

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 19 June, 2023, in Broughton Village Hall

Present

Rosalind Birchall (Vice-Chair), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Susan Brown (Treasurer), Tess Goodwin, Steph Stewart, Chelsea Shapiro-Waugh, Councillor Drummond Begg SBC

01.06.23 Apologies.

Andrew Beveridge (Chairman), Justin King, Jen McBeth, Jayne Cook, Councillor Eric Small SBC, Councillor Viv Thomson SBC

The Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone, in particular the SBC Councillors and new members of the CC.

02.06.23 Minutes of Meeting held on 15 May 23

The Minutes were approved.

03.06.23 Matters Arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising that would not be taken in the Agenda.

04.06.23 Actions Register

The Secretary commenced going through the Actions Register (see attached) and Councillor Drummond SBC requested he update the meeting on general road maintenance matters. He explained that he had met with Neil Pringle, SBC Officer, who annually conducts 'a walk round' of areas to formulate an organised 'to do list' for the financial year; this year the area, inclusive of Peebles and West Linton as well as Broughton, confirmed there is no doubt there is a lot to do, some works of which can be funded from the Small Schemes pot but for other works, funding needs to be found. Steph Stewart asked if Broughton can be prioritized or was Peebles centric, concerned that the villages may be 'left out'. Councillor Drummond assured that he would keep an eye on 'the list' and report back with progress but stressed as much would be done for Broughton and the other villages as could be.

On the matter of the new Sandbag Shed, it was felt this was being left till later in the year but as was pointed out by Tess Goodwin, Sandbags had been put out the night before the meeting as some unseasonal rain was expected and there were concerns for flooding due the recent dry spell. Councillor Drummond SBC noted the concerns.

Regarding the desire to ensure the 91 Bus was linked into the new timetable of the Dumfries to Edinburgh Bus route, Councillor Drummond SBC explained that there was to be an overall review of

bus routes right across the Scottish Borders but unfortunately it was too difficult at this time to link the 91 Bus in as bus timetables were fixed in many areas due to a whole variety of constraints, times of school buses for one.

More information was to be forthcoming regarding the Funday later in the year but Chelsea Shapiro informed the meeting that they had had a quote for the Bouncy Assault Course of £495 plus delivery and it was likely the event would be early September now. The Secretary confirmed she would organise the insurance once the date and details had been agreed for the event.

05.06.23 Planning Applications (0)

There were no new applications to discuss.

06.06.23 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report had been circulated with the Agenda. Current bank balance was £6,331.92 with the balance of Funds @ 16 June, 23, as set out below with no income in during the month and with expenditure on the Coronation event and microgrants only:

UTCC Funds £4,521.56

Upper Tweed Resilience £338.88

SSE Youth Bursary £800.00

SSE Micro-Grants £74.00

SSE/Glenkerie Micro-Grants £597.48

The Treasurer (currently still the Vice-Chairman) thanked Susan Brown for agreeing to take on the role. They had already met, and the handover would be done gradually. The first thing to do was to make Susan a signatory on the account which would now be set in motion. She also thanked Chelsea Shapiro for taking on the Website and particularly the payment of the domain name etc. The Treasurer also informed the meeting she was looking at obtaining a Bank Card in order that website payments etc could be made much more easily without the use of personal accounts.

07.06.23 Microgrants/Youth Bursaries. (0+2)

Two Youth Bursaries were agreed, and it was confirmed one Micro-Grant had been approved Out of Committee for the Badminton Club starting up again in October.

New reviewed SSE Microgrant Policy had been circulated to Council members prior to the meeting; the idea had been to simplify the process of receiving the fund, funds being 5% of the annual monies received divided between Tweedsmuir, Broughton and Skirling amounting to approximately £2500 each; each CC are required to be below £500 of Microgrant monies in their account prior to 'top up'; 'top up' funding year

commences in June. The CC was made aware that for Glenkerie Windfarm the policy was different with 'top up' taking place when funds are almost spent and the funding year commences in January. The Vice-Chairman confirmed we would be at the stage for top up with both very soon.

08.06.23 Police Report – emailed in advance.

Secretary confirmed she had once again not received a report, Councillor Drummond SBC made a note and informed the meeting that in the light of anti-social behaviour issues at Peebles High, a school of 400 pupils, 10 pupils had now been identified as the main culprits and the Police are dealing with the matter.

