

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Broughton Village Hall on Monday 21st January 2019

Present: Mr David Campbell, Mr Simon Edwards, Mr Christopher Lambton, Mr Chris Lewin, Mr Michael Lukas, Mr Neil Morrison, Mrs Penny Wedderburn-Scott, Mr Andrew Weston, SBC Councillors Heather Anderson and Eric Small, and 9 members of the public

Apologies: Mrs Sally Walker, PC Nicola Craig, Mr Andrew Beveridge.

Mr Lewin volunteered to take the minutes of this meeting.

01.01.19 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th November were approved.

02.01.19 Matters arising

It was noted that the following items were still outstanding from the minutes of previous meetings:

14.06.18	Tourist notice board	<u>Action: Mr Lewin</u>
05.08.18	Village Hall	<u>Action: Mr Lukas, Mr Morrison</u>
10.08.18	Village Playpark	<u>Action: Mr Campbell</u>
03.11.18	UTCC web-site	<u>Action: Mr Lukas</u>

The tree planting by David Mundell for the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (minute 07.11.18) had duly taken place outside the School in December, when the Community Council was represented and members of the public were also present.

Mr Morrison said that he had now ascertained the cost of obtaining 30 m.p.h. roundel stickers (minute 07.11.18). They were £2.50 each and a supply of 50 would therefore cost £125. This was authorised, to be met out of the UTCC's own funds. Mr Morrison said that he had identified numerous suitable places where he would affix the stickers.

03.01.19 Community Plan

Mr Lewin said that the Plan was now almost complete, and the remaining tasks were:

- The draft would be circulated to UTCC members for a final check through and identification of any mistakes.

- The final 38-page Plan would be printed, at the cost of £375 included in the budget – this would not allow for sufficient copies to be given to every household in the UTCC area, but a supply would be placed in the Village Hall for those who wanted one, on a “first come, first served” basis.
- The final Plan would be uploaded to the UTCC’s web-site.
- The prizewinners from the survey would be notified.
- The Plan would be sent to Local Energy Scotland and once they had released the necessary funds, the final instalment of the consultant’s fee would be paid.
- The consultants would be asked for a note of the suggestions made at the public meeting.
- An article would be submitted to *Community News* for publication in the March edition, which would draw attention to the availability of the Plan on the UTCC web-site (with a suitable notice also on the village Facebook page).
- At the February meeting there would be a discussion on the priorities for further action by the UTCC, arising from the ideas in the Plan.

This course of action was agreed.

Action: Mr Lukas to place the Plan on the UTCC web-site

Action: Mr Lewin for the other points

04.01.19 Lambton Wood Parking

It was noted that vehicular access to the long-established car park at Broughtonknowe, for the woodland owned by Mr Lambton, had now been withdrawn because of the road owner’s concerns about road maintenance, public liability, etc. Mr Lambton said that it would be practicable to construct another car park leading from the existing lay-by on the A701 further down the hill, which would provide access to the wood near the pond, but this would involve a substantial cost and he wondered whether the Community Council would be prepared to apply for a wind-farm grant to enable it to be done. He had made preliminary enquiries to SBC roads department, and they considered that the access to the A701 would be safer than the previous access further up the hill.

In the ensuing discussion those present recognised that the woodland had proved to be a much appreciated and quite well-used community benefit. In principle, therefore, the Community Council would support the project, and it was agreed that an application for a wind-farm grant could be made on the Council’s behalf in due course, to meet the cost. The preliminary steps would include design, obtaining planning permission and getting three fixed-price quotes from contractors, and Mr Lambton indicated that he would be willing to arrange accordingly. It was noted that some projects supported by wind farms are approved in two stages, first providing finance for a feasibility study and the preliminary steps, and secondly meeting the construction costs later, once the design has been completed and a contractor has been chosen. It would be useful if preliminary enquiries could be directed to the two local wind farm community funds, to get their advice on the best procedure to follow and on any conditions which might be attached to a grant (for example regarding woodland ownership, future tree felling and car park maintenance).

