

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held 15 February 2021

Via Zoom due to Covid-19 Restrictions

- Present** Simon Edwards (Chairman), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Andrew Beveridge, Chris Lewin, Rosalind Birchall, Nick Shapowal and Christopher Lambton, Councillors Heather Anderson SBC and Eric Small SBC
- 01.02.21 Apologies**  
Penny Wedderburn Scott
- 02.02.21 Minutes from last Meeting (held 18 January 2020 via Zoom). Comments by email in advance.**  
The Minutes were agreed.
- 03.02.21 Matters Arising from previous minutes (via Email)**  
Nil.
- 04.02.21 Planning Applications**  
The Chair informed the meeting of the following: Ref No: 21/00127/Ful - Storage and Garages between Stables Cottage and House, Broughton Place, Broughton. Objections to the increase from the 2 to 4 properties, negating the desire for further neighbours, have already been raised although no formal notification issued as yet. The committee considered this a 'land lady' matter and posed no further comment.
- Chris Lewin brought a further two applications to the attention of the Committee. First, Ref No: 20/01552/FUL, Land South West Of White Rigg Cottages Broughton, Lowering of ground levels along former railway line and relocation of access from public road. The concern here was the increased likelihood of this area being subject to Flood Risk with these works although it was agreed there was no particular reason to object. The Chair agreed to write a note to the Council proposing the Flood Team are made aware of our concerns.
- Secondly, Ref No: 21/000137/FUL is a resubmission of the Penvalla application that had initially been rejected but now revised. It was still for the erection of ancillary accommodation, now shown much closer to the main house, plus it included the formation of a new access and installation of 12 KW ground mounted solar array. Following a discussion it was agreed there was no objection to the accommodation and solar array but concerns were raised regarding the new access, in particular the gradient and leading on to an already busy road. The Chair again agreed to write to the Council notifying them of our concerns.
- 05.02.21 Microgrants**  
No new applications received. The Chair informed the meeting that he was in the process of compiling a spreadsheet detailing our Micro Grant and Youth Bursary applications, and that he planned to email both Gareth at SSE and Sam at Glenkerie for a

financial update and to ask for additional funds. The UTCC account balance currently stands at £5,384.74 split across five different areas, income from SBC Grant, SSE & Glenkerie Wind Farms plus the UT Resilient Community Group, albeit monies in this pot can only be used in relation to Resilient Community expenses, plus the Youth Bursaries pot and Micro Grants. It was agreed that once the compilation of the Spreadsheet was complete it would be handed to the Treasurer and Finance would become a monthly Agenda item.

**06.02.21**

**Police Report – 4 Feb 21 emailed**

There were no comments raised from this report but the Chair did bring to the attention of Councillor Eric that there had been a spate of antisocial drinking in West Linton by a group of youngsters.

**07.02.21**

**SBC Councillors' Report**

Councillors Eric and Heather reported that the Budget was consuming most time at the moment but on a very positive note they were able to report that approval had finally been given for a total new build for Peebles High School at a cost of £46m as opposed to a partial new build which had also been proposed. The design for the new school was innovative and modern and described as 'beautiful', it was £16m more than was in the budget but the facilities, particularly sporting facilities, would be available to the whole community. The build would commence in 2024 and take up to 2 years to complete. They further reported that the Scot Gov have made their first budget announcement with a freeze on Council Tax increase and following the Chancellors Budget announcement the Scot Gov Budget meeting would take place on 19 March. They predicted that there were savings to make but not so great this time.

**08.02.21**

**Any Other Business**

**Speeding/Traffic Monitoring:** The Chair once again updated the Committee on progress regarding the concerns of speeding traffic in the Rachan Mill area stating he had received a response from SBC who had requested a delay to a site meeting due to the current lockdown conditions and the bad weather. He further confirmed he had heard nothing more from the residents in the area and would go back to them again.

**Bank Account Signatories:** The Chair confirmed he had submitted the paperwork for the additional signatories (Committee Member, Rosalind Birchall and the Secretary, Stephanie Jackman) for the Bank account but was still waiting for confirmation.

**Insurance:** The Chair has the documentation from Zurich and will complete.

**Flooding:** The Chair appraised the meeting that he would be writing to the Flood Team to understand implications on Household Insurance and what is being done in terms of Flood Defenses in particular for Broughton, Drumelzier and Rachan since being advised we are in the top 5 areas for these.

**Schools:** Chair confirmed that with the Schools closed he had clearly had no School Bus Driving to do and was looking forward to hearing the decision to be made on 16<sup>th</sup>. It is understood that Primaries 1, 2 & 3 would be the first to return which would see the School Bus back in use.

**Amendment to CC Constitution:** Chris Lewin raised the matter of the need to formally address a change to the CC Constitution to hold digital/Zoom meetings. Circumstances of the pandemic had driven us down this avenue with SBC giving 'authority' on a 'needs must' basis but it should be formally noted. It was agreed a form of words would be emailed to all Committee members by the Chair for due

consideration and subsequent inclusion into our Constitution once agreed by all.

**Road Closures:** Rosalind Birchall brought to the attention of the Committee that a number of Road Closures announced (ie B712 8 Feb - 10 Feb) had not been required and in addition the Diversion signs had been incorrect. The Chair confirmed there had been a number of Road Closures – B7016, the Kilbucho Road to Biggar and the bottom end of the Dreva Road plus Rachan Home Farm, due to works on installation of the Super Fibre by Morrison Construction. He also confirmed he had put a notice up on the Facebook site. It was also mentioned that the B712 had been closed but there was no notice or necessary diversion (correct or not) and that this had caused real inconvenience within the Community. The Chair confirmed that there was to be a number of Road Closures in the area due to the installation of the Fibre and these were to be staged closures. It was clear that an error had been made with these road closures. Nick further appraised the meeting of the works that Morrison Construction were conducting along the Dreva Road where the road had been closed one week, opened and then re-closed the following week. In addition pavements had been taken up, tarmac had been cut through but not reinstated and other works where he had not been at all impressed with the execution and subsequent reinstatement, let alone the complete lack of notices. Furthermore Dreva Road is in a bad way with considerable number of potholes to which Councillor Heather responded that due to the bad weather many roads were in a terrible state.

**Vaccination Programme Scottish Borders:** Councillor Heather reported that over 29,000 people had been vaccinated with the rate of acceptance was very high and the programme was progressing well. The Committee discussed how some Broughton residents were going to Peebles and others to Biggar (Municipal Hall) and that some GP practices were doing the vaccinations.

**Proposed Broughton 'Market':** Nick mention the proposal for a 'Market' (not a 'Farmers Market') as seen on Facebook and the Chair confirmed that the UTCE would be discussing that at their meeting on Wednesday as this Market could pose a possible conflict of interest with the Shop.

**Land Commission Meeting:** Andrew announced that he would be attending the virtual Land Commission Zoom Meeting on Wednesday evening, as would Chris Lewin. Nick raised the matter of the Forestry no longer being a local amenity welcoming visitors and would this issue be covered at this meeting to which Andrew confirmed it would not.

**09.02.21**

**Date of next Meeting – 7pm, Monday, 15 March, 2021, via Zoom.**