

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) Thursday 4th December 2025 at 7pm, Tweedsmuir Village Hall & via ZOOM

Present:

Lesley Mason (LM, Chair), Frances Leckie (FL, Treasurer), Caroline Mathias (CM), Drummond Begg (DB, Councillor, Scottish Borders Council) and three members of the public.

01.12 Welcome and Apologies

Debbie Cullen (DC, Secretary), Carolynn Hoy (CH, Vice Chair).

02.12 Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed as correct.

03.12 Matters arising not covered in the agenda

- **Gaining greater powers for Community Councils - FL** confirmed having signed the petition and joined the Facebook Group concerned with progressing this issue.
- **Bottle Bank** – Site visit to be arranged.
- A decision about funding for younger persons discount for Flim Nights at Eastgate Theatre still awaited.

04.05

See agenda. No comments made.

05.12 Oliver Forest Windfarm

- **Draft action plan** – Circulated (DC) following the last meeting.
- **Inquiry process** – DC had investigated various aspects of the inquiry process/procedures, info circulated.
- **Aligning with SBC's objections** Having read SBC's response to the planning application, DC suggested TCC align objections with those of SBC primarily around 'impact on the settlement of Tweedsmuir and impact on the landscape character'.
- It was agreed that oversaturation of wind farm development would be the primary objection.
- **Impact on tourism** – this was agreed to be an important issue particularly with the development of the Tweed Trail and supporting infrastructure.

- **Resources** - The website Scotland against spin <https://scotlandagainstspin.org/> and Borders Wind Farm Watch <https://www.borderswindfarmwatch.com/> identified as potentially useful sources of info.
- Invitation to Community Council Convention on impact of major energy infrastructure in Scottish Borders area. Saturday 17th January 2026 2- 4pm Town Hall Jedburgh. An event to bring together community council associated with overdevelopment of energy infrastructure. This event is open to members of the public, anyone wishing to attend – contact TCC secretary for details.
LM, CM and Phill Blissett (PB) to attend.
- A discussion took place regarding how to engage the wider community about this important issue, particularly after the exhausting process associated with the Whitelaw Brae wind farm inquiry.
- **DB** suggested that a petition, if signed by a majority of residents, should be considered.

Actions:

- It was agreed that presenting information, particularly re: visual impact for almost all households in Tweedsmuir would be helpful.
- To consider starting a petition.
- **LM** to coordinate an info pack for residents to be presented in New Year.
- **LM** to contact the hydrologist working in the area regarding any valid considerations re: impact on private water supplies and flooding.
- **FL** To add page to TCC website for inquiry related information.
- The Action Group to meet again in January following the convention of 17th Jan.

06.12 Finance report

The report for November can be viewed at –

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/November-report.pdf>

FL reported that -

- confirmation from Bank of Scotland about transfer of authority from previous treasurer Mark Cullen is still awaited.
- during the month the SBC Pathways grant was received. Two benches were purchased for use on the railway path.
- **LM** to prepare a poster with recent projects funded by Nadara Glenkerie for use locally and in UTCN.

07.12 Grants update

LM updated on a new source of grant funding from Scottish Power Networks associated with the overhead infrastructure for Whitelaw Brae wind farm. The fund to be shared equally between Tweedsmuir and Elevenfoot. Details to follow.

08.12 Police Report

This can be viewed at - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Tweeddale-East-West-November-2025.pdf>

09.12 SBC Councillor's report

DB reported that -

- The outcome of the Live Borders consultation was considered to have delivered a good outcome securing the future of a number of facilities for the next few years.
- The Council is now considering budget setting for the coming year. A rise in Council Tax is likely.
- Following a number of recent incidents, **LM** asked for **DB** for support to secure signs for both ends of Talla road warning of dangerous driving conditions particularly when the road is wet and/or icy. Community could potentially help to fund such signage.

10.12 Community Action Plan (CAP)

- **LM** reported that the First Year Funding report due to be submitted to SSE and will be shared at next TCC meeting.
- The new shelter in the community garden is nearly complete. Thanks were extended to those involved in the shelter's construction.

11.12 Destination Tweed (TD)

Nothing to update.

12.12 Community Christmas Event

- **FL** confirmed 30 places booked so far.
- **CM** reported having bought garden related books as Christmas gifts for Tweedsmuir's children.

13.12 Resilient Communities

- **FL** reported a flier was included in December UTCN.
- **Heat project** – a plan has been developed to take this forward. Details to follow.

14.12 Invitation to Community Council Convention on impact of major energy infrastructure

See item 05.12.

15.12 Consultations

See agenda.

16.12 Items for information

- An update on the construction of Whitelaw Brae wind farm can be viewed at - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/WLB-community-update-25-10-11.pdf>

17.12 Forthcoming Events

- Details of forthcoming events can be found at - <https://www.tweedsmuir.scot/events/>

18.12 Any other business

- **LM** to check with **DC** re: Info packs for new residents as now have a number of new householders.
- Biggar Patient Group
LM reported that-
- A newsletter should be available in New Year.
- Agreement has been reached regarding refurbishment of the dental building adjacent to the surgery to increase capacity. A new and hopefully better IT will be installed shortly.

19.12 Date of next meeting – Thursday 5th February 2026.

Please note there is no meeting in January 2026.

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