

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 21 February, 2022,

Via Zoom

Present Andrew Beveridge (Chairman) Rosalind Birchall (Vice Chairman), Nick Shapowal (Treasurer), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Christopher Lambton, Chris Lewin, Simon Edwards, Councillor Eric Small SBC, and 7 members of the public (Claudia Ferguson Smyth, Emma Reid, Mr & Mrs Buchanan-Dunlop, Jemima Elliott, James Gordon, Malcolm Bruce)

01.02.22 Apologies
Councillor Heather Anderson SBC, Penny Wedderburn Scott, Fiona Pagett

Introduction by the Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He then proposed that as the meeting was now being held on Zoom, in the interests of time and as members of the public in attendance were particularly interested in the Broughton Hope Forestry item that this should be taken first. The Secretary wished it to be noted that she felt this was incorrect. The CC meeting is a scheduled meeting with Standing Agenda items which should be taken in the order they are presented, the meeting is open to the public and if they wish to attend they should sit through the entirety of the meeting and not be able to 'cherry pick' items of interest; it is a meeting for the benefit of the whole Community and all Agenda items are of interest and benefit aspects of the Community; furthermore the members of the CC are volunteers trying to do good for those they represent which is the whole of the Broughton Community not just those present. The Chairman noted the comments but felt that due to the meeting being changed to a Zoom meeting at the last moment and in order to give adequate discussion time to the Broughton Hope Forestry item, this should be discussed first.

10.02.22 Broughton Hope Forestry
Christopher Lambton outlined the detail behind the planning application for the development of Broughton Hope Forestry and brought the meeting up to date as to where the matter currently stands.

Christopher put the proposals for Broughton Hope (264ha) in the context of planting schemes for Glencotho (464ha – approved), Cardon (150ha – approved), and Stobo (900ha – not yet at stakeholder consultation). In his opinion the revised scheme for Broughton Hope represents a considerable improvement on that first presented in March 2021. The area of Sitka Spruce has more than halved from 135ha to 56ha. Almost half the glen will remain as open ground. The area of broadleaves has doubled to 27% of the planted area, a great deal more than that intended for the other schemes mentioned, where it is typically around 9%. The water supplies are undisturbed. One area of concern was the treatment of the "Mixed Conifers" which could end up being indistinguishable from the main Sitka Spruce blocks. It is also important to monitor the scheme as adverse changes can be introduced at any time.

Graham Buchanan-Dunlop commented that he could not really oppose the scheme as his main concern (water supplies) had been addressed; he thought that the deer fence encircling the property, though unsightly, would allow a degree of "rewilding" within the glen through the removal of grazing (a separate letter has been sent).

Claudia Ferguson-Smythe was in favour of trees being planted in the glen but commented that the scheme ignored both the constraints of the National Scenic Area (NSA) and the science of biodiversity (a separate letter is to be sent).

James Gordon agreed that the NSA was the single most important designation that would influence whether the scheme is finally approved by Forestry Scotland.

There was considerable discussion and varying views, but it was generally agreed that the new proposal was a considerable improvement on the original. Claudia Ferguson Smyth took considerable time to explain the impact of this planting in this designated NSA (National Scenic Area), what that really meant and also spoke at length about Biodiversity explaining why she was against the thinking behind the planting. The item concluded when Christopher agreed he had enough material to make further comment on the application.

ACTION: Christopher Lambton to submit comment to revised Broughton Hope Forestry Plan.

(**After Meeting Note:** Claudia Ferguson Smyth wrote to the Secretary outlining in great detail all her comments and explaining her concerns, a copy of which has been forwarded to Christopher Lambton).

02.02.22 Minutes from last Meeting (held 17 Jan 21 via Zoom). Comments by email in advance.

The Minutes were agreed.

03.02.22 Actions Register

The Secretary went through the Actions Register and updated items accordingly (see Actions Register); the Chair confirmed, that regarding the issue pertaining to the A701/B712 Junction, a meeting was arranged for 1000 hrs, Wednesday, 23 February 2022 with SBC Roads Dept, Philippa Gilhooly, and the Landowner, John Marshall, to discuss a way forward to making the junction much safer.

04.02.22 Matters Arising – comments via email in advance

There were no Matters Arising.

