

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 20 November, 2023, in Broughton Primary School

Present

Andrew Beveridge (Chairman), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Susan Brown (Treasurer), Justin King, Steph Stewart, Tess Goodwin, Councillor Viv Thomson SBC, Councillor Eric Small SBC

01.11.23 Apologies.

Rosalind Birchall (Vice-Chair), Jen McBeth, Chelsea Shapiro, Councillor Drummond Begg SBC,

Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all as well as giving grateful thanks to Broughton Primary School for hosting the meeting.

02.11.23 Minutes of Meeting held on 16 October 23

The Minutes were agreed.

03.11.23 Matters Arising from Minutes

No matters arising that will not be discussed in Agenda items below.

04.11.23 Actions Register

The Secretary went through the Actions Register;

- **Sandbag Shed.** The Secretary explained that she has been working with SBC with regards to the placing of a new small low sandbag shed on the left-hand side of the road, north of the Dreva Road Bridge, as requested by residents but there was a question of land ownership and risk. The Council would prefer a shed was placed in the Village Hall Car Park for the north end of the village but ownership there was also an issue (Council preferring to locate on council owned land) but that they also wished to steer us to the current store which is at the Primary School. It was discussed whether the land was owned by Jemima Elliott as most thought it is but it was also noted that we should feel pleased we have a sandbag store located in the village as West Linton were having to collect their own from Peebles. Ongoing.
- **Community Firework event.** All agreed this had been excellent and a great success once again, many thanks must go to Ingrid Campbell and her team and it was noted we also wished to thank Jemima Elliott for the kind use of her land.
- **Development Officer (DO).** It was agreed we did not need to hold a separate meeting with regard to establishing this salaried post in the UTCC as we were all in general agreement that to have a DO would be hugely beneficial with regards to what we could achieve in the area. We have a number of projects in mind that could fully utilise a day and a half a week. The main issue

would be how we went about orchestrating this as we need a separate company to be able to pay the individual concerned (assuming Windfarm funding). Steph in the first instance suggested she approached Broughton Enterprise Company and Tess like others was keen to discuss our projects, inclusive of but not limited to upgrading the Park. It was agreed we would take it a step at a time but work to take this forward in 2024.

05.11.23 Planning Applications (2)

No Comments.

06.11.23 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report had been circulated with the Agenda. Susan highlighted the Bonfire financial position; £414 having been carried forward from 2022, they raised £572 on the night of this year's event and had also been granted a Microgrant, not currently taken but set aside. After expenditure for 2023 there is still £675 set aside for the 2024 event. Expenditure this month had been for Microgrants and the Newcomer's Party being held on 26th, and for two Youth Bursaries to be paid at the end of the month (family had funds this time last year and in accordance with rules monies can only be awarded to a family once per year). A discussion ensued as to whether applications for Youth Bursaries are means tested, how do we fairly distribute and do we advertise that Youth Bursaries are available enough. The Secretary explained that is it very much on a first come first served basis, that all applications must be in accordance with the rules of the funding provided by the Wind Farm and that if we were ever in a situation where more monies were required to satisfy demand we would go back to the Windfarm for an additional top up. This situation has not arisen to date, Youth Bursaries are advertised in the School, Shop on the Website and in these Minutes. The current UTCC Bank balance stands at £8553.53.

07.11.23 Micro-grants/Youth Bursaries. (1+2)

The Secretary reported that we had received a request for a Micro-grant and two for Youth Bursaries, all were agreed and awarded.

08.11.23 Newcomer's Party, Broughton Village Hall, 26 November, 23

The meeting were reminded of the details for the event, the Secretary apologised that the invitation had not actually stated the location as the Village Hall on it but the invite did depict the Village Hall so most had assumed. The invitation had been seen and agreed by all at the last meeting. It was agreed a reminder would be place on the Broughton Facebook page and Chelsea would asked to put it on the website, the Secretary would confirm timings with the Hall Committee. The majority said they could attend and would bring baking and the Secretary confirmed Emma Reid agreed to make the Bite & Blether 'equipment'

available. The team would meet in the Village Hall at 2.30pm on the day to get things organised; the Secretary handed over the name labels to Tess who was happy to write them.

