

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 18 September, 2023, in Broughton Village Hall

Present

Andrew Beveridge (Chairman), Rosalind Birchall (Vice-Chair),
Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Susan Brown (Treasurer), Jen
McBeth, Councillor Eric Small SBC, Councillor Drummond Begg SBC

01.09.23 Apologies.

Justin King, Steph Stewart, Tess Goodwin, Chelsea Shapiro,
Councillor Viv Thomson SBC,

02.09.23 Minutes of Meeting held on 21 August 23

A correction was noted that the Minutes suggested we had £10,000 of 'Coronation' Funding whereas it should have read that the UTCC bank balance @ 21 August 23 was £10,115.92 (this includes ring fenced funds as per the Treasurer's Report).

03.09.23 Matters Arising from Minutes

There were one or two minor matters to be addressed which the Chair suggested he email, noting the Minutes would need to be adjusted prior to publication.

04.09.23 Actions Register

The Secretary went through the Actions Register;

- Sandbag Shed. We currently have £338.00 of Resilient Funds, some of this will be utilized for the CPR/Defibrillator course. Councillor Drummond SBC suggested putting in an application in to SBC for a new Shed.

ACTION: Secretary to apply to SBC for a new Sandbag Shed

- **EVCs.** Councillor Drummond SBC explained that strategic policy documents were full of vision for Electric Vehicle Charges but nothing concrete to report as yet. This was disappointing news.
- **Fun Day Event.** Due to circumstances beyond anyone's control this has had to be 'shelved'. We need to look to our Village Day next year and again make it a super event for all the family.

05.09.23 Planning Applications (0)

There were no new applications to discuss.

06.09.23 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report had been circulated with the Agenda. The current bank balance was £10,080.92 with the Village Hall hire the only recent expenditure.

Following discussion, it was agreed that circa £150 should be set aside for the Newcomer's Party. The Treasurer reported that Richard Carr had organised it in the past with a simple format that we might follow. However, as it was generally agreed that the event should take place in the not-too-distant future, with the winter looming, an evening event should give way to an afternoon event and Sunday, 26 November was agreed upon (1530-1730 hrs in the Village Hall).

With regards to the Bonfire Event, this year it will be held on Friday, 4 November, the Treasurer reported that we still had circa £400 ring fenced for this although she was aware the event costs considerably more and imagines that Ingrid Campbell, who is happy to organize and run again this year, will ask for a Micro Grant and will also 'crowd fund' once again to cover the shortfall.

The Treasurer also informed the meeting that we still had circa £3000 left from The National Lottery funding we received which was still unspent partly due to the need to postpone the School Fun Day. A discussion ensued as to how best to utilize the funding and it was generally agreed we would need £1000 for our Village Event next year, that it would be very nice if instead of a commemorative Coronation Bench, we purchased a number of picnic Benches for the wooded area in the Park, setting aside a further £1000 for this. Furthermore, it was agreed we need a new Notice Board outside the School which would set us back £400 excluding installation.

07.09.23 Microgrants/Youth Bursaries. (0+1)

The Secretary reported that we had received three requests for Youth Bursaries which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, all agreed to support the application. The Secretary also made the meeting aware that she had received a very nice 'thank you' letter from a family whose daughter had received a Youth Bursary from the previous round.

08.09.23 Report from SSE Panel Forum (held 30 Aug 23).

The Secretary, in her capacity as the UTCC representative on the SSE Panel, gave a brief update on the meeting stating there had been three applications for consideration. The first was the application from The Broughton Village Shop requiring funds for their expansion works, this was awarded; the application for funding from Broughton Village Hall for new windows was similarly agreed; and finally there was considerable discussion regarding the application from Tweedsmuir CC who wish to employ a Part-time Development Officer (legally possible from an enabling Company established for this purpose), in order to bring to fruition the Tweedsmuir Community Vision. After considerable discussion between the panel members, it was finally agreed, in principle, for one year, salary still to be confirmed. The Secretary then suggested

that this was quite an exciting step and that a role like this might be something that the UTCC should consider for Broughton in the light of our own document, 'A Vision for Broughton Village', which was completed in 2019. There are several projects that are discussed regularly that we could see brought to reality if we had someone dedicated to their delivery. She further suggested that there quite a bit to discuss and it might be that we should meet separately to chat through whether 'employment' of a Part-time Development Officer for Broughton was the direction we might wish to go. She agreed to send out the powerpoint presentation that Tweedsmuir delivered which detailed what they saw the Development Officer doing and why they felt there was a need for one.