05.02.22 Planning Applications

There were no Planning Applications for discussion. Jemima Elliot informed the meeting that there would be a further application for The Stables, Broughton Place, appearing soon as she has resubmitted an application for 2 x 1 bedroom properties. The Secretary commented that if this was the case it would be discussed at next month's meeting.

06.02.22 Treasurer's Report

Nick Shapowal delivered a very comprehensive Report stating that the account was showing a healthy picture despite negative top up of Funds and that the CC should be aware that the Foundation Scotland Funds were absorbed into the Microgrant Fund. The detail of his report is as follows:

The current Bank Balance is £4,664.15, this amount is made of the following Funds:

UT Resilient Communities Group	£	338.88
SSE Youth Bursaries	£	905.00
SSE Micro Grants	£	657.00
Glenkerie Micro Grants	£	263.51
Glenkerie Covid Support Fund	£	1,078.21
UTCC Funds (SBC)	£	1,421.55

The Treasurer then commented that he would be attending a forthcoming meeting organised by Gareth Shields of SSE, regarding a proposal to establish an Endowment Fund from the surplus Windfarm funds. Currently a considerable sum was building between the three Communities (Skirling, Upper Tweed and Tweedsmuir) due to a lack of expenditure and this was a way to preserve the fund for an extended period, beyond the original 'life' of the Windfarm fund. There was a discussion as to the idea behind the Endowment and how it would work, the Chair outlined the idea and the Secretary explained in more details since she sits on the Glenkerie Windfarm Panel. She stated that the Windfarm income was lived for 25 years and at the end of this time the fund would cease and any unspent monies would be gone, to prevent this an idea to put an agreed amount (agreed between the three CCs) of surplus funds each year into an Endowment Fund that would be realised after the Windfarm Fund ceased and thereby prolong the life of the fund. The fund would be available in a similar way as to how the funds are available now and would mean the three Communities would benefit for far longer. Chris Lewin proposed that we record the agreement of the CC to this idea, all were in favour less the Treasurer who wanted more information as he was concerned that the Windfarm was giving us monies now, only to take them away later. It was explained that the agreement was that funds would be available during the initial life of the Windfarm (25 years) but after this the fund would cease, the Endowment was a way to preserve the funds for longer and had been suggested by SSE. There was further discussion as to what projects might benefit the Community and how ideas might be progressed.

07.02.22

Microgrants.

The Treasurer introduced one application for a Microgrant from Tessa Goodwin who was requesting funds to hire Broughton Village Hall for 4 hours at a time to support 4 separate UpperTweed social/games/craft gathering events. She wishes to encourage Community Gatherings for activities/hobbies/education and wanted these four sessions as an initial trial. Following discussion, the request for the Microgrant was agreed.

08.02.22

Police Report – emailed 10 Jan 22

No comments arose from the report, however, Councillor Eric SBC made the meeting aware of two Quad bikes that had been stolen, one from West Linton and apparently one from the Symington area suggesting we advise vigilance.

09.02.22

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – UTCC Plans

The Chairman opened discussion regarding any further thoughts from the last meeting for celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Rosalind commented that there was clearly interest within the Community to do something as was suggested by Simon's email circulated to CC members prior to the meeting, that gave suggestions voiced from people within the Community, in addition Simon further commented that the School were fully on board. It was generally agreed that this was an ideal opportunity to bring people all together especially following the dearth of events during the pandemic and that the Sunday of the Jubilee weekend (5 June) was the best day to do something. Rosalind reminded the

meeting of the Lord Lieutenants gift of a Tree to the Primary School, Councillor Eric SBC remarking that it must have a suitable brass plaque and the Secretary reminded the meeting of the information circulated from SBC, that the intention is to get everyone to plant a Tree, whether that be Groups, families or individuals and that wherever a tree was planted a record of it was to be sent so that all 'Platinum Jubilee trees' could be mapped. The Chair pointed out that any event required a 'Lead' / Point of Contact (POC) and that he would be prepared to be that person and was happy volunteer and organise potentially a marquee for the Park, arrange for the hire of Trestle Tables etc. The Secretary suggested that we could ask everyone to come along with their own 'picnic' but could perhaps get an Ice Cream Van to come along for the afternoon and the CC could pay for Free Ice Cream for everyone. This was met with consensus as did the suggestion of getting other beverage vans to be there. The item was closed with the agreement that a Community event would take place on the afternoon of Sunday, 5 June in the Park.

