information from Scottish Fire and Rescue re: Wildfires**
www.firescotland.gov.uk/outdoors/wildfires
- TCC had been asked to inform residents that Tweedsmuir kirk now has on display the British legion flags that were previously at Broughton Church. The late local historian, Anthony J Hope requested that if Broughton Church closed they came to Tweedsmuir and they now they hang above the wreaths and historical information about our local soldiers.

16.05 Date of next meeting - Thursday 5th June 2025.

- **DC** and **CH** gave apologies.

Annual General Meeting

Chairperson's report

This can be viewed at -

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Chair-report-AGM-May-25.docx>

Treasurer's report

This will be uploaded to the website shortly.

1. Order of Business

As stated.

2. Declaration of interests

All confirmed none to be declared.

3. Membership of the Community Council

Confirmed as Lesley Mason, Debbie Cullen, Frances Leckie, Carolyn Hoy.

Caroline Mathias was nominated by **LM** to join the Council, seconded by **FL**.

4. Appointment of the Chair

Lesley Mason proposed by **DC**, seconded by **FL**.

5. Appointment of the Vice Chair

Carolyn Hoy, proposed by **FL**, seconded by **DC**.

6. Appointment of the Secretary

Debbie Cullen, proposed by **LM**, seconded by **CH**.

7. Appointment of the Treasurer

Frances Leckie proposed by Lesley Mason, seconded by **DC**.

8. Any other items of urgent business

All Councillors to confirm adherence to the Code of Conduct.

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

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

Secretary: Debbie Cullen

Other Councillors: Carolyn Hoy, Caroline Mathias

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