

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 18 July, 2022, in Broughton Village Hall

Present

Andrew Beveridge (Chairman), Rosalind Birchall (Vice-Chair), Nick Shapowal (Treasurer), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Tess Goodwin, Simon Edwards, Chris Lewin, Simon Newstead, Jen McBeth, Councillor Viv Thomson, plus 12 members of the public (including Mark Davey, a reporter from the Peebleshire News)

01.07.22 Apologies.

Christopher Lambton, Councillor Drummond Begg SBC, Councillor Eric Small SBC

02.07.22 Minutes of Meeting held on 20 June, 22

The Minutes were agreed.

03.07.22 Matters Arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising.

04.07.22 Actions Register

No new actions recorded.

05.07.22 Planning Applications

- *Siting of Shepherds hut and siting of cabin (retrospective) to form Holiday Let Accommodation, Land Southwest of Corstane Farmhouse, Broughton. Ref No: 22/00959/FUL*

Simon Edwards was concerned there were two items in the application but only one application, a point of clarification was made regarding one item being retrospective resulting in agreement that no comments were required.

- *Erection of dwellinghouse
Land West of Laurel Bank Tea Room, Broughton. Ref No:
22/01007/PPP*

Following discussion regarding the location of a domestic heating oil pipe it was again agreed there were no objections.

- *Erection of dwellinghouse
Land West of Quarter House (Plot 2), Broughton. Ref No:
22/01012/FUL*

It was confirmed this was the second of two properties being developed for sale on the hillside at Glenholm which raised some pertinent concerns during discussion. It was argued the road leading up to the properties was already at capacity and the infrastructure in the area was causing issue with water to the properties a potential problem. The Chair suggested those living in the area add comment to the planning application, as he explained to all that although the CC could forward comments, these would still only be taken as a 'single' objection and urged others to get their comments in adding 'weight' to the objections.

Nick Shapowal informed the meeting that he had learned from Emma Lamb that there was renewed interest in the land to the west side of the Dreva Road that had outline planning for 25 houses. Initial planning permission had been granted in the 1960s and about 11 years ago the

application had certain stipulations added, in the main to do with flood defences and the need to improve the road. There was also discussion regarding the pedestrian bridge into the park with a need to find out more information as it was understood Emma Lambe had sold parcels of land before. It was suggested there might be Community interest to make a 'Community Space' in the area, but it would require a dedicated group to take it forward and some innovative ideas. Simon Newstead suggested he speak to Christopher Lambton to make the initial contact as he knows Emma Lambe with a view to him speaking to her and also with Strutt and Parker the Agents.

Action: Simon Newstead (through Christopher Lambton) to find out more about the land containing the Pedestrian Bridge into the Park.

06.07.22

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer explained that there is no Treasurer's Report this month as he has been finalising all the financial aspects of the PitP. Having completed all the transactions, he was pleased to report the bank account currently stands at £2,641. The overall total cost of the PitP was £1,706.98 and with the Jubilee Fund grant we received plus a small profit from the bar the direct cost to the UTCC was only £139.89. The overall feeling from this news was that we should certainly look to do an event next year although the Secretary did remind all that we would not have the Grant to fall back on next year which meant we would need to start planning much earlier, consider what type of event it would be and looking ahead at raising funds. It was agreed 'Broughton Fayre' would now be a standing agenda item and we should consider forming a working party.

Action: Secretary to ensure 'Broughton Fayre' is a standing agenda item each month.