ACTION: The Chair volunteered himself as the Lead / POC (Point of Contact) for the Broughton Platinum Jubilee Event on 5 June, 2022.

11.02.22 Update on A701/B712 Junction Issues

The Chair again informed the meeting of the planned site visit arranged for 1000 hrs, Wednesday, 23 February 2022 with SBC Roads Dept, Philippa Gilhooly, and the Landowner, John Warnock, to discuss a way forward.

12.02.22 EV Charging Points Broughton – Progress

Introducing this item the Chair explained that there was really no progress to report; there had been an item in the Peeblesshire News of 26 Jan regarding EV Chargers which was of considerable interest and it should be noted that SBC no longer had the funds necessary. The Chair was still planning to write to Ewan Doyle of SBC, the lead Councillor for EV Charging Points, and invite him to our next meeting so that we could get a better understanding of what was required and what sort of costs, in particular 'ongoing' costs we might expect. Secretary suggested we should apply to the Windfarm for a grant, and it was agreed that in the first instance we should apply to Scottish Power for a Quote for supply.

ACTION: Chair still to write to SBC, Ewan Doyle, requesting Broughton be considered for a Rapid EV Charger and an invitation to the next UTCC meeting and the Secretary to approach Scottish Power for a quote.

13.02.22 Sunday Bus Service to/from Peebles

Chris commenced by reminding members of the idea to fund a Sunday Bus Service from Broughton to Peebles for a year at a cost of £5k; the pandemic then hit us and so this idea was stalled. As a result of Covid, Chris explained, the situation had now changed in that there was reluctance to travel by minibus and also that teenagers were now Free of Charge on buses. He therefore recommended that the time was now right to resurrect the previous application for a service but perhaps an idea would be to commence with a trial to see how a new service would be received. He suggested we put on a Bus service to and from Peebles on a Sunday during the Summer. Following discussion, it was agreed this was a good idea and we would start with 6 x Sundays, commencing at the end of June, and a

suggested timeframe would see a Pick-up in Broughton at 1030 hrs going to Peebles, with a Return to Broughton at 1745 hrs. Chris had already received a quote and explained that this would be through Barc at a cost of £110 per day (£660 for the trial period) although consideration was necessary for the marketing of such a service, and It was agreed that the Community Council would meet these costs.

ACTION: Chris to organise a Summer Trial of a Broughton to Peebles Sunday Bus Service, commencing at the end of June 2022 for 6 consecutive Sundays.

14.02.22 SBC Councillors' Report

Councillor Eric SBC informed the CC that he had very little for the meeting since the Budget was still very much the main Agenda item with Elections coming up in May. Chris asked if SBC recognised that more was required to be spent on Transport and Councillor Eric confirmed that this was being looked at amongst a number of priority items.

15.02.22 Any Other Business

Small Scheme Grant. Chris reminded the meeting of his application for a Small Scheme Grant to address the pavement issue near to his property, explaining that the result was that it had been determined that the works would exceed the amount permissible on a Small Scheme Grant. He had responded by asking if the works could be split with half being completed this year and half the next to bring it in line with the amount accepted on the Scheme and he was now waiting for a response. He asked Councillor Eric if he would be able to support such a proposal in order that it was given due consideration.

Community Development Officer. Chris reminded the meeting that Hannah Lacon was our Community Development Officer, and he would invite her to our next meeting. Dates for the next meeting were then discussed as it was agreed that meeting Face2Face would be preferable going forward but that the small room in the Village Hall was too small particularly if members of the public wished to attend but that the two other halls were both booked on a Monday. It came to light that from April the small hall would be free on a Monday, there also being an issue with the date of April's meeting since it fell on Easter Monday so after discussion the following was agreed:

MARCH Meeting – Wednesday, 23rd March, 2022 in Drumelzier Hall

APRIL Meeting – Monday, 11 April, 2022, in the Small Hall, Broughton Village Hall

It was requested that these be suitably advertised.

