

## **UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**at Broughton Village Hall**

**Present:** SBC Councillor Heather Anderson, Mr Dave Campbell, Mr Simon Edwards, Mr Christopher Lambton, Mr Chris Lewin, SBC Councillor Eric Small, Mr Andrew Weston. and 13 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Mr Michael Lukas, Mrs Sally Walker, Mrs Penny Wedderburn-Scott

Mr Lewin volunteered to take the minutes of this meeting. He took the Chair for the first two items set out below.

### **01.03.19 Resignation of Vice Chairman**

It was noted with considerable regret that Neil Morrison, the Vice Chairman had found it necessary to resign from the Council due to health problems. Mr Lewin said that Neil had made an immense contribution to the community, both locally and in wider fields. For example, he had played a big part in the development of the Community Plan and he had worked for the church and organised the annual Memorial Day parade. Outside the village he had done work for army veterans and had served as a magistrate. His wise guidance would be sorely missed. Those present echoed these sentiments and agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to him on behalf of the Council.

### **02.03.19 Appointment of new Vice Chairman**

Mr Lewin proposed that Mr Simon Edwards should be appointed as the new Vice Chairman and this was seconded by Mr Weston. This appointment was agreed and in the absence of the Chairman, Mr Edwards took the Chair.

### **03.03.19 Co-option of new non-voting members**

Mr Lewin proposed, with Mr Edwards as seconder, and it was agreed, that the following (all of whom were present) should be co-opted as non-voting members of the Council with immediate effect:

Mr Andrew Beveridge

Mrs Stephanie Jackman

Mrs Emma Reid

It was noted that there were now 5 co-opted members of the Council, including Mr Lambton and Mrs Walker. All of these would be eligible to stand as elected members for a 2-year term in the forthcoming Council elections if they wished. Those who did not stand or get elected would continue on the Council as non-voting members as long as needed.

### **04.03.19 Election arrangements**

It was noted that Sir David Younger was unable after all to serve as Returning Officer in the elections, but that Mr Julian Birchall, who was present, had consented to take his place. Mr Birchall's appointment as Returning Officer was proposed by Mr Edwards, seconded by Mr Campbell, and agreed. Mr Birchall said that he would be posting notices in the Village early in April, stating where nomination forms would be available and giving a closing date. Mr Lewin said that, of the present 6 elected members, Mr Campbell and Mr Edwards were elected last year and would therefore continue on the Council without needing to seek re-nomination, so there were 8 positions to be filled in the elections to make up the quota of 10 elected members allowed by the Constitution. It was noted that Mr Lewin, Mr Lukas, Mrs Wedderburn-Scott and Mr Weston were coming to the end of their 2-year term as elected members but would be eligible to stand again if they wished.

### **05.03.19 Minutes of previous meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were approved.

### **06.03.19 Matters arising**

It was noted that the items listed under “Matters arising” in the minutes of the February meeting could now be dropped, as they would be taken forward in due course under the follow-up to the Community Plan. The following items were still outstanding from the February meeting:

02.02.19 Access to Broughton Knowe Community Woodland

Action: Mr Weston, Mrs Walker

02.02.19 Defibrillators

The grant of £1,600 from the SBC’s Small Schemes Fund for the replacement of the existing two defibrillators had been delayed but SBC Councillor Eric Smart confirmed that it should be received shortly.

Post-meeting note: Now received and Mr Edwards is starting communications with Scottish H.A.R.T. about the replacement of the two existing defibrillators.

04.02.19 Community News

It was noted that the cost to the UTCC of free delivery of “Community News” had worked out at £217, not £200. Mr Edwards said he would write to Richard Carr, thanking him and other members of the team for their efforts in making the deliveries. Post-meeting note: Now done.

08.02.19 Litter Pick

Mr Campbell said he would organise the annual Litter Pick on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> March, when all members of the Council and the public would be welcome to come, meeting at the Bottle Bank at 10.30 a.m.

Action: Mr Campbell

### **07.03.19 Follow-up to Community Plan**

Mr Lewin suggested that two of the items in the Community Plan to be discussed first should be the development of a comprehensive web-site for the UTCC area and the setting up of an informal “Bite and Blether” drop-in forum, meeting perhaps once a week. Mr Edwards suggested that the web-site envisaged in the Plan could perhaps be an expansion of the Community Council’s own web-site (see next item). It was agreed that this would be a good idea, provided that it could be confirmed that the new site being developed for the Community Council would have an underlying infrastructure suitable for the eventual uploading, perhaps weekly, of the much greater volume of data required than would be needed for Community Council business alone. It might be desirable to designate someone as project manager, who would be responsible for liaising with local people and organisations to get all the required information gradually drafted and placed on the web-site.

A discussion took place about the best way of getting a “Bite and Blether” system off the ground. One suggestion was that, at least initially, refreshments home-made by Council members might be provided free of charge. Mr Birchall said that Stobo Church was organising a coffee function on a Saturday morning soon, and it was agreed to defer further consideration of the matter until it was known how successful the publicity methods adopted in Stobo were in attracting attendance.

