**UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL (UTCC)**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 15 April, 2024, in Broughton Village Hall**

**Present :** Rosalind Birchall (Vice-Chair) acting as Chairman, Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Steph Stewart, Susan Brown (Treasurer), Jen McBeth, Tess Goodwin, Councillor Viv Thomson SBC, Councillor Eric Small SBC

**01.04.24** **Apologies :** Andrew Beveridge (Chairman), Chelsea Shapiro, Councillor Drummond Begg, Mark Davey Peeblesshire News

**02.04.24** **Minutes from the last meeting** on 18 March, 2023, were approved.

**03.04.24 Matters Arising.**  Notice Board. Tess updated the meeting on the repair being made to the old Notice Board stating it had been ‘totally rebuilt’ and made ‘water tight’. It is yet to be vanished but once done will be reinstated. A nominal fee will be charged and should be back up in place shortly. The Vice-Chair agreed to put on hold the purchasing of a new all-weather Board.

**04.04.24 Actions Register.** The Secretary reported that the main Actions related to Item 9 on the Agenda (See below)**.**

**05.04.24 Planning.** The Vice-Chair first of all took the opportunity to tell the meeting about The Council Planning Meeting that was held at the end of February that the Chairman, Andrew Beveridge, attended and had hoped to personally deliver feedback on; the meeting had incorporated an excellent presentation by Barry Fotheringham explaining the Planning process to Community Councils in order to enable the CCs to better understand what considerations are expected of them when reviewing planning applications that have been submitted for their local area. It was explained that just to oppose an application was not enough, there must be valid reasons; delivering the views of the Community and measuring local feeling was extremely important; Community Councils play a key role in the development of their local area and significant weight is given to CCs comments in the determination of an application. The Vice-Chair continued that searching on the SBC Planning website was not that easy but all the information was there and that SBC were keen to have input from Communities, she encouraged all to have a look at the Presentation that had been delivered. Councillor Viv stressed that opinions of Communities can absolutely affect planning outcomes and inform the National Planning Strategy and to note that the new Local Development Plan looking out ten years should be coming out very soon.

 There were 5 applications up for discussion, the detail and issues discussed were as follows:

1. **Erection of replacement workshop and garage (24/00432/FUL)**

Penvalla Broughton

 Following discussion, it was agreed Comment would be submitted as the proposed development was not within keeping with the main property.

1. **Formation of forestry road (24/00411/PN)**

Poolmood Hill South of Patervan Farm Broughton

It was agreed this was outwith the CCs area.

1. **Erection of dwelling house (24/00384/FUL)**

Land West of Laurel Bank Tea Room, Broughton

Following discussion, all agreed there was no issue with this application – no Comment.

1. **Replacement Windows (24/00383/CLPU))**

Rachan Lodge

Following discussion, all agreed there was no issue with this application – no Comment.

1. **Erection of Dwelling House (24/00325/FUL)**

Plot 1 Land adjacent to Quarter House, Broughton

 Following extensive discussion, it was agreed Comment would be submitted as there was significant opposition to this application; the proposed development was not within keeping with other properties in the locality, the scale of property was such it would dominate the area, the mock Georgian style was not within keeping with the other listed buildings. The Secretary would submit this detail accordingly.

**06.04.24 Treasurers Report** wascirculatedprior to the meeting.Susan reported that the Balance @ 15 April was £6,736.31; there had been no income during the reporting period (since the last meeting); expenditure had been £108 for the Electricians Bill for the installation of the Defibrillator and £30 on the Jubilee plaque. We require a Top Up on our Youth Bursary Fund as we are not this until July and the ‘pot’ is running low, Susan will speak to Colin of SSE to either bring this forward or to advise that we will move across monies from the Microgrant ‘pot’ to Youth Bursaries in the meantime as we still have considerable funds in this ‘pot’. The Vice-Chair advised the meeting that Arthur Lucas has kindly agreed to examine the annual accounts again this year.

**07.04.24 Youth Bursaries (YB)/Micro-grants(MG):** 3 x YB applications had been received which were circulated in advance of the meeting to the CCs, all confirmed their support for these applications.

