

# Tweedsmuir Community Council

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## **Minutes of the meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026 at 7pm, Tweedsmuir Village Hall & via ZOOM**

### **Present:**

Lesley Mason (LM, Chair), Frances Leckie (FL, Treasurer), Debbie Cullen (DC, Secretary), Caroline Mathias (CM), Eric Small ((ES), SBC Councillor) and 3 members of the public.

### **01.10 Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies received from Carolynn Hoy (CH), Kahden Rubeki (KR), Steve Sutherland (SS) and Lesley Kirkwood (LK), Resilient Communities Lead.

### **02.10 Minutes of the last meeting**

Accepted as correct.

### **03.10 Matters arising not covered in the agenda**

- **Issue of collapsed building on road to Talla.** DC reported having contacted Scottish Water but as yet had received no reply, DC to investigate other routes for reporting this issue.
- A representative from Destination Tweed to attend the December meeting.

### **04.10 Planning applications**

None.

### **05.10 Oliver Forest Wind farm**

- TCC are continuing to prepare for the Inquiry rescheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> November, with 2 further prep meetings planned.
- Recent correspondence between all parties indicates the hearing concerned with the MOD objection is now not likely to take place until Spring 2027 at the earliest.

### **06.10 Finance report**

The report for September can be viewed at -

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2026/10/September-26-report.pdf>

## 07.10 Grants update

### Microgrant applications

- Microgrant applications were approved for –
  - £200 from the SSE Youth Bursary Fund to support a young person to purchase sailing equipment. It was agreed that it would be responsible for the TCC to seek confirmation of evidence of training/competence to use the equipment prior to the award being released.
  - £250 from the SSE Fund to contribute towards a member of the community undertaking rope training associated with their role in the local Mountain Rescue Team.

- **Feedback from Nadara Wind Farm Community Benefit Panel meeting**

DC reported that the following projects were approved for funding at the fund meeting in September

- **Biggar and District Men's Shed** – To purchase new equipment (£2,640).
- **Borders Forest Trust** – To contribute to the cost of delivering a 12-month volunteering programme at Talla & Gameshope Valley (£9,278).
- **Braw Clan Ltd** – To contribute to delivery of 'Tea & a Tale' sessions during Jan – March '27 (being hosted in Tweedsmuir) (£6,000)
- **Moffat Mountain Rescue Team** – to support volunteers to undertake rope training (£5,000).
- **Tweedsmuir Community Company** – To contribute to the cost of installing stock fencing to protect the native hedge planting (£3,465)
- **Upper Tweed Community Drivers** – To support running costs for this community service (£9,997.75)

Applications to the Fund are currently exceeding demand so a decision has been taken to 'draw down' monies from the Benefit's Endowment Fund to fund these awards.

A new tranche of funding will become available in Jan/Feb 2027. However, it is anticipated that the number and associated value of applications is unlikely to decrease. It was therefore agreed that for the coming year the funding panel will meet only 2x a year with grant applications/awards being limited to £10,000. The deadlines for applications are 8<sup>th</sup> January and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2027.

Further information regarding grant applications can be found at - <https://wwwFOUNDATIONSscotland.org.uk/glenkerie>

- **SSE Community Benefit Fund – CH**, as TCC representative to give feedback at the next meeting.
- **SPEN Fund Update**

LM outlined recent developments in relation to access to this fund.

- Three grants have been approved with associated funds anticipated soon.

- An outline proposal for a sizable grant application had been submitted. However, **LM** had been notified that any further funding, as outlined in previous publicity/website and correspondence, may not now be forthcoming. It is unclear why access to funding may now be withdrawn and no indication given re: when/how this situation might be clarified.

It was agreed that **LM** and **DC** would draft a letter expressing concerns regarding the potential removal of this much promoted funding and seek clarification of the rationale, likely timescale for resolution and in the event that funding is withdrawn any compensatory arrangements to be put in place.

**Action: LM & DC** to seek clarification from SPEN.

### **08.10 Police Report**

The report for September can be viewed at -

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/Tweeddale-East-West-September-2026.pdf>

### **10.10 SBC Councillor's report**

**ES** reported that -

- budget setting for the coming year is underway.
- the Council are in the process of considering the potential impact of the proposed changes to both local government structures and boundaries and those proposed for NHS services.
- there are now no Police Traffic Officers based in the Borders, the nearest location is Dalkeith which could be anticipated to impact on response times.
- **TCC** made a request **ES** to take forward concerns raised re -
  - removal of the burnt out campervan from the layby at Hawkshaw
  - greater coordination between the Council and contractors regarding signage following the overprovision of signs relating the work taking place at Fruid Reservoir.

### **10.10 Community Action Plan (CAP)**

**LM** reported on the recent meeting of the CAP Steering Group to review progress against the plan over the past 12 months and agree priorities for the coming year. A summary to be made available when finalised.

### **11.10 Destination Tweed (TD)**

**LM** and **DC** reported on a meeting of Moffat's Tweed Trail Steering Group which they had been invited to attend. The group were keen to receive an update on how the Trail was anticipated to impact on Tweedsmuir and the progress of the Bunkhouse etc. Ideas regarding common issues/challenges such as access to public transport for those wishing to access the route, how luggage might be transported for walkers, availability of parking etc. were discussed.

Gavin Parker (**GP**) reported that it was anticipated that the construction phase of the Bunk House is nearing completion. The Community Company hope to employ someone to take forward the work necessary to enable the Bunk House to open hopefully in the Spring e.g. setting up booking systems, marketing etc.

#### **12.10 Feedback on M74 Communities (Renewco) meeting**

**GP** had agreed to attend the most recent meeting on behalf of the TCC. He reported that discussions were at a very early stage and a significant amount of work will be required to take forward the 'Community Enterprise' model currently under discussion.

Thanks were expressed to **GP** who agreed to continue to be involved with this group on behalf of TCCouncil.

#### **13.10 Postal services**

Concerns have been raised regarding the apparent inconsistency of postal services to Tweedsmuir over recent months, with mail being delayed and/or being delivered in 'batches. This is of particular concern where residents are waiting for important appointments etc.

**Action: DC** to contact Royal Mail.

#### **14.10 Resilient Communities**

A number of issues were discussed including the measures taken to increase the resilience of the Village Hall to provide a focal point in the event of power/comms outages, the possibility of identifying resilient communities leads for 'groups' of households across the community and creating a dedicated page 'Resilient Communities' page on the Council website. To carry forward with **LK** at the next meeting.

#### **15.10 Biggar Patient Group**

**LM** currently represents the community on this group, but TCC are seeking a new representative.

*Local resident Jackie Patterson subsequently volunteered to take on this role.*

#### **16.10 Community Christmas Event**

After discussion it was agreed that a Community Christmas Event will be held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2-4pm in the Village Hall. Funding to be identified to enable purchase of small Santa gifts for children (under 12 years) in the community.

#### **17.10 Consultations**

None received.

#### **18.10 Items for information**

Circulated with the agenda.

#### **14.09 Forthcoming Events**

Please visit – [www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk)

#### **15.09 Any other business**

- **LM** reported that some of the 'Keep Tweedsmuir Beautiful' signs now need replacing and possibly additional signs erecting. **FL** to explore potential sources of funding.
- **CM** reported having followed up on an invitation received to take part in the 'Giant Tree Circle'. It appears that if involved Tweedsmuir could receive some free native trees to plant within the community. **CM** to action.

#### **18.09 Date of next meeting – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2026.**

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

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[www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk)    Contact: [Tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:Tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com)

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Secretary: Debbie Cullen, Councillors: Caroline Mathias, Kahden Rubeki

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