ACTION: Chris to note change of dates/location of the March and April meetings and advertise well in advance on the UTCC Website. Nick to do the same with the Broughton Facebook Page.

Bite 'nd Blether. The Secretary raised the issue of the re-introduction of Bite 'nd Blether; the hugely successful Community Coffee Mornings introduced originally by Emma Reid and stalled due to the pandemic. She explained that she had been approached by a number of the volunteers and community members who attended with requests for it to be re-introduced. The idea gain general concensus from members and due to time (Zoom minutes running down) it was suggested a proposal be put together for discussion at the next meeting.

ACTION: Secretary to make enquiries and to put together a proposal for the re-introduction of Bite 'nd Blether.

'Light abuse of property' along the old Railway Line. The Secretary had been informed by Heather Barker of their property being subjected to 'light abuse' from walkers and users of the path along the Old Railway Line. It was agreed there was little that the CC could do, and some pointed out they had no knowledge of the area being in private ownership, but perhaps she may wish to put something onto the Broughton Facebook Page. Nick agreed to put something on the Broughton Page if Heather gave him a form of words.

ACTION: Secretary to go back to Heather Barker and ask for a form of words that might be put onto the Broughton Facebook page.

16.02.22

Date of next Meeting – 7.30pm, WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH, 2022, in DRUMELZIER Village Hall

UTCC ACTIONS REGISTER @ 16 March 22

(Note: Old Actions from 2021 have been removed unless not completed, all records are archived)

Ser	Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Assigned to	Completion Date
8.9.21	Sep 21	SBC Councillor's Report (Councillor Heather Anderson)	Receive an update on planning process for Forestry	Secretary	(Councillor Heather absent)
04.11.21	Nov 21	Matters Arising	Invitation to Jamie French, Area First Responder Co-Ordinator, to one of our meetings, either in January or March 2022, to deliver a Defibrillator Brief.	Fiona Pagett	
07.01.22	Jan 22	UTCC Expenditure History and Way Forward	Improve Community visibility of funding available through Microgrants and Youth Bursaries.	Chris Lewin to improve Website. Nick Shapowal to add content to Fb page. Secretary to draw up a notice to go in the shop window.	Completed by Chris Lewin & Nick Shapowal.
09.01.22	Jan 22	SBC Community Council Scheme	Comments to be received by Members by 14 Feb, response in by 18 Feb.	All Secretary	Completed.
11.01.22	Jan 22	Scottish Borders CC Network	Obtain Member information of other local CCs from Peter Maudsley.	Secretary	
12.01.22	Jan 22	EV Chargers	Write a letter to SBC, Alex Young, requesting Broughton be considered for a Rapid EV Charger and and include an invitation to the next UTCC meeting.	Chair	
15.01.22	Jan 22	Any Other Business	Honorarium for Treasurer and Secretary. Out of Committee meeting to be held excluding the Treasurer	Chair	Not admissible by SBC. Completed.

			and Secretary to discuss the payment of an Honorarium and if in favour, the amount.		
10.02.22	Feb 22	Broughton Hope Forestry	Submit comment to revised Broughton Hope Forestry Plan.	Christopher Lambton	
09.02.22	Feb 22	Queen's Platinum Jubilee	Volunteered as the POC for Broughton's Event.	Andrew Beveridge	
12.02.22	Feb 22	EV Chargers	Approach Scottish Power for a quote for supply.	Secretary	
13.02.22	Feb 22	Sunday Bus Service	Organise a Summer Trial of a Broughton to Peebles Service commencing at the end of June for 6 consecutive Sundays.	Chris Lewin	
15.02.22	Feb 22	AOB Meeting Dates	Revised meeting dates to be advertised well in advance on the UTCC Website and Facebook Page.	Chris Lewin & Nick Shapowal	
15.02.22	Feb 22	AOB Bite 'nd Blether	Make enquiries and put together a proposal for the re-introduction of this event.	Secretary	
15.02.22	Feb 22	AOB 'Light abuse of Property'	Ask Heather Barker for a Form of words that might be put on to the Broughton Facebook Page to address the issue.	Secretary Nick Shapowal	Completed 4 Mar 22



Completed Actions

WIP Work in Progress