UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held 17th February 2020

In Broughton Village Hall

**Present** Simon Edwards (Chairman), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Chris Lewin, Christopher Lambton, Emma Reid, Nick Shapowal, Andrew Beveridge, Penny Wedderburn Scot, Rosalind Birchall, Councillor Heather Anderson SBC, Councillor Eric Small SBC,

**01.02.20 Apologies:**David Campbell, Kirsty Hughes

**02.02.20 Minutes from last Meeting (held 20 January 2019)**The minutes were agreed.

**03.02.20 Matters Arising from previous minutes**No matters arising.

**04.02.20 Community Plan**

**Bite & Blether.** The Chair reported that there had been 42 attendees at the last gathering and that it was taking place again this week**.** The volunteers had been rushed off their feet but it was fantastic to see so many there, excellent start to the permanent model. One issue raised was that of storage of the equipment required, it is hoped space can be found for this to be stored in the hall.

**BT AdoptaKiosk Scheme:** Emma Reid reported that further thought had been given to the primary use of the kiosk and it has been decided that Tess will take it on and it will be a Book Swop Library.

**Public Bus Initiative:** Chris Lewin informed the meeting that he understands there is money available from the Tweedale Interim Community Fund and he is currently getting quotes for his two proposed pilot schemes – a monthly bus service on a Saturday, Broughton to Edinburgh, and a minibus service on a Sunday, Broughton to Peebles. He outlined the possible route for the Edinburgh bus that he anticipates would be coming from Peebles in the morning to Broughton and then on to Edinburgh; it would then do another Edinburgh to Broughton and back to Edinburgh trip before it’s final journey, Edinburgh to Broughton and back to Peebles. The last journey would leave Edinburgh at about 5pm. He continued to inform the meeting that SBC are currently retendering all their local services, which they do every 2 years and if we had success with our Pilots they could be in time for retendering. He also explained these would be proper bus services that would charge and allow Bus Passes as normal. Chris confirmed he was happy to run with this initiative.

**Paths & Signs.** This item from the Community Plan has not been advanced as yet and the Chair informed the meeting that he was considering separating into areas. Chris suggested the more obvious walks should be looked at first like the John Buchan Way plus the old railway line. Rosalind Birchall reminded the meeting that her husband had compiled a pamphlet about 100 local birds which she thought might be put on the website and information about birds in the area could accompany the walks but perhaps not specifically saying where they can be found. Chris suggested the Community Plan could promote Broughton as a centre for Bird Watching. Christopher Lampton said he was keen on footpath signs suggesting they need not be complicated, simple but attractive and Rosalind Birchall commented that we would have to ask landowners permission to erect any signs. Councillor Heather informed the meeting that there could be funding for this and it came under the guise of Tourism. After discussion it was agreed we should refer to an official map of paths in the area that Biggar Ramblers have and any information would be put on the Tea Room Notice Board. The Chair also agreed to look at the possibility including funding to make the path to Skirling accessible again.

**Dog Poop.** The Committee were very sorry to hear from Emma Reid that Broughton In Bloom had been marked down for the amount of Dog Poop in the area. Emma offered that she felt more bins were required and she had been in touch with Innerleithen & District Council who had recently been supplied with 18 Dog Waste Bins (plus bag Dispenser) at a cost of £3,996.00. After discussion it was agreed an application for Community Fund would be submitted for more bins with bag dispensers, Emma would be in touch with Rose Hogg the Dog Poop Education officer and the School should be targeted to educate on this anti social issue.

**05.02.20 VE Day – Friday, 8th May 2020.**

The Chair reported that the programme for the day was coming together nicely and that the only change from what had previously been briefed was that the Displays and Games may now be in gazebos in the School grounds rather than in the Village Hall. There would be a Street party and Wind Farm money would be applied for to cover Village Hall costs and the Biggar Band. There is a further meeting in early March.

**06.02.20 Planning Applications.**

Nil new ones. The Chair, however, informed the meeting that despite emailing Barry Fotheringham, he had had no feedback from planners regarding our concerns in relation to the 3 new houses at Beechgrove and housing at Springwellbrae although he had received acknowledgement that they had received them. Councillor Eric explained that despite coming from a body of people our concerns would be seen as one complaint only and that the contents may well be discussed but due to resource constraints we should not necessarily expect any feedback. A discussion ensued as to how we could obtain some feedback with Councillor Heather commenting that Community Councils are expected to understand Planning policy and regulations and that any comment comes back in veiled legal speech which is not easily understood. She further explained that a review was being conducted this year of the Local Development Plan as it was recognised that Planners do not know the local area like Community Councils do. Concern was expressed over lack of funding particularly in relation to the state of the roads currently with bad pot holes appearing everywhere and the meeting were reminded that Scottish Borders had maintained a low level of council tax.

**07.02.20 Mircrogrants.**

TheChair confirmed he had received 4 requests for grants. 2 in relation to mountain biking, 1 to cover Badminton training costs and 1 to cover private tuition costs as a result of chronic fatigue syndrome. In addition the Chair explained that whilst the UTCC was without a Treasurer he would be taking charge in the interim and there were a few things that needed sorting out.

**08.02.20** **Police Report**.

Nil

**09.02.20 SBC Councillors Report**

Councillor Heather talked first of all about the Budget which is very much top of the Agenda within the Council at the moment. The Budget, set by Scottish Government, has gone up but monies are ring fenced and the figure for local Councils is still being negotiated. She reported that the UK Government do not set the Budget till 11 Mar which presents a problem in Scotland with the Scottish Government timetable and the need to set the Council tax (18 March) and eluded to the financial climate being quite tricky at the moment. Chris Lewin asked about how the budget was divided up as there was general concern about Roads and Health. Councillor Heather responded by explaining that considerable amount of work was being done to address the roads and pothole issues but current conditions were not good with the very bad weather we have been having and she continued to comment that she agreed there was considerable pressure also on Education, Health and Social Care and that we would have to wait to see what happened with the Budget.

**10.02.20** **AOB**

The chair informed the meeting that the next Communities Resilience Meeting was to be held on 10 March at St Boswells.

Tree Stump. Following last months presentation and considerable discussion regarding the tree stump by the re-cycling bins, the Chair asked what action members now wished to take having had some time to think and there was general agreement that no action should be taken for the time being especially if the stump was rotten and we would look to doing Footpath signs for the moment.

Chris Lewin asked if we would be conducting a Litter Picking Up day this year and it was agreed it would take place on Saturday, 4 April, detail to follow.

The Chair announced the AGM would take place on 18 May and Julian Birchall would once again be asked to be the Retiring Officer.

**Date of Next Meeting**. The next meeting will be held on 16 March 2020 in Broughton Village Hall.