Action: Mr Lambton

05.01.19 Shop update

Mr Lambton had previously circulated an update on the proposed community shop (set out at the end of these Minutes), and he hoped to get word soon on whether the Scottish Land Fund was likely to approve a grant for most of the cost of purchasing the previous premises. Work was now starting to identify people who could perform a number of roles associated with running the shop.

Action: Mr Lambton

06.01.19 SSE Clyde Windfarm Panel Member

Mr Lukas said that a vacancy had arisen on the SSE Clyde Windfarm Community Fund for a panel member to participate in grant decisions. It was agreed that Mrs Stephanie Jackman, who was present, should be nominated, and Mr Lukas said he would contact the Fund accordingly.

Action: Mr Lukas

07.01.19 Grants

It was agreed to award a micro grant of £200 to the Parent Council to finance the purchase of playground toys. It was also agreed to authorise Mr Weston, who had now taken over fully as UTCC Treasurer, to apply to the Infinis Glenkerie Community Fund for a grant of £500 for the cost of a bench at the head of Dreva Hill, near the fort, in memory of Damion Willcock.

08.01.19 Police Report

Mr Lukas said he had received a Police Report, and he read out a summary of its contents. In October a vehicle struck and damaged 20 metres of wooden fencing and a bridge parapet. The driver failed to report the accident, which occurred on the A701 near Rachan. A vehicle was damaged while parked and unattended in Kilbucho Road. Again the offending driver failed to report the accident. No thefts had been reported since the last meeting. A quadbike had been stolen from Muirburn Farm and later recovered, and there had been several incidents in West Linton, including the theft of a Golf GTI car which had not been recovered and the theft of mail from a post box which had been forced open.

09.01.19 Scottish Borders Councillors' Report

Heather Anderson drew attention to several forthcoming meetings, including a meeting of the Tweeddale Partnership on 6 February at Innerleithen, to consider the SBC's Localities Plan. She mentioned that applications are currently being invited (closing date 28 February) for the latest

round of the Localities Bid Fund, which can provide grants of up to £5,000 for individuals and £15,000 for constituted groups, for projects which receive the most votes from people in the area. The SBC's budget process was now under way, with submissions being invited on-line from members of the public (closing date 31 January).

Mr Lewin said that, in accordance with minute 10.10.18 regarding bus services, he had now made a submission on behalf of the UTCC through the SBC's budget process, as follows:

The Upper Tweed Community Council, of which I am a member, asks that consideration be given to allocating an extra £300,000 for 2019/20 and subsequent years to finance bus services in those areas which are at present "public transport deprived". In the case of Tweeddale West's share of this additional sum, the money would be used to repair gaps in the existing bus services (including late evening services from Edinburgh) and to finance pilot services where none exist at present. Examples of pilots might be to run a Saturday bus service once a month from Broughton to Edinburgh and back, or a Sunday bus service once a month between Peebles and Biggar via Broughton.

In the ensuing discussion, it was pointed out that people living in the UTCC's area are extremely fed up with the continued and increasing inadequacy of the local bus services. For example, there are no Sunday services, no direct services to/from Edinburgh, long gaps of up to 6 hours during weekdays, the recent withdrawal of the late evening service from Edinburgh to Biggar, an unsatisfactory connection at West Linton for commuters from Broughton, and no way of getting back after an evening meal or show in Peebles or Biggar. People's almost universal and extreme dissatisfaction was clear from the very recent survey carried out by consultants preparing the new community plan. The inadequacies are severely limiting the lifestyles of some local people. The aim of the pilot schemes proposed would be to test over a 12 month period whether local people would use new services in sufficient numbers to justify their continuation, on the basis that passes would be honoured in the same way as they are on commercial bus services. A member of the public present said that he would particularly welcome the introduction of a once-a month Saturday service to Edinburgh, without the need to change buses, which he was confident would be extensively used. The feeling of the meeting was that, whilst fully appreciating the SBC's need for economy, the problems locally were now so severe that it was time action was commenced to remedy the situation. If necessary money should be reallocated from elsewhere in SBC's budget to help areas such as ours which suffer "public transport deprivation", bearing in mind that most other wards are well supplied with bus and rail transport. The SBC Councillors who were members of the UTCC were asked to support our budget submission, ensuring that other SBC Councillors were aware of it and the deep concerns behind it.

