

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Minutes of the meeting and AGM of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) Thursday 5th June 2025 at 7pm, Tweedsmuir Village Hall & via ZOOM

Present:

Present: Lesley Mason (LM, Chair), Frances Leckie (FL, Treasurer & Vice Chair), Carolynn Hoy (CH), Caroline Mathias (CM), Drummond Begg (DB, Councillor, Scottish Borders Council) and PC Beaumont (GB, Police Scotland).

01.06 Welcome and Apologies

Welcome extended to Gary Baumont – Community Police Officer.

Apologies received from Debbie Cullen and Carolynn Hoy.

02.06 Minutes of the last meeting

Approved.

03.05 Matters arising not covered in the agenda

- Grid connection for Whitelaw Brae Wind Farm – see agenda for link to info.
- Community Litter Pick
 - Action: DB** to request collection of collected rubbish from rear of Village Hall.
- 50th Anniversary of Community Councils
 - LM** reported on an event recently attended, recognising the contribution made by Community Councils over the past 50 years.

04.06 Planning applications

None received.

05.06 Treasurer's Report

The report for May can be viewed at -

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/May-Report.pdf>

06.06 Grants update

- The 'one off' £500 Cost of living grant being offered by Nadara Windfarm was discussed. To be discussed further at the August meeting.
- A draft of the updated Memorandum of Understanding between the Community Council and Nadara has been circulated to Council members. Comments to be made by 16th June.

07.06 Police report

The link to the Police report included in the agenda was incorrect. The link to May's report can be found at: <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Tweeddale-East-and-West-May-2025.pdf>

GB reported that resources were very stretched and consequently there is seldom a police presence locally.

Measures being taken to improve security at the Village Hall following the theft of the Container earlier were discussed.

It was agreed that 'in person' attendance at TCC meetings was not required but GB would join via zoom when able.

SBC Councillor's report

DB reported that:

- Consultations are underway regarding Live Borders (see link under item 13.06).
- Following the theft of Pop up Bob, Tweedsmuir has loan of a temporary replacement.
- Following the serious injury of a refuse collector, householders are being asked to ensure all bins are presented without anything attached. Collections may be slower while an investigation into the incident takes place. More information can be found at <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/bins-rubbish-recycling>
- Peebles Rovers FC are experiencing significant financial difficulties. **DB** is challenging the East of Scotland League regarding the requirements for grounds which Peebles are currently unable to meet.

09.06 Community Action Plan (CAP)

LM reported that –

- A Grant application has been submitted for a multi-function covered space in the Crook Garden for use by volunteers, visitors and partners.
- A part time Community Development officer for the Community Garden has recently been appointed.

10.06 Destination Tweed (TD)

The 5G Hub will be going live in the next few weeks.

The next phase of the project, which will have funding attached, will be to look for new uses for data that can be supported via a 5G hub e.g. biodiversity monitoring.

A newsletter with Information about this project can be found at -

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Borderlands-5GIR-Newsletter-Destination-Tweed.pdf>

11.06 Defibrillator provision

TCC have been informed that the batteries for the equipment at Dykehead are no longer usable and need replacing asap.

Lesley Kirkwood (LK), Resilient Communities Coordinator, had flagged the potential need for further potentially more costly replacement of defibrillator equipment over the next few years and also the need someone to conduct the monthly equipment checks should she be unavailable to do so.

CM and Phill Blisset subsequently confirmed their willingness to undertake checks for the equipment at Dykehead (once back in operation), if required.

DC suggested (via email prior to the meeting) that consideration should be given to developing a costed plan for the provision and replacement of the defibrillator equipment over the next 3 years, possibly seeking funding via a larger Windfarm Grant.

Actions:

- **FL** to liaise with **LK** regarding a microgrant to address replacement costs for equipment at Dykehead.
- **CM** to liaise with **LK** regarding the costs relating to replacement/updating equipment over the next few years with a view to developing a wind farm application and the process for carrying out monthly equipment checks.

12.06 Broadband

Residents in Tweedsmuir, included in the Scottish Governments R100 Project should now have access to Superfast - Fibre to the Home Broadband Provision. To access, residents should contact the provider of their choice who will make the necessary arrangements.

13.06 Consultations

- **Live Borders:** See agenda for link to the Consultation.
- **Tree felling/ replanting at Talla**

Scottish Water have contacted TCC regarding felling proposals being developed for the south bank of Talla Reservoir following identification of Larch trees infected by Phytophthora ramorum.

Scottish Water are obliged to remove the larch to prevent the spread of disease and wish to use this as an opportunity to improve the landscape character and ecological value. This includes felling of the stand of trees and restocking with Native Broadleaves in biodegradable tree shelters. As timber will not be extracted there will be no impact on the local roads.

Anyone wishing to view the plans contact DC.

Action:

DC to inform Scottish Water of TCC's support for these plans.

- **Oliver Wind Farm connection** – Information previously circulated by email.

14.06 Items for Information

None received.

15.06 Forthcoming events

Upper Tweed Meet 'n' Greet is taking place from 2 – 4 pm on Sunday 15th June in the Crook Gardens.

Environment themed outdoor learning for P1-P3 children from Newland and Broughton Schools, delivered in conjunction with partners including Buglife and Borders Forest Trust will be taking place in Crook Garden on 9th June.

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

16.06 AOB

- **LM** recently met with Scottish Water to discuss their plans for developing more mixed planting, interpretation Boards etc. at Talla. It is hoped that a representative will join the September TCC meeting to discuss further.
- Tweedsmuir Village Hall received £29.20 from donations to the Rag Bag for recycling textiles.
- **LM** suggested obtaining a list projects funded by both Nadara and SSE Windfarm Grants might be useful for stimulating discussion regarding potential future funding applications.

Action: FL to contact Windfarms for info.

17.06 Date of next meeting - Thursday 7th August 2025.

If you have any agenda items – please notify the Secretary.

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

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

Secretary: Debbie Cullen

Other Councillors:Carolynn Hoy, Caroline Mathias

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