Mr Nick Shapowal, who was present, volunteered to pick up the suggestion in the Plan that electric vehicle charging points should be considered.

Action: Mr Shapowal

Mrs Jackman said she would liaise with Mrs Walker about ideas for signposting local walks.

Action: Mrs Jackman, Mrs Walker

### **08.03.19 UTCC web-site**

It was noted that Mrs Reid and her family had volunteered to do a preliminary design for a new web-site for the Community Council, and would be willing to update the site with minutes and agendas each month, as well as occasional news items. The meeting thanked them for taking this extremely worthwhile initiative. Miss Kirsty Hughes, who was present, volunteered to help with the web-site. Mr Edwards said that he hoped to see Mr Lukas shortly to arrange for the domain name of the existing UTCC web-site to be transferred to the new site being developed by Mrs Reid and her family. It was noted that, if it were decided in due course that the new UTCC web-site should be expanded in the manner envisaged in the previous Minute, the team administering the site would have to be enlarged.

Action: Mrs Reid, Miss Hughes, Mr Edwards

### **09.03.19 Planning**

It was noted that a planning application had been submitted for a new footpath at Glencotho, and Mrs Jackman volunteered to look into it.

Action: Mrs Jackman

### **10.03.19 Financial position and Micro-grants**

It was reported that a letter had been received from the Primary School, thanking the UTCC for a grant of £200 for playground equipment. An application from Broughton in Bloom for a micro-grant of £200 to purchase heating equipment was approved. Mr Malcolm Bruce, who was present, said that he would not yet be seeking a grant for more Christmas lights, as an SBC official had advised that they could not be attached to lamp-posts. Mr Weston said that the Council currently had about £2,000 in the bank, much of which was earmarked for future micro grants and bursaries. SBC Councillor Eric Small said that the SBC would be consulting about a new system of financing Community Councils and other organisations but there would be no change in the year 2019/20.

### **11.03.19 Shop report**

Mr Lambton reported that the share issue had been successful and had resulted in more than £20,000 being raised so far. An offer was being put in to buy the shop premises for the community and it was hoped that the transaction would be concluded within the next few weeks. In response to a question, he said that it was unlikely that a Post Office would be included in the shop, due to the Post Office authorities' insistence on unrealistic conditions regarding opening hours etc. It was also unlikely that an ATM would be included. However, consideration was being given to the possibility that local people would be able to direct their parcels to the shop for collection later.

### **12.03.19 Police Report**

No Police Report had been received.

### **13.03.19 SBC Councillors' Report**

SBC Councillor Heather Anderson reported on a 5-hour budget discussion held by the SBC. She said that no extra resources had been allocated to public transport, despite the conclusion of the Tweeddale Area Forum that inadequate transport was a priority issue and despite the budget submissions made by the UTCC and supported by the Tweedsmuir CC, requesting that relatively small sums of money should be made available to rural areas such as ours, to enable pilot schemes for enhancements to take place. Mr Lewin said that the SBC's decision showed a complete disregard for the strongly held views of local people about the inadequacies of the bus service. It was agreed that a letter should be sent on behalf of the Council to the SBC's Chief Executive, with a copy to the SBC's officer responsible for transport (Mr Stephenson), requesting an urgent review of rural transport policy, in which the UTCC would be pleased to participate. Lady Stewartby, who was present, agreed to draft the letter, with assistance from Mr Lewin.

Action: Lady Stewartby, Mr Lewin

Heather Anderson reported that she was making further enquiries about the possibility of setting up a Speedwatch scheme which would involve the sharing of the necessary equipment between several Community Councils, thus keeping costs down.

Action: Heather Anderson

It was noted that it had been some time since SBC Councillor Kris Chapman had attended our meetings and Mr Lewin volunteered to write to him.

Action: Mr Lewin

#### **14.03.19 Any other business**

##### Noise nuisance

A member of the public reported a noise nuisance from a motor-cycle kept in the village. Heather Anderson said she would take the matter forward if she was provided with details.

Action: Heather Anderson

##### Bottle bank fence

Mrs Reid reported that the artwork on the bottle bank fence is fading and that the original artist (Angie Gordon) had offered to repaint it, free of charge. Her suggested designs were circulated. The meeting accepted the offer with thanks and agreed to refund the cost of materials.

##### Broughton in Bloom

A member of the public reported on current issues for Broughton in Bloom.

### Dreva Road

A member of the public complained about SBC's repeated failure to repair the culvert under Dreva Road, which was causing inconvenience. Heather Anderson promised to take the matter up with the SBC official concerned.

Action: Heather Anderson

### Summer Fayre

It was noted that the Summer Fayre would be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June. A number of interesting events were being planned by the organisers, including stalls enabling people to sell their plants and goods, a tombola and silent auction, and a Best Dog Competition. They had stated that they were planning to have stalls manned by the First Responders and the Community Council. Refreshments would be available and musicians would be playing for entertainment. The organisers were thinking of erecting banners, and wanted to get permission to use the space around the brewery for parking.

### **15.03.19 Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April in Broughton Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.