ACTION: Secretary to email all members to set up a separate meeting to discuss the role of a Part-time Development Officer

09.09.23 Police Report - (to be emailed in advance).
Nothing received.

10.09.23 SBC Councillors' Reports - SBC Councillors

Not too much to report this month Councillor Eric SBC stated although informed the meeting that most of the Planning he was currently dealing with was out of area but of note for us, he was engaging with Neil Pringle who has a long list of carriageway defects that is being worked through with the road to the north of Broughton to be worked on in the coming weeks. Councillor Drummond SBC expressed that he had been speaking with Councillor Viv SBC and had a few points to report on as follows:

- The Bottle Bank. In response to the reported vandalism, it can be entirely our decision as to whether the fencing remains, is at half height or is removed entirely. Following discussion, it was agreed it should be removed.
- Water Tap on the wall of the Park Toilets. It is confirmed that this is a drinking water tap and we are reminded it needs to be switched off in the Winter.

Plus a few points to deliver himself:

- Destination Tweed. Not very visible at the moment, landowners being consulted but a long route, Moffat to the coast linking numerous existing paths and it is this 'linking' that is taking the time. The vision in 10 years is to have full linkage with all paths and it is a fully 'multi-use' path - cycles, walking, running etc
- Work is being done looking at Agri Tourism with regards to the Farming Community
- 'No Mow' May - seen considerable success with a Presentation given by 'Bug Life' Today, however, the success or not of this has to come from Communities as not all are keen on areas not being mowed.

- 'Blanket Forestry' - work is also being done looking at how some farming units are being taken over by forestry giving the sense of 'Blanket' forestry and there is the need to ensure we get the balance right.
- Merlin Project. A meeting is planned with Robin Crichton this coming week regarding his project which brings to the fore the Trail of Merlin looking to be a multi-faceted project with an information Visitor Centre and Trail. Robin has big aspirations and if it goes ahead will fit in nicely with Destination Tweed.

11.09.23 Any Other Business

Village Hall AGM, Feedback. Jen very kindly gave some feedback from the recent AGM explaining that unfortunately Hall charges had gone up from 1 September; that a considerable amount of work was being done in the Hall to truly make it a versatile space for all including new cupboards etc, Wind farm money had been applied for to replace the windows in the small hall and they would be sanding the floor in the small hall at some point. There was still no new caretaker.

Community News. Emma Reid had asked if the UTCC could fund the free distribution of the Community News to every household in the area. It was agreed this was something the UTCC could do for the coming year but for subsequent years a more sustainable form of funding might need to be found. Following discussion, it was agreed that exact numbers would need to be known and that funding would be available as required ie on a quarterly basis.

CC Annual Grant. The Secretary informed the meeting that SBC were reviewing the Annual Grant available to CCs and would be sending out a survey.

Litter Picking. At the last meeting it had been suggested that we needed to organize another Litter Picking event. However, it was reported that there really wasn't much litter around and that although the School Children had been used in the past to carry this out, they could not operate near roads and that Adult Volunteers should be found if it was felt necessary.

Wreath. The Vice-Chair informed the meeting she would be organizing the purchasing of a Wreath for Remembrance Sunday.

20mph Speeding. Having previously discussed 'Pop Up Bob' for the village as one deterrent to our speeding issue, Simon Edwards had come forward to say he would kindly 'look after' 'Pop Up Bob' as the cardboard cutout needed to be put out in the morning and taken in at the end of the day.

Date of next Meeting

7.00pm, Monday, 16 October, 2023, in **Broughton Village Hall**