07.07.22

Microgrants.

a. Following a request at the last meeting, the Chair gave a brief overview of what the CC Microgrants are, where the funds come from and how they are distributed. He explained that the funds are monies generated by the local wind farms (Glenkerie & SSE Clyde) and allocated as per local agreements to the 5 area CCs to be used within the Community to support individuals and groups with applications made to the local CC. For UTCC, Microgrants are up to a max of £250 per application and a Youth Bursary up to a max of £200, although more funding available if applications are made direct to the Wind Farm panels themselves. All information is available on the website together with the application forms (to UTCC or direct to the Wind farm panels). There are certain criteria assigned to applications (ie funding is for an activity or for a tangible benefit, not to cover transport) and applicants should familiarise themselves with these. A discussion ensued as it was felt not enough people within the Community were aware of this funding and it was agreed that information should be included in the School Newsletter/Notes, be visible in the Shop and on the Website and Facebook page but that word of mouth was also a good way of getting the information out. Tess queried how the funds appeared to be distributed particularly as there was a need for a variety of things within the Community particular group activities that were planned to take place in the village hall, it was agreed that anyone could make an

application, even going direct to the Wind farm panel itself but that all Community 'Clubs' should consider a small donation by members to cover some of the costs. It was also agreed there were other sources of funding if required such as lottery grants.

b. There were 4 Microgrant applications up for consideration, as follows:

: Paula Roy – this was a review of a previously submitted application and with the additional information supplied was Agreed (it was noted that the applicant had applied before and had this award agreed)

: Broughton Art Group – for materials for establishment of the group - Agreed

: Broughton in Bloom – for equipment to commence tidying up the park - Agreed

: Community SHOUT – to support this UTCC initiative to improve local communication - Agreed

08.07.22 Police Report – emailed in advance.

There was again no Police Report this month but it was agreed to keep this as a standing agenda item as it was understood from Councillor Viv Thomson that these would recommence soon.

09.07.22 Community SHOUT

Simon Newstead delivered the very positive feedback that he had received on his new initiative, a Community Communications piece, called 'SHOUT'. A quick and simple one page brief on local issues hot off the press from the UTCC meeting. His aim is to give greater transparency on the CC, engage the Community in local matters and make people feel better informed. It would appear this has been badly needed and once fully briefed the Chair thanked Simon for his efforts. Simon moved on to talk about the revamp of the Website he was now doing. He explained that a new website with new domain name and having the ability to have tailored individual email addresses (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer etc) would cost in the region of £150 per year which seemed very agreeable to all. If everyone was in agreement, he would start to move things across, get the material sorted on the new website and start to get email addresses etc sorted. In order to bring the CC to life, Simon also suggested each CC Member do a short Bio of themselves and send to him to load onto the website.

Action: CC Members to send Simon Newstead a short Bio of themselves for inclusion on the new Web site.

10.07.22 Plastics Recycling Hub

Tess Goodwin introduced an initiative she has been looking at with Emma Reid in light of the results from the recent Big Plastic Count. Like many she found the facts and figures regarding what plastics actually get recycled quite shocking and a number of people are interested in seeing much more be done and also doing more ourselves as so little plastic is actually recycled. Those interested would like to develop a Plastic Recycling Hub in the village and are suggesting utilising the old Red Phone Box on the junction of Dreva Road and Springwellbrae. Tess explained about a recycling firm called Teracycle, who do business recycling and are sponsored by big business. They have collection points for specific types of recycling such as crisp packets, processed food bags, laundry care and personal care plastics, plus toothbrushes, coffee bags, the list goes on. Tess felt a hub in the phone box would be a start and following discussion all agreed it would be a start. The Chair agreed but felt as the plastics hub gains traction it might well run out of

capacity. Councillor Viv informed the meeting that this is a topic very close to her heart and that she was taking a tour of a recycling plant in a couple of weeks.

