

Tweedsmuir Community Council

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

Present:

Lesley Mason (LM, Chair), Carolyn Hoy (CH, Vice Chair), Frances Leckie (FL, Treasurer), Debbie Cullen (DC, Secretary), Caroline Mathias (CM) and Eric Small (ES, Councillor, Scottish Borders Council) and one member of the public.

PC Gary Beaumont (GB) and PC Ryan Shiell (RS) joined the meeting for agenda item 07.10.

01.11 Welcome and Apologies

None received.

02.11 Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed as correct.

03.11 Matters arising not covered in the agenda

• Defibrillator provision

It was confirmed that responsibility for the Community Defibrillators has now been transferred to the Biggar and Broughton First Responders.

04.11 Planning applications

- Notifications received re: Erection of foot bridge – Logan Burn, North of Logan Cottage
- Peatland Restoration at Fruid/Talla. Scottish Water have informed that they are commencing the drone seeding aspect of the Talla Water Woods from 26-27th of November and 3rd-4th of December, dependent on the weather. The operation will be filmed.
There will be a few cars parked at the Gameshope laybys belonging to Scottish Water, the drone contractor and the small filming crew and it may therefore be a little congested for the day, but someone will be on hand ensure the road is not blocked and traffic can pass freely.

05.11 Oliver Forest Windfarm

The Community Council has been notified of the plan for a public inquiry regarding the construction and operation of Oliver Forest Windfarm. The inquiry is planned for May 2026 with a schedule of pre- meetings, evidence submission etc. taking place between November 2025 and the inquiry/hearing.

Following feedback from residents, the Community Council did not support the original planning application and has now been invited and accepted an invitation to give evidence to this inquiry.

Although no details are yet available about the scope/format of evidence required by the Inquiry a discussion took place regarding preliminary work that could/should be carried out at this stage and an action plan drawn up.

Thanks were extended to a member of the community who has offered to support the Community Council to prepare for the inquiry. Anyone else willing/able to get involved please contact a member of the Council.

Action: DC to draft and circulate action plan.

06.11 Finance report

The report for October can be viewed at –

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/October-report.pdf>

Monies are available to site a bench on the Tweed Trail above the Wee Crook.

Action: LM to circulate suggestions re: Bench.

07.11 Grants update

DC reported that TCC had been contacted by Scottish Power Networks regarding the establishment of a Community Benefit Fund associated with the section of the overground infrastructure for Whitelaw Brae Wind farm extending into Tweedsmuir. Further discussions planned.

08.11 Police Report

GB introduced his newly appointed colleague, PC Ryan Sheill. A discussion took place regarding the priority issues for the community in relation to Community Policing. The longstanding and ongoing concerns regarding speeding on the A710 by all vehicles – motor bikes, cars, lorries and timber transport were highlighted.

- **GB** informed that they hoped now to be able to carry out more speed monitoring in the community over the coming months. He also reported they are planning to be in the area targeting poaching activities.
- The Police report for October can be viewed at - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Tweeddale-East-West-October-2025.pdf>

09.11 SBC Councillor's report

ES reported that -

- A colleague is to make a site visit to Tweedsmuir Village Hall regarding the siting of a Bottle Bank.
- An initial meeting recently took place with representatives from SBC and transport organisations regarding the concerns of Stobo/Broughton residents re: forestry transport using the road through their village.
- The review of Community assets is ongoing with some communities being encouraged to take on local facilities through Asset transfer.

- A discount scheme for a monthly young person's film night at Eastgate Theatre is to be launched, details to be circulated through Peebles High School and Eastgate Theatre.
- The annual consultation re: SBC budget priorities is underway and can be accessed www.scotborders.gov.uk/budgetconsultation.
- The newly completed Peebles High School opens next week

10.11 Community Action Plan (CAP)

- Tweedsmuir Community Company has provided an update on the developments at the Crook site

'Following a two stage tender exercise, the TCC has entered into a contract with Lawrie Construction of Biggar, to build the new bunkhouse at the Crook site, Tweedsmuir. Lawrie Construction have already demonstrated their capabilities on site, having converted the former Crook byre into the Wee Crook Café. The Wee Crook Café will remain open throughout the construction works and we hope for some beneficial trade over the winter months, with the construction works happening nearby.

Having gained planning permission for site development back in 2019, TCC completed Phase 1, the Wee Crook Café in 2022. Construction works on Phase 2, the Bunkhouse, will start on site on 17 November 2025 and are programmed to be completed by the end of September 2026. This is a very positive step forward for the community and will provide modern and functional accommodation to rent in the local area. Phase 3 will be the development of the currently derelict, former Crook Inn building. TCC will be engaging the community in discussions about how our aspirations and visions may shape a new future for this important landmark, and to ask for help and support in taking discussions and plans forward.

We are extremely pleased to report that the Wee Crook Cafe was re-opened on 3rd October with Jen Bulloch trading as The Tweed Pantry. Jen is enthusiastic and passionate about developing the Cafe and supporting the local community and local crafters and has had a very successful first month.'

11.11 Destination Tweed (TD)

- The Sterring Group are visiting Tweedsmuir in the coming week to update on ongoing activities in Tweedsmuir.

12.11 Community Christmas Event

LM confirmed that this will take place on Sunday 21st December at The Wee Crook Café. There would be a per person charge to residents - no charge for under 12's, with the residual costs being covered by the one off 'Cost of living' grant offered by Nadara Windfarm Fund. See item **14.11 Forthcoming Events** for details.

13.11 Consultations

See **Item 09.11** re: SBC Budget priorities

14.11 Items for information

- See agenda for info.

- SBC have launched Princh, a new printing solution in their libraries. It is now possible to print from any mobile device, tablet, or laptop from home, or in any of our libraries. Just print, pay online and pick up your items. You can send your print jobs at any time, from anywhere
You can currently print from several libraries across the Borders. When printing from home you will need to take a note of the printer ID as you will be asked to enter this ID during the printing process.

Location	Code	Location	Code
Coldstream LCC	112501	Innerleithen LCC	112474
Duns LCC	112506	Kelso LCC	112490
Eyemouth Library	112503	Melrose Library	112512
Galashiels Library	112378	Peebles LMG	112537
Hawick Library	112455	Selkirk	112511

[Click here](#) for further information or watch the video.

14.11 Forthcoming Events

- **Community Christmas Afternoon Tea**

Following the success of last year's event, Tweedsmuir's Community Christmas Afternoon Tea will take place on Sunday 21st December 2025 at 3pm at The Wee Crook Café. Tickets will be £5, with no charge for under 12's. Tickets, to be booked in advance as places are limited, can be purchased by making a bank transfer payment to Upper Tweed Community News, Account no: 00862401, Sort code 80 09 33.

- A discussion took place regarding the process for updating forthcoming events on the Community Company Website. It was agreed that in discussion with Tweedsmuir Community Company, options for streamlining this process be explored.
- Details of forthcoming events can be found at - <https://www.tweedsmuir.scot/events/>

15.11 Any other business

- **Petition re: New Powers of Community Council**

An email had been received seeking support for a petition to the Scottish Government to explore increasing the powers of Community Councils bringing parity with Parish Councils in England. It was agreed that further exploration of such a move would be worthwhile.

Action:

- **FL** to respond.
- **DC** to forward email to SBC Councillors for info.

15.10 Date of next meeting - Thursday 4th December 2025.

If you have any agenda items – please contact the Secretary

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

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

Secretary: Debbie Cullen

Other Councillors: Caroline Mathias

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