Tweedsmuir Community Council

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

Present:

Lesley Mason (LM, Chair), Frances Leckie (FL, Treasurer), Debbie Cullen (DC, Secretary), Caroline Mathias (CM), Lesley Kirkwood (LK, Resilient Communities Coordinator), Viv Thomson (VT, SBC Councillor) and 3 members of the public.

01.11 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Carolynn Hoy (CH), Kahden Rubeki (KR), Steve Sutherland (SS)

02.11 Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted as correct.

03.11 Matters arising not covered in the agenda

- **Issue of collapsed building on road to Talla. LM** reported that Scottish Water have confirmed they will action dismantling and removal.
- **The burnt-out vehicle in the layby on the A701.** This had been removed.
- **Postal services.** To keep under review. Any residents continuing to experience difficulties, please inform TCC.

04.11 Planning applications

None.

05.11 Oliver Forest Wind farm

TCC and members of the community are continuing to prepare for the Inquiry to be held on 10th November.

06.11 Finance report

The report for October can be viewed at - https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/Tweeddale-East-West-October-2026.pdf

07.11 Grants update

- **Microgrant applications**

  Re: Youth Bursaries. It was agreed that information on the TCC's website re: Youth Bursary's would be updated to include the need for evidence of supervision/competence where the award involves the purchase of equipment or participation in activities associated with a potential degree of risk.

  Action:

  FL to update website.

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

- **SPEN Fund Update**

  LM reported on the final response from SPEN regarding the withdrawal of the Fund to Tweedsmuir.

  Actions:

  - **DC** to contact Crawford and Elvanfoot Community Council regarding their experience of the Fund and it's subsequent withdrawal.
  - Carry forward to next meeting **–** to consider potential escalation of complaint.

- **Whitelaw Brae & Community Benefit Fund**

  DC and **LM** reported having met with representatives from Thrive and Foundation Scotland to discuss the establishment of Community Benefit Fund. A draft MOU to be circulated within TCC for discussion/agreement at the December TCC meeting.

- **SBC Pathways Grant**
  LM and **CM** to action spending against this grant.

08.11 Police Report

The report for October can be viewed at –

https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/October-26-report.pdf

10.11 SBC Councillor's report

VT reported that -

- the Council are continuing to consider the potential impact of the proposed changes to both local government structures and boundaries and those proposed for NHS services.
- The outcome of the review of financial support for Community councils has been completed and Community Councils to be notified of an uplift in Grant funding.
- **DC** reported that TCC had received an invitation to an SBC event to inform about planning processes. This would be of interest to TCC but the timing and location of the meeting – 4.30pm in Newton St Boswells precluded attendance and asked whether this and similar meetings could be attended remotely.

Action:

VT to enquire re: possibility of online attendance.

10.11 Community Action Plan (CAP)

LM reported that –

- **The Rag Bag Bin service** - to be withdrawn due to insufficient uptake.
- **Heat Project** – a plan is being developed to enable (weather permitting) as many residents as possible to participate a heat survey. Information to be circulated to households and made available on the TCC website.

11.11 Destination Tweed (TD)

Marina Piper**,** Destination Tweed Project Manager to attend the December TCC meeting to provide an update.

12.11 Tweedsmuir Community Company Update

Gavin Parker, Community Company Chair informed that –

- the Bunkhouse is nearing completion with handover from the contractors.
- an 'Open Day' event is being planned to enable the community to view the facilities.
- interviews are being held for a coordinator to take the Bunkhouse forward to opening, anticipated in Spring 2027
- grant applications are being submitted to support a community consultation re: the future of the Crook Inn building.

13.11 Community Council Website

It was felt that the changes made to the website had been very positive and a few additional amendments were discussed.

Action:

FL and **LM** to action further changes agreed.

14.11 Resilient communities

LK provided feedback following attendance at a recent SBC meeting re: Resilient Communities. Weather related incidents – flooding, storm force winds and fire related events are regarded as the biggest potential threats. A discussion took place re: actions needed to maintain/increase the Community's resilience.

Residents are encouraged to sign up for SBC weather alerts and SEPA flood at -

Home Page - Scottish Borders Alert

Sign up to Floodline | Floodline

Actions:

LK & TCC to –

- arrange a community meeting, and possible follow up re: Resilience preparation
- recruit 1, ideally 2 additional resilient community coordinators to support **LK**

- create a dedicated page on the TCC website with key info and links to support community resilience

Local resident Jackie Patterson subsequently volunteered to take on a role supporting in relation to Resilient Communities.

15.11 A701 Closure

TCC again raised with SBC via **VT** the issue of the recent road closure on the A701. The complete closure caused significant inconvenience to residents given the duration of the closure and length of detour.

16.11 Access issues at Oliver Forest

A local resident reported having encountered individuals apparently shooting on land at Oliver Forest in the absence of any warning signs and also signage warning of Pesticide use but giving no indication of when/for how long.

Action:

DC to contact SBC Access Officer and Scottish Woodlands, who are understood to manage the forest raising concerns regarding the above.

Scottish Woodlands subsequently informed they are not involved in the management of this forestry.

16.11 Items for information

Circulated with the agenda.

17.11 Borderland 5G Programme

LM reported having received an update regarding this project, reporting that the project is currently behind schedule and as yet there is only limited gathering of and access to data.

18.11 Community Christmas Event

Planning underway. **LM** to circulate quiz to raise funds to support purchase of Santa gifts for children in the community.

19.11 Consultations

None.

20.11 Items for information

Circulated with agenda.

21.11 Forthcoming Events

Please visit – www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk

22.11 Any other business

It was agreed that the 'Welcome Pack' for new residents would be updated in New Year.

23.11 Date of next meeting – Thursday 3rd December 2026.

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