

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held 16 November 2020

Via Zoom due to Covid-19 Restrictions

- Present** Simon Edwards (Chairman), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Nick Shapowal (Treasurer), Andrew Beveridge, Chris Lewin, Rosalind Birchall and Christopher Lambton, Councillor Heather Anderson SBC.
- 01.11.20 Apologies**  
Penny Wedderburn Scott
- 02.11.20 Minutes from last Meeting (held 19 October 2020 via Zoom). Comments by email in advance.**  
The Minutes were agreed.
- 03.11.20 Matters Arising from previous minutes (via Email)**  
Drive-In Christmas Service (Skirling, Broughton, Tweedsmuir). Chair reported that this event was still planned. Rules do not permit seating or standing hence an inability for the planned Choir event to go ahead. Provisional Microgrant awarded and the Chair has written to Fiona Burnett, as well as spoken to SBC plus Jemima Elliott, who owns the Field behind the Hall, in particular regarding Liability Insurance and we will wait to see the outcome of these discussions.
- 04.11.20 Planning Applications**  
Two Planning Applications were brought to the Committee's attention:  
a. Alterations at Cardon Farm – listed building, details now on the SBC website – no comment.  
b. Annex to existing house at Penvalla. A discussion ensued as it was queried that the proposed 'Annex' sat some distance from the main house but was still contained well within the grounds of the main property. Comments regarding the 'funny' shape of the proposed property not in keeping with other buildings plus height of the flu were also discussed.  
The Chair further mentioned that the SBC Local Development Plan Proposal for the next 10 years was on display in the Shop Window and local resident, Paul Taylor had queried it. Councillor Heather Anderson SBC was quick to point out that this was nothing new and it was merely the 'refreshed' 10-year plan. Councils across Scotland are asked to identify land within local areas for 'thousands' of houses, the majority of which will not be build. For Upper Tweed area Springwell Brae and Dreva Road are two such areas identified and there is a third, and we are given the opportunity for any objections to be noted. Councillor Heather continued to explain that the whole plan was contained in a very thick document with sections for each Settlement (Paper version, Page 252 Settlement for Broughton).
- 05.11.20 Microgrants**  
No new applications received. The supported application for the Church and the Drive-In Christmas Event, as agreed last month, the monies are being held on to until the CC are sure it will go ahead as the Chair had concerns.

**06.11.20**

**Police Report – 10 Nov emailed**

The Chair reported that despite Councillor Kris Chapman SBC having informed us that we would receive this in a new Local format it still seemed to cover a very wide area. No comments recorded, however, Christopher Lambton reported that he had been the subject of criminal damage when thieves broke into his shed on 4 Nov, setting oilcans on fire, pouring concrete into a tractor engine and slashing tyres; actions which he reported to the Police immediately especially since the thieves appeared to have taken a Chainsaw. Councillor Heather said she would raise the matter.

**07.11.20**

**SBC Councillors' Report**

Councillor Heather apologised for her recent absence at meetings; she then confirmed that SBC were content to extend Community Council Office Bearers till the end of Aug 2021 unless we felt we needed to hold our election. The Chair stated our elections were due in April/May and we must give consideration to our dwindling numbers. Councillor Heather went on to report, as previously mentioned, that the LDP (Local Development Plan) is out for public representation between 2 November 20 to 25 January 2021. This is produced by the Council and sets out land use proposals and planning policies intended to guide development and inform planning decisions within the Scottish Borders over the next ten years. Councillor Heather then reported on the 'Borderlands Deal', July 2019 had seen funds made available jointly by the Scottish and UK Governments to support tourism across the Borders area and North of England - £345 million over the next 10 years. Of particular note, Scottish Borders/Dumfries and Galloway areas have £150 million allocated, for which bids and proposals are invited. One proposal of interest is 'Destination Tweed' which would significantly help our area with the focus for this project being the source of the River Tweed with cyclists and walkers encouraged to trace a route from the source to the sea. Current status is that as at February 21 all proposals applied for would get the green light, this will show a significant investment in our area. In addition to this there has been an Agreement by the Scot Government to extend the CGI contract (Internet capability and digital networks) out to 2040; further more the Capital Programme, some £34 million to be spent over the next 3.5 years, will see between now and end of March £5.5 million spent, any delay would see a knock on effect including the delay in the School refurbishment programme – Peebles High School to name but one.

Chris Lewin made the point that he considered expenditure in the area should have local input and there should be local consultation, Councillor Heather explained that it was a political decision to invest in the area, bids were invited from local authorities and how these bids were generated was also a local decision and of importance was the ability for economic regeneration and the significant issue was the scale of investment.

**08.11.20**

**Any Other Business**

**Fireworks:** There had been complaints received about Fireworks let off in the local area, after discussion it was agreed that in future any such action would be well advertised on the Facebook Page to give people plenty of warning.

**Meeting Dates for 2021:** Attached to these Minutes is a list of the meeting dates for 2021. Meetings will be held on the third Monday of each month with no meeting in December. In normal circumstances (out with the Covid-19 pandemic) meetings will be held in Broughton Village Hall with the April and August meetings taking place in Drumelzier Village Hall. It is thought that meetings will continue on Zoom for the foreseeable future.

(After Meeting Note: The June meeting has been annotated as taking place in the

Village Hall but this is tbc).

**Covid-19:** The Chair reported there are four confirmed cases in the local area with the victims all on oxygen in Borders General Hospital. It is hoped they make a speedy recovery.

**Speeding/Traffic Monitoring:** The Chair reported that having written to SBC regarding our concerns of speeding traffic in the Rachan Mill area where locals had made written complaints to SBC, we had been asked by SBC what measures we wished to be taken. Following a discussion where it was stated that the CC is not the expert on traffic management and we are seeking guidance as to what measures could be taken, Councillor Heather accepted a site visit with the SBC would be the way to proceed. The Chair said he was happy to write again in the New Year requesting a site visit to discuss the matter and Councillor Heather agreed to try and influence a positive outcome.

**Bank Signatories:** Rosalind Birchall made mention of additional signatories for the CCs Accounts with discussion delayed till the New Year.

**09.11.20**

**Date of next Meeting** – 7pm, Monday, 18 January 2021, via Zoom (the Chair will send out the Agenda and necessary invitation in the New Year).

**Upper Tweed Community Council  
Meeting Dates for 2021**

18 January	Zoom
15 February	Zoom
15 March	Zoom
19 April	Zoom
17 May	Zoom
21 June	Zoom or Broughton Village Hall tbc
19 July	Zoom or Broughton Village Hall tbc
16 August	Zoom or Drumelzier Village Hall tbc
20 September	Zoom or Broughton Village Hall tbc
18 October	Zoom or Broughton Village Hall tbc
15 November	Zoom or Broughton Village Hall tbc