10.01.19 Any other business

Men's Shed

Mr Butcher, who was present, reported that a Men's Shed had now come into operation in Peebles and could easily be reached from Broughton; there was also a Men's Shed in Biggar. There was therefore no longer such a need for Broughton to have its own separate facility.

Art Classes

It was suggested that art classes could be run in Broughton. It was agreed in principle that if an individual were to apply for a microgrant to get an art class started, this could be considered favourably.

Attendance at this meeting

Mr Morrison said that he was happy to see so many members of the public present at this meeting, and he thanked them for taking the trouble to come. He hoped that they would all think about the possibility of putting their names forward in April for election to the Council. There would be a number of vacancies to be filled at that time, so those coming forward would have a good chance of being elected, but if anyone was unsuccessful, they could be considered for co-option instead.

Returning Officer

Sir David Younger, who was present, agreed to act as Returning Officer for the 2019 nomination and election process, starting in April and leading up to the AGM on 20 May, following which the new Council would take office.

Fireworks

Mr Campbell reported that £503 had been received from the public towards the cost of a firework display in 2019.

Local Infrastructure

Mr Edwards reported on progress which was being made toward the action plan set out at the end of the November minutes. Some of the 30 m.p.h. signs had now been repaired and the overflowing culvert under Dreva Road was scheduled for repair shortly. There had been no recent developments on the proposed Speedwatch scheme.

Defibrillators

Mr Edwards reported that the defibrillator at Rachan was now out of action and the one at the Garage was nearing the end of its life. In the subsequent discussion it was noted that the local first responders, who had their own defibrillators, would be alerted promptly once a 999 or 112 call had been received, and they could be expected to be on the scene in the village within the necessarily short period of minutes when such equipment could be useful. Despite this, it was agreed that it would be prudent to have a defibrillator on the premises of the Village Hall, bearing in mind the large numbers of people who sometimes use the building. There was some disagreement as to whether it would be necessary for defibrillators to be installed also at other sites, such as the Garage, the Laurel Bank Tearoom, Rachan Mill or Drumelzier, and this could be discussed again at a future meeting. Mr Edwards said he would explore possible funding for a defibrillator at the Village Hall and would report back.

Action: Mr Edwards

11.01.19 Next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 18 February at Broughton Village Hall.

SHOP UPDATE by Mr Lambton (see minute 05.01.19)

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE Ltd

We are pleased to announce that as of 21st December 2018, Upper Tweed Community Enterprise Ltd has been registered as a Community Benefit Society with the Financial Conduct Authority. In due course UTCE will replace the Broughton Shop Development Group (BSDG) as the community body seeking to re-instate the shop in Broughton. Details about the transition including the formal registration documentation will be on the website shortly.

Why is this change necessary? BSDG was a simple voluntary organisation that enabled us to get started, whereas UTCE is authorised to raise money locally through a Community Share Offer. The share prospectus is currently being prepared, and we hope to launch the share offer in early February. It is not too late to pledge to buy shares. The form can be downloaded from the website. It is not necessary to pledge in order to buy shares, nor is a pledge binding, but it provides us with a very useful indication of how much we can expect to raise through the share offer.

SCOTTISH LAND FUND

We await a decision from our principal funder, the Scottish Land Fund, as to whether we will be awarded the major component of the funds necessary to secure the shop. Further funds are being sought from Glenkerie Wind farm to help meet any shortfall. Money raised from shareholders will principally be used to buy equipment and stock the shop.

HELP NEEDED!!

There are potentially six vacant positions on the management board of UTCE. The current board urgently seek help from members of the community with relevant skills, such as HR, book-keeping, VAT registration and returns, retail management, EPOS, general administration... anything you can think of that running a village shop requires. At some point we will be seeking paid staff but at present we are looking for volunteers who would be prepared to join the board either permanently or more casually as a consultant. The current board has a wide range of experience but none of us has run a village shop. Any volunteer needs only to be able to show some initiative, to be willing to take ownership of a problem, and to have reasonable communication skills (we do a lot by email).