09.06.23 Report from SSE Panel Forum (held 13 June 23).

The Secretary, as the UTCC representative on the SSE Panel, gave an outline report of what had taken place at the recent meeting although she suggested waiting till next month to discuss a couple of issues that were raised with the Chairman and some members of the CC absent. She informed the meeting that the Broughton Shop had been awarded funds in support of the Shop redevelopment which was excellent news and that the small grant requested by the CC some months ago for a Marque had also been awarded. It was agreed details of this would similarly be discussed next month before any decision was made as to what marque might be purchased, if there was now a need to obtain funding for a trailer to store the marque on and for transportation plus where would the trailer/marque be stored when not in use.

10.06.23 SBCCN Meetings (next meeting 21 June 23)

With the Chair absent there was nothing to raise.

11.06.23 20mph Speed Limit, Additional Measures (Paper circulated with the Agenda)

The Vice-Chairman reported that there had been an email (circulated) from Samantha Elliott, SBC Officer, regarding a review of the now well established 20 mph speed limits installed over the last year. This was to make sure that everything was in order in terms of all supporting street 'furniture' in the area and it was asking for comment from our experience. The matter was discussed, and it was agreed that from the north end of the Village, the Edinburgh end, the speed limit went from the National Speed limit of 60 mph straight to 20 mph and, as we are still experiencing speeding through the village perhaps it should be reduced more gradually before getting to the 20 mph, ie go from 60 mph to 40 mph or even 30 mph before motorists hit the 20 mph, helping motorists to slow down before getting to the 20mph limit. Other suggestions were that our Flashing speed limit sign needs to be working properly and in addition, due to success in other areas, we should perhaps try the 'pop up Bobby'. It was noted that 'the Bobby' needs to

be put out in the morning and taken in in the evening, the Shop had previously said they would be happy to do this so it was agreed this should be followed up with Jen McBeth on her return. It was unanimous that speeding through the village was still a significant issue and with the Police under resourced to tackle it, we need to turn to Community Speed Watch, the challenge being to change the 'mind set' of drivers. It was also noted that foliage was obscuring the mph signage in the village and Councillor Drummond SBC recommended we take photographs and submit them to the SBC Roads Department.

12.06.23 SBC Councillors' Reports – SBC Councillors

Councillor Drummond said he only had a few things to make comment on this month, first reporting he had met with a volunteer group conducting thermal imaging of houses, looking at where insulation is best put in, a funded project that is having some success at looking at a different way to insulate homes, targeting where it is needed, work carried out in the winter and a project that needs to link in with 'Warmer Homes, Energy Scotland'. Tess Goodwin commented that she was involved in looking at this in the Biggar area. Councillor Drummond also informed the meeting he had had meetings with local farmers regarding trees and commercial planting, the view was that a balance was required not just blanket coverage but more natural, less of the intensity and single type; he would be scheduling a meeting with the SB Executive responsible for this area as it did appear that Scottish Forestry had no overarching plan or policy strategy although Grass versus Trees, Carbon capture Science, was a very complex area! Moving on to 'No Mow May', Councillor Drummond was keen to know what effect this had had, Tess Goodwin agreed to find out opinion in the Community but did remark it seemed a shame to allow things to flourish for that one month and then come and cut it all back.

13.06.23 Any Other Business

Drinking Water Point for the King George V Park. Tess Goodwin asked for views on whether there should be a Water Drinking point in the Park with it being a communal area and often used for events etc. The idea was met with agreement and she took an Action to get in touch in the first instance with Scottish Water although discussion with SBC was more than likely necessary too.

ACTION: Tess Goodwin to investigate what was required to have a Drinking Water point erected in the King George V Park.

Bike Repair Clinic. Tess Goodwin informed the meeting that there was to be a Bike Repair Clinic in the Village Hall Car Park from 10:30-12:30 on Saturday 24 June organised by the Biggar Area Climate Group to help people with their bikes, a free service, and could the CC please spread the word.

SSE STEM Bursary available for 6. Steph Stewart made the meeting aware that the SSE were to award Bursaries to 6 personnel for STEM. The Secretary confirmed this had been brought up at the SSE Panel meeting and more information was to follow.

Stobo Woodland Creation. The Vice-Chairman made mention of the development of a Woodland at Stobo and although not in our CC area felt members should be informed especially with knowledge of what was happening in our own area.

Date of next Meeting – 7.00pm, Monday, 17 July, 2023, in **Broughton Village Hall**

Slelj 7/7/2023