

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 16 August, 2021,

In Broughton Village Hall

- Present** Andrew Beveridge (Chairman), Rosalind Birchall (Vice Chairman), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Chris Lewin, Christopher Lambton, Simon Edwards, Councillor Eric Small SBC, Councillor Heather Anderson SBC (via Zoom)
- 01.08.21** **Apologies**
Nick Shapowal (Treasurer), Fiona Pagett
- 02.08.21** **Minutes from last Meeting (held 19 July, 21 via Zoom). Comments by email in advance.**
The Minutes were agreed.
- 03.08.21** **Matters Arising from previous Minutes (via Email)**
None
- 04.08.21** **Planning Applications**
The Chair invited comments, the application for the Manse was discussed with no major objections, however, Chris spoke about the details of the improvements proposed feeling they were out of keeping with a property of this style and era, the use of corrugated iron for the roof in particular where slate would be preferred; Rosalind made reference to the position and that the original garage was now to be a cottage. After discussion it was agreed that the choice of materials was potentially due to the significant shortage of certain lines across the building industry and the inevitable price increase. The Chair then appraised the meeting that Jim Warnock, Rachan, was in receipt of Planning Permission but certain conditions had been attached and that proposals for Penvalla were to be carried forward to the next sitting of the Planning Committee.
- 05.08.21** **Microgrants**
The Chair introduced one Microgrant for approval, the Horticultural Society request for £200 for their forthcoming Show, this included £164 for hire of the Hall and £36 for printing costs. The members agreed to the request with an Action on the Treasurer to establish what the Societies current financial status was.
- 06.08.21** **Police Report – emailed 4 July, 21**
No Comments; most matters not applicable to the area. Action placed on the Secretary to invite Sgt Granger to a meeting.
- 07.08.21** **Treasurer's Report**
The Chair read the Treasurer's Report to the meeting, the main points as follows:
- Rosalind Birchall to act as the main Counter Signing Officer, the other counter signing officers will be called upon when the need arises
 - The Year 20/21 ended with the balance of £8126.24
 - The following payments have been made:
 - UT Community Drivers (public liability insurance) £ 197.01
 - Tennis Club £ 200.00
 - Drivers again £ 246.79

- Mrs Roy (bursary) £ 60.00
- Drivers again £ 225.00
- UTCE for litter pick £ 250.10
- Total Expenditure £ 1178.90
- Balance in Bank today £ 6947.34
- News of the litter pick organised by the shop ladies was well received on the Community Fb page. Items of expenditure will be attributed to the various ring-fenced funds at our disposal.

08.08.21

SBC Councillors' Report

Councillor Heather gave her report citing three main points she wished to report on, The Tweedale Access Panel, Woodland and the Broughton Toilets.

The Tweedale Access Panel: Following the recent meeting the recommendations for assessing the applications received for Community Grant Funding are changing, a good number of applications have been received with good representation.

Afforestation in Southern Scotland: Attended the last meeting called to discuss application 'Procedure' raising points and areas of concern to be brought to the attention of Tweedsmuir Marie McCallum in writing. Points of note raised included, Agent sign off is by Forestry Scotland, Community Councils not consultees, no rigorous process and undefined time limits for applications and once the application is on the Register it is too late. All points made were those raised at the Forestry Scotland meeting plus emphasising that there is far more scrutiny place into minor Planning Applications (ie an additional Dormer Window to a property) with limited impact than for planting an entire forest with major impact, as well as the lack of strategic view and an accumulative assessment.

Broughton Public Toilets: It has been noted that the closure of the Toilets and not just in Broughton but across the Scottish Borders is causing considerable distress, there has even been a petition. Meetings are being held, discussing a way forward, so it is hoped a resolution can be found some how, but be assured the matter is being taken very seriously. Councillor Eric also reported that there had been a meeting with Rachel Hamilton MSP regarding Public Toilets (prompted by the 900 signature petition received) as the closure of Toilets goes against the encouragement of Tourism, however, the concern from Scot Gov is regarding the spread of Covid, a problem that is being looked at. There should be some movement on this issue in the next week.

The Chair commented that it would be worth contacting Destination Tweed as a 'Spur' on their route is planned for the Village with works due to start April 22, part of a 5 year plan, and it would make no sense to now have less facilities on offer. Concerns here have also been voiced by Marina Piper, Assistant Project Manager, Scottish Borders Access Team. Following a discussion regarding the impact on Tourism, the demanding requirements for a 7 day per week cleaning regime to combat the potential spread of the virus, effects on local disabled to say nothing of the elderly (Councillor Heather sits on the Petition Panel for Disability Discrimination), it was unanimously agreed that the current situation was unacceptable and that we must write to SBC; Councillor Heather agreed to provide the relevant contact details for the Chair.

09.08.21

Any Other Business

Case Study Rewilding: Simon informed the meeting that he had received details of a case study a university student, Hannah McCann from St Andrews was conducting regarding Rewilding and that he had responded; it was confirmed that all those present had also received the same.

Flood Defences: Simon reminded the meeting that in 2017 Ian Chalmers displayed an exhibition of Flood issues in the area that showed Broughton was in the top 5 in Scottish Borders for risk of floods, also sharing the Flood Risk Management Plan, SEPA Consultation (all on Website). A thorough discussion followed regarding mitigation measures, bio diversity, the influence of the current woodland strategy plus the effects of climate change and mitigation measures. It was felt that those who were most at risk of flooding should be advised to look at their measures to combat against flood damage, review and improve where necessary (funding available through various schemes from Scot Gov). Chris suggested we would be advise to write to SBC (Sustainable Development Committee and Officer responsible for Climate Change) to ask in the light of further information on Climate Change, what they were doing with the new data.

Cardon Woodland: Chris informed the meeting that the Cardon Woodland Plan was now on the Public Register but as previously discussed the window of opportunity to reply was far too short. Reference was made to the woodland being created at Glencotho. Chris commented that his main concerns were Access Gates for Walkers and with regard to Cardon, availability of Pathways to the ancient monuments.

Broughton Fireworks: Chris asked for confirmation that the Broughton Fireworks were to be cancelled for this year, which the Chair responded to the affirmative.

Future Meetings: Chris asked what the format for future meetings would be since Zoom had proved so successful during the pandemic and would we consider continuing with Zoom meetings on occasions. After a discussion the Chair agreed that we would alternate between physical meetings in Broughton Village Hall and Zoom.

20mph speed signs: Rosalind raised a matter to the meeting regarding some of the 20mph speed signs in the village, sighting a number inadequate, this issue was discussed at some length and it was agreed the Chair would raise again with SBC.

10.08.21

Date of next Meeting – 7pm, Monday, 20 September, 2021, via Zoom