

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held 17 May 2021

Via Zoom due to Covid-19 Restrictions

- Present** Simon Edwards (Chairman), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Andrew Beveridge, Chris Lewin, Rosalind Birchall, Christopher Lambton, Councillor Eric Small SBC
- 01.05.21** **Apologies**
Penny Wedderburn Scott, Nick Shapowal, Councillor Heather Anderson SBC
- 02.05.21** **Minutes from last Meeting (held 19 April 2021 via Zoom). Comments by email in advance.**
The Minutes were agreed.
- 03.05.21** **Matters Arising from previous Minutes (via Email)**
None
- 04.05.21** **Planning Applications**
The Chair informed the meeting of only the one non-contentious application in the area, Hartree House for some solar panels.
- 05.05.21** **Microgrants**
The Chair asked Rosalind Birchall to outline the Microgrant application that had been put forward by the invigorated 'Drivers Scheme' originally established by Fiona Hamilton. The Scheme has now been put on a formal footing with such things as its own Bank Account, PPE compliant for the Covid pandemic, requirement for DBS checks for each Driver and declarations that they have informed their own insurance that they are part of the Scheme. Furthermore the Community news did a small piece on the current shortfall of drivers and the last piece is the need for Public Liability Insurance, hence the Microgrant application. It was requested that the UTCC make payment direct to the insurance Company should it be agreed which it was as was and will be actioned accordingly.
- 06.05.21** **Police Report – emailed 3 May, 21**
There had been very little reported in the Police Report emailed earlier, but Chris Lewin made mention of some anti-social behaviour which Councillor Eric agreed they were seeing across the Borders feeling it was very much as a result of the constraints of 'Lockdown'. Councillor Eric also made mention that a Quad bike had been stolen locally.
- 07.05.21** **(Acting) Treasurer's Report**
The Chair gave the report stating that nothing had changed since his last report except all four signatories were now finally on the account and he hoped to have the accounts audited before the AGM on 21 June, 21. The four account signatories are the Treasurer, Nick Shapowal, the Chairman, Simon Edwards, Rosalind Birchall and the Secretary, Stephanie Jackman.
- The Chair at this point covered the details in preparation for the AGM stating he had been in email communication with Julian Birchall to be our Presiding Officer and that we must remain Covid compliant hence things are being done slightly differently than in the

past. He further stated that last year there were seven elected members and he was planning on emailing all seven to see if they would be willing to sign up again, the maximum allowed is ten members. Chris Lewin suggested we should look to our co-opted Members and see if they might wish to be elected members. The co-opted members it was stated are Christopher Lambton, Sal Walker and Emma Reid (after meeting note, Emma Reid is not a co-opted member having resigned). It was further agreed there should be a nomination box in the Shop for the statutory three-week period and the Chair would forward all the details to Chris Lewin for publication on the Website copying to Nick Shapowal for the Facebook Page. The Chair further confirmed that on completion of his two years as Chair he would be stepping down and would not be looking for re-election as Chair but as a Committee Member as he had other personal interests that were going to take up his time. The new Chairman would be appointed at the first meeting after the AGM; once the voting members were known they would be asked for a nomination and if there is only the one candidate, a seconder is required to formalise the appointment, more than one candidate, there would be a vote and if none, then it is a little more difficult as to how we proceed. It was hoped that with Village Halls opening up in August (potentially) we might soon get together again in person.

08.05.21

SBC Councillors' Report

Councillor Heather reported that she had been in touch with Forestry Scotland who said they would come to one of our meetings to go through the application process for Forestry. She further commented that they are hoping to engage with all Community Councils. Councillor Heather also reminded members that she is on the Area Partnership panel and they are currently in the process of drawing up the list of criteria in preparation for inviting applications. Nothing in particular was reported regarding Planning across the Borders as most was out of area this month but she confirmed the earlier report of anti social behaviour across the Borders that the Police are certainly putting this down to lockdown measures.

09.05.21

Any Other Business

Speeding/Traffic Monitoring: The Chair expressed his frustration to the meeting regarding the Rachan Mill area matter, in particular in his discourse with Gary Haldane of SBC. Resolution is now focused on how many residential properties there are in the area and on the stretch of road of importance, with incorrect numbers being reported by SBC. The Chair compiled a report stating the true number of 27 properties and giving full details, once again expressing his wish that Gary Haldane should visit the area in question for himself. Further more the Chair had had to report the incorrect signage in the Buffer zone area outside the School going south and further stated that the length of the 20 mph speed limit had been reduced and an update to the Council was required on its effect.

Forestry: Christopher Lambton told the meeting that he had had the opportunity to discuss Broughton Hope on a long walk with Jemima Elliot following frank exchanges of emails and comments that were posted on the Facebook page, that Andrew Dixon's proposal was a draft that had not even been submitted to Forestry Scotland as yet. It transpires that Andrew Dixon is planning to come down and speak to all relevant parties. It was commented that statutory members are obliged to respond. Christopher continued to say that it might be worth waiting till the proposal is on the public register and that the 'argument' was in the main relating to the area being so scenic and very popular. With regard to the Facebook page, Christopher felt that many of the comments were perfectly good and valid in the circumstances but Andrew Dixon should have emphasized it was a draft plan

for discussion. Once the matter is on the public register, then that is the time for constructive comment although how this is done is still unclear. Discussion was had as to who should receive comment and how this should be formulated, potentially not for another year but this needs to be understood going forward.

Vote of Thanks: Rosalind Birchall remarked that this was the penultimate meeting in advance of the AGM next month when the current Chair's tenure as Chairman would come to an end. Although early, the Committee expressed thanks for his dedication, time, commitment and energy to the post.

10.05.21

Date of next Meeting – 7pm, Monday, 21 June, 2021, via Zoom.