

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting at Broughton Village Hall on 20 February 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr Michael Lukas (Chairman), Mr Neil Morrison (Vice Chairman), Mr David Halsall (Treasurer), Mr Dave Campbell, Mrs Sue Hope, Mr Chris Lewin, Cllr Catriona Bhatia (SBC).

and one member of the public.

Apologies: Mrs Rosalind Hume, Mr Andy McGregor, Mrs Sally Walker, Mrs Penny Wedderburn-Scott, PC Nicola Craig.

Minutes: In the absence of Sally Walker, Chris Lewin volunteered to take the minutes of this meeting.

01.02.17 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January were approved, subject to the deletion of the first sentence of 07.01.17 which incorrectly stated that this was the final SBC report.

02.02.17 Matters arising from these minutes

Minister's Walk. The discussions reported at the last meeting were progressing, with the aim of securing the path as a right of way in perpetuity. Erica Niven of the SBC had been involved and the matter currently rested with Scotways (formerly the Scottish Rights of Way Society).

Post Office. It was reported that the new mobile post office had started on 17 February, providing a service for half an hour every Friday. The Post Office had commenced a consultation process about the service, seeking comments from everyone in the community before 24 March. It was noted that one or two users had reported some confusion about the exact timings of the half hour, and Chris Lewin undertook to consult the Post Office to resolve this. He also agreed to respond to the consultation on behalf of the Community Council, asking for the service to be twice a week instead of only once, and that consideration should be given to making each session three quarters of an hour long instead of only half an hour.

03.02.17 Litter Clean-up

Dave Campbell said he would organise this year's litter clean-up, on behalf of the Community Council. It would take place on Saturday, March 25th, and helpers should meet at the school at 10.30 a.m. Neil Morrison reported that one of the Community Council's litter signs along the Kilbucho road had recently been destroyed in an accident, and that litter was building up along that road.

04.02.17 Micro-grants

Chris Lewin reported that he had received a cheque for £1,000 from Foundation Scotland on behalf of the Infinis Glenkerie Community Fund (on which he is the Community Council's official representative). The accompanying letter stated that the sum had been awarded to the Community Council to provide micro grants up to a maximum of £250. He would pass the cheque to David Halsall, who would implement the grants accordingly and return the required Completion Report to Foundation Scotland once the money had been paid out.

David Halsall reported that he had received an application from Arts for All for a microgrant of £135, and this was approved.

05.02.17 Police Report

It was noted that a Police Report had been received, and that it drew attention to the danger of hanging car keys just inside the front door, where they could be taken by callers.

06.02.17 SBC Councillor's Report

Catriona Bhatia reported on rises in Council Tax with effect from 1 April 2017. She said that SBC would be making more money available for the roads budget, and for playparks and skateparks. A 30p charge was being introduced for some public toilets, but not at Broughton. She said that some money was going to be allocated by SBC to Area Forums for decisions on allocation, in a process known as participatory budgeting. Chris Lewin raised the question of whether Community Council representatives would be able to vote on how this money was spent, or whether only SBC Councillors would be able to vote, as at present, and Catriona said she would take this question back. It was noted with regret that this would be the last of our meetings which she would attend, as she was standing down as an SBC Councillor, and the Chairman warmly thanked her on behalf of the community for all her assistance over a long period.

07.02.17 Any other business

Broadband. Chris Lewin reported on an informal meeting he had attended about broadband. In the ensuing discussion, it was noted that there are currently two green boxes in the village, one at the telephone exchange and the other at the bus-stop opposite the shop, and it was hoped that this might lead in due course to superfast broadband being made available to more premises on the village outskirts. It was also important to try to ensure that the more remote parts of our area eventually received faster broadband than the very slow speeds sometimes experienced at present, and several options were suggested for possible exploration in future. In the meantime it was suggested that everyone who wanted faster broadband than they had at the moment should contact their internet service provider to see if any new options had opened up with advancing technology. The next step would be for us to have the talk by Gordon Hughes proposed at the last meeting, and the Chairman said he would follow this up.

Network of Community Councils. Chris Lewin reported that he and Andy McGregor had attended a meeting of Community Councils in Tweeddale on 26 January, though neither Stobo nor Skirling were represented. He recommended that we should attend the next meeting and then review whether the Network is bringing us any significant benefits.

Community Development Plan. Chris Lewin said he would circulate some links to Development Plans produced for other communities by consultants, using funding under the CARES scheme. If Councillors would look at these plans, some of which appeared to be of better quality and usefulness than others, we could then make a decision on whether we wanted to commission a similar exercise ourselves or not.

08.02.17. Next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be on Monday 20 March at 7.30 p.m. in Broughton Village Hall.