

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) Thursday 5th February 2026 at 7pm, Tweedsmuir Village Hall & via ZOOM

Present:

Lesley Mason (LM, Chair), Carolynn Hoy (CH, Vice Chair), Frances Leckie (FL, Treasurer), Debbie Cullen (Secretary), Caroline Mathias (CM), Viv Thomson (VT, Councillor, Scottish Borders Council) and three members of the public.

Scottish Power Networks Community Benefit Fund

Two members of Scottish Power Networks Community Benefits Team joined the meeting to discuss the establishment of the Community Benefit Fund associated with the newly installed SPN infrastructure in Tweedsmuir.

Their presentation can be viewed at –

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/CC-Presentation-Clyde-South-Tweedsmuir-1.pptx>

The Community Council had previously commented on the funding priorities for Tweedsmuir, based on the themes and actions within the Community Action Plan (CAP). SPN are keen to receive feedback from the wider community. Their survey can be accessed at [Highlight your priorities for the Community Benefit Fund in Tweedsmuir – Fill in form \(opens in a new window\)](#)

The Fund is now open. **LM** as Community Development Officer will be liaising with community groups regarding the development of an initial grant application.

LM suggested that a joint meeting with members of the Elvanfoot community might be useful to share ideas about how the SNP fund might be used.

Actions:

- **LM** to forward to SPN contact details for a community representative in Elvanfoot.
- **LM** to explore Capacity building support offer.

01.02 Welcome and Apologies

None received.

02.02 Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed as correct.

03.02 Matters arising not covered in the agenda

- **Talla Woodland creation** – a positive response had been received from Scottish Water following feedback from TCC.
- **Signage on Talla Road** – concerns were again raised with **VT** regarding several incidents, requiring attendance by the emergency services, that had occurred during recent bad weather on Talla Linns. A request was again made for a minimum 'ice' warning signage to alert drivers to potentially hazardous conditions.
- **Christmas Afternoon Tea** – this was a well-supported, well organised event.

04.02 Planning applications

None received.

05.02 Oliver Forest Windfarm

TCC and a number of interested local residents met prior to the TCC meeting. It was acknowledged that this group has limited resources – people, specialist knowledge and expertise, time and finances compared to those available to the developers or even larger Community Councils. It is therefore important that efforts are prioritised focusing on objections where TCC could be most impactful - primarily the issue of the impact on residential amenity - visual impact and potentially noise.

CM and Phill Blissett (**PB**) reported on information received from a 'noise expert' suggesting the noise levels associated with the turbines operating so close to residences would be unacceptable.

It was agreed that –

- some of the data e.g. the distance of turbines etc. from the 'settlement' of Tweedsmuir be examined.
- a draft leaflet and info sheet re: the impact of the windfarm be finalised and printed.
- a petition be started re: opposition to the Windfarm
- a 'fighting fund' be started to collect donations towards the costs of engaging expert support

The leaflet and petition will be distributed to every household over the next few weeks.

John Campbell, KC joined the meeting via Zoom. **JC** has experience of involvement in windfarm Inquiries. His initial view was that TCC should focus on the issue of visual impact on residences and possibly, if TCC can obtain a detailed expert view noise impact.

JC offered to review some of the documentation associated with the planning application and objections and meet with **TTC** in a few weeks to discuss next steps, particularly in preparation for the Pre Examination meeting on 1st April 2026.

The date for the inquiry has been confirmed as week beginning 14th September 2026.

- Feedback from Community Council Convention on impact of major energy infrastructure in Scottish Borders area.

This was reported to have been a very useful event through which **TCC** has been able to access useful contacts and advice including **JC**.

An outcome from the Convention was the formulation of a Unified Statement – this was shared and **TCC** agreed it wished to confirm its support.

- **VT** reported on a recent change in legislation which removes the automatic trigger of a Public Local Inquiry where a planning authority objects to an application under the Electricity Act. From the 18th Feb a new Reporter led examination process will apply, and it will be up to the Reporter to decide whether a PLI takes place following an objection from a planning authority.

06.02 Finance report

- The reports for December '25 and January '26 can be viewed at –
 - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/December-26-report.pdf>
 - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/January-26-report.pdf>

FL reported that -

- confirmation had been received from Bank of Scotland re: transfer of authority from previous treasurer Mark Cullen.
- it was agreed that the option for making BACs payments from the account vs cheques be explored.
- SLL for website had been renewed.

