

## UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019

#### at Broughton Village Hall

**Present:** Mr Simon Edwards, Mr Christopher Lambton, Mr Chris Lewin, Mr Michael Lukas (Chairman), SBC Councillor Eric Small, Mrs Sally Walker, Mrs Penny Wedderburn-Scott, Mr Andrew Weston and 11 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Mr Andrew Beveridge, Mr Neil Morrison, SBC Councillor Heather Anderson.

Mr Lewin volunteered to take the minutes of this meeting.

#### **01.02.19 Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January were approved.

#### **02.02.19 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>              |

#### Access to Broughton Knowe Community Woodland

Further to Minute 04.01.19, Mr Weston said that he had ascertained from the SSE wind farm's community fund that a grant for a privately-owned car park would not come within their rules. He would talk to SBC officials to see whether they had a source of funds, such as the Small Schemes Fund, which could be used.

Action: Mr Weston

In the course of further discussion, it was noted that the A701 lay-by towards the foot of the hill could be used by a limited number of cars without a car park, though this would not satisfy peak demands and the gradient from this lay-by to get access to the wood would probably be too steep for some users. It was agreed in principle to employ a consultant to report on the options and their costs, including a new car park and a path with a suitable gradient. Mrs Walker undertook to ask Mr Geoff Whitten, a local landscape architect, to prepare a preliminary report at minimal cost, not exceeding the micro-grant limit of £250. (It was noted that the fee could not be paid until the UTCC's micro-grant funds were topped up in April).

Action: Mrs Walker

## Defibrillators

SBC Councillor Eric Small confirmed that a grant of £1,600 had been authorised from the SBC's Small Schemes Fund to cover the cost of replacing the existing two defibrillators at Rachan Mill and the Garage. Mr Edwards said he would arrange for the replacement to take place, with the new defibrillators being supplied by Scottish H.A.R.T. It was agreed that it would be desirable to have an additional defibrillator on the outside of the Village Hall, and Mr Weston said he would enquire about the possibility of a grant for this from the SSE wind farm's community fund. If this fell within the fund's rules, Mr Edwards would prepare a submission to the fund accordingly.

Action: Mr Edwards, Mr Weston

### **03.02.19 Village Shop**

It was noted that Upper Tweed Community Enterprise Ltd (UTCE) had been awarded a grant totalling £90,000 by the Scottish Land Fund, of which £66,500 would be contributed to the agreed purchase price of £80,000 and the remainder would be ring-fenced to assist with repairs to the building and the appointment of a professional shop development manager to oversee the transition from an empty shell to a thriving community resource. Mr Lambton paid tribute to the huge contribution made by the UTCE's treasurer, Donald Stewart, consultant Sandra Macaskill and secretary Simon Edwards. The meeting congratulated Mr Lambton and his UTCE colleagues on their achievement in getting this significant grant. It was noted that the balance of the cost of the purchase price, repairs, equipment and stock would be met by a further funding application and money to be raised by a community share issue.

### **04.02.19 Community Plan**

Mr Lewin reported that he had completed the action points listed at the last meeting. The Community Plan would be printed at a cost of £375, to be met by Local Energy Scotland, and a supply of over 100 copies would be made available free of charge in the Village Hall. For those who were not able to pick up a copy, he had written a summary of the Plan for the March issue of "Community News", which would be distributed free of charge (at a cost to UTCC of £200) to households in the UTCC area, and a copy of the Plan itself would be placed on the UTCC web-site.

Mr Lewin suggested that it was now time to start thinking about some of the community projects which had been identified in the Plan for possible action. A brief discussion took place, following which Mr Lewin undertook to circulate a list containing brief details of the initial tasks which would be needed if it was decided to explore some of the projects further. He emphasised that getting the exploration processes themselves under way would only be possible if local people come forward to undertake the work, either individually or in small groups. Mrs Walker said that on receipt of the list she would distribute it electronically and would perhaps try to find a group who would consider looking at routes for bikes/walking/horse-riding.

Action: Mr Lewin, Mrs Walker

### **05.02.19      Micro-grants**

Mr Weston reported that an application for a bursary for a young person's travel costs to Spain for a cycling event had had to be declined, because the rules of the SSE wind farm community fund did not permit reimbursement of foreign travel costs.

### **06.02.19      Police Report**

No report had been received.

### **07.02.19      Scottish Borders Councillors Report**

SBC Councillor Eric Small reported that the SBC were seeking improvements at Leadburn Junction. He had received a letter from Mrs Walker asking for the road to Biggar (from the centre of Broughton) to be gritted, and this would be looked into, though budgetary constraints meant that it was unlikely to be authorised in the near future.

He said that in SBC's budget for 2019/20 it was possible that more money would be taken out of the transport budget. Mr Lewin responded that this would be unacceptable if it adversely affected transport in our area, where the lack of sufficient public transport was already the subject of widespread complaints. Improvements were needed and he had proposed on behalf of UTCC that SBC should allocate a small sum of extra money to enable pilot projects to take place, such as a year's trial of a direct Saturday bus service from Broughton to Edinburgh once a month. Mrs Wedderburn-Scott said that people without cars were probably being deprived of employment because they had no transport to get to jobs.

In response to a question, Mr Small said that he did not expect SBC to implement a "Pay to Park at Work" policy, as it was unsuitable for areas such as ours.

Mr Small also reported that changes would be made to the opening hours of the Eshiels recycling depot from April, and notices would be published nearer the time.

An e-mail had been received from SBC Councillor Heather Anderson, in which she reported that work is in progress to assess the impact of the late evening taxi service from Penicuik to West Linton, to see if it can be used as a model for other pilots. She reported that there had been a very good meeting of the Tweeddale Area Partnership on 6 February. Mr Lewin said that he hoped that the principal conclusions reached by the Area Partnership meetings would be taken into account by SBC Councillors in their budget decisions, as the Council's Leader had promised at the 6 February meeting. The next meeting of the Tweeddale Area Partnership would take place in West Linton Primary School on Wednesday 27 March, when all would be welcome.

### **08.02.19      Any other business**

#### Dog mess

It was noted that "clear it up" signs had been painted on pavements near the school, and this initiative was welcomed. A suggestion was made that bag dispensers should be installed.

### Brighten Up Broughton

It was noted that Brighten Up Broughton were exploring various ways of raising money, to enable them to maintain their displays. The meeting wished them well in these endeavours, as their efforts in the past had made a significant contribution to improving the appearance of the Village.

### Minutes Secretary

Mr Lewin said that there was still a need for someone to take over the recording of the minutes of UTCC meetings. He had stepped in to fill a gap but this had been going on for well over a year and it was now time for someone else to take over. Mrs Walker said that she was unable to attend the next two meetings but would be willing to take the minutes in May and assist thereafter until someone suitable has been found, and the meeting welcomed this offer.

Action: Mrs Walker

### Christmas Lights

Mr Malcolm Bruce, a member of the public who was present, said that he would like to take an initiative to upgrade the Christmas lights in the village. He proposed to talk to SBC officials about any necessary requirements and then seek a grant. It was suggested that in order to strengthen the case for a grant, he might consider carrying out a mini-survey to check that local people actually wanted upgraded lights.

### Litter Pick

It was decided to hold the usual annual litter pick on 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> March (date to be confirmed) and it was hoped that UTCC Councillor Mr Campbell, who was absent, would be prepared to organise it again.

Action: Mr Campbell

### **09.02.19      Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, in Broughton Village Hall.