09.11.23 Broughton Village Day 2024

The Secretary introduced this item stating it was a 'standing' Agenda item so that it did not get forgotten or left too late. It was agreed that this item would be discussed in more detail in the new year but for now all agreed we would 'Crowd Fund' for the event since there would be no grants for it this coming year; the Village Day is to be held on either 18th or 25th May 2024.

10.11.23 SBC Councillors' Reports – SBC Councillors

Councillor Viv delivered her report stating the following: A meeting had been held with Neil Pringle regarding the 'Small Schemes Award', a list has been put together but like everything, costs have gone up so this would effect works. The Bottle Bank removal of the hoarding was on this particular Small Schemes Award List and will happen in time. Also on the List for Broughton was the establishment of an 'In' and 'Out' for traffic approaching and dropping off at the Primary School to help with slowing down traffic. The Council are aware of the planning for the potential Community Buy Out of Broughton Knowe Woods. A review is being undertaken of Polling Stations ensuring they are accessible and that in their current arrangement they work for the Community they serve. Another review is that of the Primary Health Care provided by Hay Lodge, Peebles, Communities will have a say, concerns that people are being missed for their Flu Jabs. The Merlin Project has received its funding for its Feasibility Study, Robin Crichton who is driving this is very pleased. The Chairman interjected that Robin had suggested using Drumelzier Hall for the Exhibition but parking was an issue if it attracted a number of tourists so other options needed to be considered. The overall project was a huge opportunity for the area.

Councillor Eric SBC had two points to raise the first was to report that the Library Van driver had unfortunately been off sick so Tweedsmuir and other areas had missed out on a number of visits (9 to date); the budget for the service was tight but it was appreciated that all areas depended on it. His second point raised considerable concern as he announced that Biggar Post Office Sorting Office could relocate from Biggar to Lanark. It was only a proposal being looked at but there was a need to make savings and this was one option on the table. This announcement was not received well by the meeting and a discussion about the impact and implications to the area of such a decision were it to be made then ensued. Councillor Eric understood that Biggar CC were already writing a letter of objection and the Chair agreed to do likewise

in order to set out how detrimental this move to Lanark of the Sorting Office would be.

Action: Chair to write to the Post Office to object to the potential move of the Biggar Sorting Office to Lanark, explaining how such a move would detrimentally impact the area.

11.11.23 Any Other Business

Defibrillator at Rachan Mill. Jamie French had made the Vice Chair aware that the Defibrillator at Rachael Mill had been signaling a Low Battery warning and that the Defibrillator itself was one of the old type and should really be renewed. Susan explained to the meeting that the Vice Chair was intending on putting in an application to the Windfarm for funding for a new Defibrillator and Box at a cost of circa £2k and would like agreement from the meeting. All agreed this was a good idea and it was understood the application to the Windfarm would be tabled at their next meeting (early December).

Repair Café. Tess updated the meeting on plans for the forthcoming Repair Café to be held in Biggar on 25th November at the Arcadian Music Café from 10am till 1pm. A number of stations would be available for repairs to be made and this included Electronics, Electrical, Sewing, Knife and Garden Tools, and Toys, entry would be free and they were hoping for a good turn out.

Flashing Lamp Posts. It was reported that a number of lamp posts in the village were flashing and needed repairing, it was suggested these were reported on the 'Fix My Street' App as it would then be picked up and addressed.

Bite 'nd Blether. It was reported that Bite 'nd Blether will be moving to 'Once a Month' starting on 7 February 2024 (no Bite 'nd Blether in January) as opposed to the twice a month it has been to date. The Chair and all on the Committee thanked Emma Reid for continuing this with her team of volunteers as it was so very popular and thoroughly enjoyed by the Village, she was thanked for all her hard work in the provision of such an excellent regular event.

Date of next Meeting

7.00pm, Monday, 15 January, 2024, in **Broughton PRIMARY SCHOOL**