

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 16 May 2022

In Broughton Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present

Julian Birchall as the Returning Officer

Andrew Beveridge (current Chairman)
Rosalind Birchall (current Vice Chairman)
Stephanie Jackman (current Secretary)
Nick Shapowal (current Treasurer)

Committee Members: Simon Edwards, Chris Lewin, Christopher Lambton,
Fiona Pagett

SBC Councillors: Eric Small, Viv Thomson
Five Members of the Public

Apologies

Penny Wedderburn Scott

The Returning officer opened the Annual General Meeting for 2022. He then invited the Chair to give his Report.

Chairman's Report

The past year has been a challenging one for all concerned as we transitioned from quite severe pandemic restrictions towards the end of the CC year when most restrictions either were lifted or transitioned to more voluntary measures. Despite these challenging times, the UTCC managed to respect a full timetable of monthly meetings either by Zoom (with some very good public engagement) or more laterally by way of face-face meetings. Moving forward we will endeavour to have meetings in the respective village halls of Broughton & Drumelzier and avoid the small meeting room in the village hall, which even in non-COVID times, was not conducive to community participation.

Thanks

Firstly, I would like to thank all the Community Council members for their engagement in Community matters. It is worth remembering that the Community Council operates on a purely voluntary basis and by definition, CC members have to balance their CC duties with other personal and professional responsibilities. We are therefore grateful to all members of the serving Community Council that have given freely of their time in an effort to serve the local community. Two of our UTCC Community Councillors will step down this year after many years of community service, Chris Lewin and Penny Scott and we thank them for their significant contributions over the years.

Secondly, I would like to thank our elected Council representatives, Councillors Anderson & Small for their support for the Community Council. Their knowledge of the workings of Scottish Borders Council and being able to connect us with the relevant contacts in the Council departments and their support on key local issues has been extremely invaluable.

Thirdly I would like to thank members of our Upper Tweed Community for highlighting the relevant issues that are important to the UTCC. There are many areas that we could focus on but the best judge of what is important comes from members of the local community and we welcome that ongoing input.

UTCC activities & highlights from the past year

1. Being able to operate a full calendar of UTCC meeting during the challenging times of the pandemic via the utilisation of Zoom and face-face meetings when appropriate. This model, whilst not perfect, served us well and allowed ongoing community engagement throughout the times when restrictions were still in place
2. Preparing a strong argument for the retention of public toilet facilities in Broughton which led to the re-opening of the facilities next to the school.
3. Arguing the case for and engaging the roads department to make significant line of sight improvements (removal of the hedgerow on the Southerly side of the junction) at the notorious junction between the B712 Stobo road and the A701 at Rachan Mill.
4. Providing constructive input into the Broughton Hope forestry proposals which complemented wider public efforts on that proposed development
5. Creation of an endowment provision from the SSE Clyde Windfarm community benefit to ensure that community benefit can continue even beyond the current projected lifetime of the windfarm (an initial £100K has been invested in this fund with more likely to follow). This is community benefit that Upper Tweed, Skirling and Tweedsmuir communities can all tap into in the future.
6. Creating awareness of the planned “Destination Tweed” project which will eventually comprise a mixed use 100-mile pathway all the way from Moffat to Berwick-upon-Tweed.
7. Liaison with the SBC roads department over the extent of the 20mph zone and associated signage in Broughton village
8. Implemented a log for defibrillator provision in the local area to ensure that all have sufficient charge and also added an additional defibrillator at Broughton primary School
9. Significant investigative groundwork into the best path forward for EV charging points in the local area (ongoing topic)
10. It was pleasing to see the UTCE expansion plans which will further enhance the Broughton village store provision, a lifeline for many local residents, which the UTCC fully supports
11. Plans have been put in place for a limited number of weeks during the summer to run from Broughton to Peebles to connect with the Edinburgh service and also one service to serve the Traquair Fair
12. Supporting the re-introduction of the hugely popular “bite & blether” scheme
13. Review (and comment where appropriate) of all planning proposals in the UTCC
14. Evaluating (& awarding where appropriate) all micro-grant applications in the UTCC area covering topics such as supporting sporting & artistic lessons for UTCC residents
15. Preparations for a community event & commemorative tree planting to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. “Party in the Park”, Friday 3rd June 2022 5pm-10pm

New SBC Councillors

We are delighted to work with Eric Small again and welcome two new elected SBC Councillors, Drummond Begg and Viv Thomson to participate in our Upper Tweed Community matters.

AGM

We are delighted to report that following relevant nominations, we now have a full complement of UTCC Community Councillors for this new CC term and we welcome the following new Community Councillors: Tess Goodwin, Simon Newstead and Ian Sharman. To have a full complement of community councillors is a sign of a vibrant and engaged local community and we welcome these new Community Councillors into their new roles.

The Returning Officer thanked the Chair for his Report and invited the Treasurer to then give his Report.

Treasurer's Report (See Attached PDF Doc)

The Returning Officer then moved to the Voting in of the Chairman, who had agreed to stand again, with the results of voting as follows:

CHAIRMAN – Andrew Beveridge

Proposed by Rosalind Birchall

Seconded by Simon Edwards

Motion Carried.

The Returning Office reported that the Committee was restricted to 10 Members, of the existing 9 Members, 7 had responded to the call to continue on the Committee and two had agreed to step down (one to be voted on as a Co-opted Member), and there were 3 new nominations. The Returning Officer therefore announced the new Committee Membership for the coming year to be as follows:

Nick Shapowal, Stephanie Jackman, Christopher Lambton, Rosalind Birchall, Fiona Pagett, Simon Edwards, Tess Goodwin, Simon Newstead, Ian Sharman

The Returning Officer then moved on to Voting In of new Office Bearers:

VICE CHAIRMAN – Rosalind Birchall (on the basis that she was Not to be a nomination for Chairman in time)

Proposed by Stephanie Jackman

Seconded by Christopher Lambton

Motion Carried.

TREASURER – Nick Shapowal (on a Temporary basis only due to health issues)

Proposed by Chris Lewin

Seconded by Stephanie Jackman

Motion Carried.

Secretary – Stephanie Jackman

Proposed by Christopher Lambton

Seconded by Simon Edwards

Motion Carried.

Following discussion, it was understood Chris Lewin had been happy to stand down after a number of years solid commitment to the Committee but he was prepared to be a co-opted Member if the Committee saw fit, this was duly undertaken.

Proposed by Simon Edwards

Seconded by Stephanie Jackman

Andrew Beveridge, The Chairman then thanked the Returning Officer for carrying out his duties so efficiently and eloquently.

This concluded the business for the AGM.

