

**UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL (UTCC)**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on 20 May, 2024, in Broughton Village Hall**

**Present :** Andrew Beveridge (Chairman), Rosalind Birchall (Vice-Chair), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Steph Stewart, Susan Brown (Treasurer), Jen McBeth, Tess Goodwin, Chelsea Shapiro, Councillor Eric Small SBC; also Julian Birchall (Returning Officer for the AGM that follows), Mark Davey from Peeblesshire News and two members of the public

- 01.05.24    Apologies :** Councillor Viv Thomson SBC, Councillor Drummond Begg, Justin King
- 02.05.24    Minutes from the last meeting** on 15 April, were approved.
- 03.05.24    Matters Arising.** Tess made an enquiry regarding plans for the Play-park. Councillor Eric explained that during Council discussions as to where the funds for Play-parks should be allocated he had put forward Broughton as one of the villages requiring refurbishment in this area. There is £76k available which he believes should provide for a good quality Play-park although the equipment and works to be carried out are expensive. More information to follow regarding timeframe.
- 04.05.24    Actions Register.** The Secretary reported that the main Actions related to The Village Day which had taken place on 18 May, more information to follow at Item 9 of the Agenda below.
- 05.05.24    Planning.** The Chair advised the meeting that there had only been an update on a past Planning Application to report on this month, this was the new house being built at Rachan Mill. The owners were applying for a very slight deviation to their original plans, nothing that would raise any concerns.
- 06.04.24    Treasurers Report** was circulated prior to the meeting. Susan stated that we had paid our next instalment for the Community News (CN) Paper of £310 and that there was a proposal for Tweedsmuir, Skirling and ourselves to apply to the Windfarm for a Grant for subsequent years of the CN. She also reported that £10 had been spent on the Bar Licence for The Village Day and £20 on meetings held in Drumelzier Village Hall.
- 07.05.24    Youth Bursaries (YB)/Micro-grants(MG):** 5 x YB applications had been received, circulated in advance of the meeting to the CCs, all now confirmed their support for these applications. Susan made the meeting

aware that this would amount to a substantial sum going out of the account of £1000 and that 'top up' for YBs was not for a few months, however, on speaking with Colin McMillan of SSE, our next allocation of funds can be fast tracked (current Annual figure is £2.5k MGs & YBs). It was also possible to 'juggle' between our self-imposed ring-fenced funds (MGs/YBs), all agreed this to potentially be a good idea as our requests for funding is very much focused towards our Youth. Susan advised that there will be an Annual Review of Windfarm monies during the Summer as she had in mind to bring our YBs in line with payments made by Tweedsmuir and Skirling which are set at £250 per YB, with ours currently set by ourselves at £200. We will wait till the Annual Review and then look to bring ours in line which would mean a greater draw on funding, however, as Susan explained Broughton had more Youth than the other CCs and funding should be proportionate to population, all of which she will discuss with Colin.

**08.05.24 Multi Member Ward Report (Police).** Nil received at time of meeting.

**09.05.24 Broughton Village Day.** Jen McBeth gave some feedback on the event - it had been a 'splendid' day helped by the weather being so good, the School and everyone who attended had thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The Bar had worked well and it was a good fun day achieving its aim in all aspects. The Chair agreed saying it had the atmosphere of a big Party and everyone was in excellent spirits, it was a good idea involving the School as we did. He thanked Jen and all involved for their hard work in pulling off such a super event for the Village. It was thought that next year a 'Companion Dog Show' might be held too, the Secretary agreed to look into this.

**Action: Secretary to look into having a Companion Dog Show at next year's Village Day.**

**10.05.24 Councillors Report:** Councillor Eric SBC commenced by reporting that the Annual 'Walk Round' had been done by the Council; they had had a busy itinerary for the day but managed to walk round the Village looking at the kerbs, manholes and the general state of paths and culverts, cross referencing with their List of Works. There was now a new List unfortunately the Small Schemes fund had been cut to £20k which really wasn't very much but they would do what they can although some works were routine and should be being done anyway. He continued by say that Council Drummond SBC organised a visit to Hawdene and a chat with the children in the School. Regarding the project 'Destination Tweed' ('a source to sea trail' - source of the river Tweed across to Berwick upon Tweed), Councillor Eric SBC reported that work in Peebles had started as the works necessary round major centres of population

would be completed first and then they would all need to be joined up. Not all of this was Council funded as support was coming from Sustrans too. Details and a Destination Tweed Website are at (<https://tweedforum.org/our-work/projects/destination-tweed/>); as part of this it has been agreed that Motorhomes/Campervans can now stay overnight in the towns Car Parks. Tess requested more information about the new Playpark coming to Broughton and Councillor Eric SBC explained that there absolutely would be consultation regarding the plans as these would be drawn up for this very purpose; Susan and Chelsea in discussion said that the School had already been contacted for feedback on proposals.

#### 11.05.24 AOB:

**Geo-Engineering.** A member of the public expressed their concern over what was currently happening in the environment suggesting a lack of bird life, insects, bizarre weather etc, blaming world leaders and Geo-Engineering. He wanted to understand what the UTCC was going to do about it. The Chair suggested that he felt it was a topic outwith the remit of the CC and not that the CC did not care but that its scope was limited to Community issues with this being significantly bigger. It was also suggested that the individual themselves was probably far more knowledgeable than anyone else in the Community and that it might be worth conducting a survey or holding a public meeting and anyone can call a public meeting and invite folk to the Village Hall to discuss these global issues. It was certainly a topic worthy of full discussion but unfortunately the CC were limited in what they could do.

**Flooding Committee:** Councillor Eric SBC advised that following on from last years experience a new Flooding Committee was being formed. More details to follow.

**Benches:** The Secretary informed the meeting that she had looked into the possibility of getting some picnic benches for the King George V Park; they could be supplied by the Council at a cost of just over £100 each. It was thought we might obtain 3 or 4 and have an inscription placed in the middle to commemorate the King Charles' 111 Coronation. It was agreed that the Benches would need to be placed where they were not a nuisance to the Council mowers and to ensure they were weather hardy but in principle it was agreed it was a nice idea. The Secretary will obtain more detail.

**Action:** Secretary to find out more information about Council picnic benches.

**Glenkerie Panel Member:** The Chair informed the meeting that as he was now standing down a new representative of the Glenkerie Windfarm Panel would need to be found.

Action: New Chair to nominate/find a new Panel Member to represent UTCC on the Glenkerie Windfarm Panel.

Broughton Place Plan: Councillor Eric SBC informed the meeting that the SBC Local Plan Committee were now looking 10 years out when considering plans for the local area and that all Communities should have their own 'Place Plan'. This was a set of terms and/or conditions that had been agreed by the CC and discussed with the Community to state what is important to us in terms of Aims & Objectives when considering Planning in and around our Community. How do we want our Community to look and 'feel' going forward ten years in relation to planning applications that come up in the area. Secretary suggested we should have a separate meeting (zoom) to discuss, putting forward our thoughts and then sharing with the Community and it was also felt having a look at others Place Plans would help us to deliver our own.

Action: New Chair to drive CC to have its own 'Place Plan'.

Next meeting is on **Monday, 17 June, 2024 at 7pm, in BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL.**

SLELL 07/06/24