Action:

- **FL** to progress addition of **CM** as a signatory.
- **FL** to explore electronic payment options.

07.02 Grants update

Community Benefit Fund associated with Whitelaw Brae. An on-line meeting recently took place between **LM** and **DC** and representatives from Thrive Energy regarding the above fund. Thrive hope the windfarm will be operation by the end of 2026 with the first tranche of benefit monies becoming available in late 2027. Work is underway to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between Thrive and **TCC** regarding the Fund, hopefully supported by Foundation Scotland. The next meeting to discuss is planned for March '26.

Microgrants

An application to SSE Fund received from Upper Tweed Community Drivers for £250 for First Aid Training. **Approved.**

08.02 Police Report

- This can be viewed at - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Tweeddale-East-West-December-2025.pdf>
- **LM** reported that she had been informed by the Wildlife Crime Officer that a Golden Eagle had been found shot at Stanhope, fortunately it survived. Anyone with any information about this should contact 101, re: incident 1221.

09.02 SBC Councillor's report

VT reported that -

- budget setting is underway.
- the issue of pothole repair was raised. In addition to reporting on the SBC website **VT** encouraged residents to copy the SBC councillors with info about potholes, this will enable them to collate information on a local level to feedback within SBC.
- The issue of the condition of the road near the crossroads at the top of Church Road was raised. Concern was expressed that timber lorries appear to be churning up the 'turning circle/layby' causing debris to be pushed onto the road. **VT** to ask SBC colleagues to visit to inspect.

Actions:

- **VT** to ask SBC colleagues to visit to inspect road conditions near the crossroads.

10.02 Community Action Plan (CAP)

Nothing to update.

11.02 Destination Tweed (TD)

Nothing to update.

12.02 Village Hall Update

LM reported that following last year's theft and break at the Hall, the committee had experienced difficulty obtaining insurance cover. Although cover was now in place the premium was significantly more expensive than previously and stipulated some additional security measures.

VT to explore whether any support available towards costs associated with the additional insurance conditions.

13.2 TCC – Internal communication

DC asked councillors to ensure TCC related emails are sent to the TCC secretary's email address rather than her personal email address.

14.02 Consultations

See agenda for info.

15.02 Items for information

See agenda for info.

16.02 Forthcoming Events

- Details of forthcoming events can be found at - <https://www.tweedsmuir.scot/events/>
- It was agreed that a new way of displaying forthcoming events was required, ideally one which was easy to access and update.

Action: LM to explore options for displaying/updating info about events.

17.02 Any other business

- **Library services** – Since involvement in an RTA the mobile library service is currently visiting monthly. The next visit is scheduled for Tuesday 17th February - 10:25 at the Wee Crook and 10:55 at the Crossroads.

Peebles Library will be shut from March for refurbishment of the building. The plan is to provide a 'Pop up' library, possibly in the Burgh Hall. As the selection in the 'Pop up' will be limited library and users are being encouraged to use the online services to select and reserve books for collection at the 'Pop up' location or via the mobile service.

- **Biggar Medical Practice** – Biggar Medical Practice will be operating a limited service from **Friday 6th – Wednesday 11th March 2026 inclusive**, to allow for implementation of a new clinical information system. During this period there will be no booking of advanced appointments and limited computerised information will be available.
- **Increasing the Powers of Community Councils** – further info received. FL to respond.
- **Litter pick.** LM has developed a risk assessment and safe system of work in relation to litter picks. LM to circulate to Councillors for comment.
- **Borders Tree Grant Scheme** – Grants are available to enable community groups and private landowners to apply for up to £1000 worth of funding to plant trees on community or privately owned land (excluding private gardens). Applications for the current round of funding will close on 9th March 2026. Anyone interested should contact –
Tweed Forum, Old Melrose Dairy Steading, Melrose, Scottish Borders, TD6 9DF
info@tweedforum.org 01896 849723 or Borders Forest Trust, Monteviot Nurseries, Ancrum, Jedburgh, Scottish Borders, TD8 6TU
enquiries@bordersforesttrust.org 07399 275973

18.02 Date of next meeting – Thursday 5th March 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