**08.04.24 Multi Member Ward Report (Police).** The Vice Chair reviewed the Report commenting the only item of particular note was a theft from the Roadworks site at Tweedsmuir. She then commented on the Community Speed Watch Initiatives or ‘Spy Watch’ (volunteers operating hand held speed monitoring equipment) which was happening over on the East side of the Borders wondering what could be done in our area. Councillor Viv stated it involved a number of willing volunteers and it was finding folk who are prepared to stand on the side of the road for several hours monitoring the speeds of vehicles passing by. The Council did have 5 CCs who were linking together and gathering data on vehicles but it was then knowing what to do with the data and how it might inform improving driving behaviour and speeding. As far as we are concerned in Broughton, it was agreed it might be better to stick with our idea of trying a ‘Pop Up Bob’ as a volunteer has already been identified to look after ‘Bob’ overnight and pop him up in the mornings; an additional action could be to ask the Police Team to come out and give further suggestions as we have all the necessary road ‘furniture’ to support driving through the village at the correct speed. Councillor Viv agreed to do this.

**09.04.24 Broughton Village Day.** Jen McBeth informed the meeting on plans for the Day which will take place on Saturday, 18 May, in the King George V Park from 12 noon. There had been general consensus that the day should not involve a lot of expense and so she stated she was planning on keeping it all very simple with the most effort for the event to take place on the day itself which meant that if the weather was to be very wet it could be cancelled at the last moment with not too much trouble. There would be a number of stalls inclusive of a Tombola stall and Cake stall; Susan will help with games and races for the children (and adults) and with involving the School it is hoped parents would also support; Justin kindly agreed to organise the Bar and Steph said she would run it with some help from others; having looked into getting an Ice cream van Jen said she felt she would provide Ice cream from the Shop as organising the Ice cream Cart she had hoped for was becoming too difficult and she would more easily be able to organise this herself. It was discussed and agreed that further advertising would be done on Facebook, the Poster was up in the Shop and Chelsea would be asked to put it up on the Website; Jen stated she was happy with what was happening and just hoped the Village would get behind the idea and come with their picnics as the ‘More the Merrier’.

**10.04.24 Councillors Report:** Councillor Viv SBC commenced her report by stating that Councillor Drummond SBC had been conducting the bulk of the work recently whilst both she and Councillor Eric SBC had been off work so not too much to report. One thing to note was the ‘Walk-around’ to take place on 30 April. A team from the Council headed by Dougie Ford would be walking round Broughton, Skirling, West Linton and Peebles making a list of all works, road related, that required attention; there had been many tasks on a previous list but a number had to wait until the weather improved so the intention is to now start again with a ‘fresh sheet’. The Councillor also encouraged all who noticed Pot holes in the road to keep reporting them on the ‘Fix my street’ App.

Councillor Eric SBC also had two points of note; some exciting news about our Play Park in the King George V Park, in that money is now available to replace the Play Park and we should shortly see works commence on a new Play Park; secondly new CCTV will be coming to the Borders and be installed in Peebles, Galashiels and Hawick which it is hoped will free up some Police time.

**11.04.24 AOB:**

**Alternate Bite and Blether**. Tess informed the meeting that following an informal census she had carried out, she was aware that a number folk in the Village were sad that Bite and Blether was now only once a month now and in order to fill the gap on the Wednesday there was no Bite and Blether she would start a new arrangement whereby the small hall in the Village Hall would be made available for folk to come and meet and chat over Tea/Coffee and Biscuits. It would take place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and she said she would conduct the first one in the hope that others would then take it in turns to put it on clearly dependent on uptake.

**Benches**. The Secretary suggested that now we were not using TNL funds for a new Notice Board that perhaps we could look to buy some Picnic Benches for placing near the wood area in the King George V Park and that it might be an idea to have them engraved so that they were commemorative pieces for King Charles III coronation. Councillor Viv SBC commented that the Council could produce the Benches at a very reasonable cost and she would let the Secretary have the details.

**AGM/Elections.** The Returning Officer, Julian Birchall, commented that the next meeting would be the AGM and the Election of new members to the Community Council. The Vice-Chair also made mention of the fact that not only was the Chair standing down but that it was her intention to take a back seat in order to make room for others who might wish to contribute to their Community and that we also had a further vacancy on the CC as we had had a resignation early on last year. All were asked to get out and about and encourage local people to consider standing for the benefit of their Community, siting the ability to make a real difference as a reason for standing. Although Elected members were limited, a number of folk are able to be co-opted on to the CC and this was all discussed at length.

Next meeting is on **Monday, 20 May, 2024 at 7pm, in BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL.**

SLELL 02/05/24