11.07.22

Transport to Youth Club

The Secretary outlined an issue raised at the last meeting, that had been brought to her attention by one of the parents. The youth (8 to 9 youngsters aged 10 to 14 years approximately) in Broughton struggle to be able to attend a Youth Club that runs in Peebles on a Saturday from 5pm to 9pm as unless parents drive them they have no ability to get to Broughton with the lack of buses running in the village. It was agreed it makes no sense to have a number of parents all driving to Peebles where the numbers who wish to attend would justify a bus service. The importance of this Youth Club was also outlined as it is not just to give the young people something to do but is an excellent way to integrate children who attend a small intimate school (Broughton Primary) be able to cope with ease when they move to a significantly larger school; the Secondary School in Peebles. It significantly smooths the transition and can ensure it is a positive experience rather than be traumatic for our youngsters. The UTCC listened as one of the parents outlined the benefits of the Youth Club but it was Chris Lewin who was able to suggest that the parents should consider applying for a Tweeddale Neighbourhood Fund Grant and he would happily help with the application process passing his details to one of the parents. This was welcomed as unfortunately the families had been informed that Windfarm money cannot be used for Transport.

12.07.22

SBC Councillors' Report

Councillor Viv informed the meeting of Summer Engagement Sessions, one was held at West Linton and of Surgeries in progress. A priority issue now was the potential loss of the 101/102 buses (Dumfries to Edinburgh) which was causing concern to many in local communities, which Councillor Viv assured the meeting was understood and the Councils involved were looking at what could be done. She suggested that the current thinking was to use Emergency Powers to keep the funding for the service going till end of December 2022 possibly right through to March 2023 whilst work is on-going to find a permanent solution. She was very optimistic that the service would not be lost and confirmed that Stage Coach (the bus provider) have agreed in principle to maintain the route as it currently is, the funding lines just needed to be worked through between South West Trans, SPT and SBC the three current funders. There is a further meeting tomorrow (19 July) so more to follow on this.

13.07.22

Any Other Business

Broughton Bonfire. The Secretary outline a potential plan for this November's Community Bonfire, suggesting that it was an event enjoyed by many and gave a focus for an annual ritual that left without an organised event encouraged individuals to hold their own firework displays with the potential of being more harmful and dangerous to the public and animal welfare than a well organised, well-controlled, well publicised enjoyable Community get together. She suggested that David and Ingrid Campbell should be tasked with organizing the event the same way they had done in the past as it had been very successful fully aware that a revised Risk Assessment must be produced, the insurance to cover the event must be applied for, the Hall and land owners need to be contacted. Following discussion, it was agreed in

outline that if everything was complied with it could go ahead and that First Aiders would also need to be booked. The Secretary agreed to work with the Campbells on this and report back.

Action: Secretary to work with David and Ingrid Campbell to organise the Community Bonfire event.

Bus to Peebles. Chris Lewin informed the meeting that the pilot scheme for the Sunday Bus service from Broughton to Peebles would come to an end before the next meeting with two trips still to run (last one on 7 Aug) and asked everyone to continue getting the word out. The Secretary asked for a report on how many spaces had been taken up on the service, this was not forthcoming at the time but Chris would report back at the next meeting.

Action: Chris Lewin to report back on the success of the Barc Bus trial scheme.

Broughton Primary School: The Chair of the parent Council, Chelsea Shapiro, raised the issue of the Primary School being reduced from 3 classes to 2 with the loss of the full-time post of one member of staff. It was of significant concern to parents and staff alike. The UTCC had been made aware of this at the previous month's meeting and Chelsea Shapiro, asked the CC if they would back a proposed letter to Lesley Munro, the service Director for young people Engagement and Inclusion at Scottish Borders Council. Chelsea explained that there would only be two composite classes in the school now and that with the age gap the classes would be unbalanced and disadvantage some children, parents were concerned for the education their children would receive. The meeting was told that part of the issue is not all families in the village send their children to the School because of its lack of 'wraparound care' – such as a breakfast club and after-school activities and there is also an issue with the threshold of 24 children to a class. The Chair commented that the situation was of considerable concern and the school was a vital hub of the Community. It was agreed that Wind Farm money would not be able to support with addressing any of the issues, but funding was required to provide that much needed 'wraparound care'. A discussion ensued regarding options for funding.

14.07.22 **Date of next Meeting – 7.00pm, Monday, 15 August 2022, in Drumelzier Village Hall**