

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
21st FEBRUARY 2011**

BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Pat Middlemas (Chairman), Sally Walker (Secretary), David Halsall (Treasurer), Cllr Archibald, Cllr Calvert, Celia Byers, Evelyn Dodds, Murdo Elder, Gordon Fraser, Michael Lukas, Gavin Parker, Lord-Lieutenant of Tweeddale; Captain David Younger and Tony Butcher

11.02.1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Bhatia, Nico Alonzi, PC Vanessa Hamilton (Community Police Officer)

11.02.2 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17.01.11: these were approved.

11.02.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: Flooding at Rachan Pond; the response from the Roads Department at SBC mentioned the sluice arrangement at Rachan Pond as the source of the flooding however local information suggests that blocked gullies are more likely to be at fault with the recent floods.

Road Closure due to Flooding between Dawyck and B712 junction with A701; the system for flood alerts and road closures and removal of flood signs requires attention. Flood warning signs are erected but often some considerable time after waters have risen and covered the road, signs are not removed until well after the flood has subsided. This is quite likely to be due to the distance to Council Headquarters and thus the distance makes it difficult for Council Flood Team to operate a speedy service particularly when flooding is localised. Flip up signs were put in place to help ease this problem allowing locals to provide an earlier warning to motorists however at least one sign is too high to be operated. The roads department will be contacted to continue the discussion about how safety can be maintained for motorists by closing the road in a timely fashion (together with opening the road again when it becomes passable) and how we may be able to assist with this locally.

Stanhope / Mossfennan Flooding; again this is likely to be blocked gullies. This matter is on the list for the Council Road Maintenance team however potholes are taking priority currently.

11.02.4 COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT: there have been no accidents resulting in injury during the past month. There have been two incidents where trees have blocked the carriageway but SBC were contacted and assisted with clearing the carriageway.

11.02.5 SBC REPORT: Councillor Archibald reported that the Budget has been agreed by the Council and was passed unanimously. Cllr Archibald applauded Cllr Calvert and Council Officials for the smooth financial management during this difficult economic climate. SBC are not making any compulsory redundancies at this time.

Councillor Calvert brought up the matter of Carlowse Bridge at Tweedsmuir. See 11.02.09.

11.02.6 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: there were no items for discussion.

11.02.7 TWEEDDALE ACTIVITIES FOR HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR, 2012 Lord-Lieutenant of Tweeddale, Captain David Younger addressed the meeting regarding possible activities for the community to celebrate this occasion. The Diamond Jubilee celebrates sixty years of Her Majesty The Queen's reign. The only other Diamond Jubilee in history was that of Queen Victoria which was held in 1897. The main celebration will be held in London over the period 1st – 5th June 2012. On 4th June there will be a bonfire chain all the way from Land's End to John O Groats although the nearest official bonfire in our area will be on Dun Rig. A committee will be formed to plan for this community event which could be held on Saturday 2nd June. It is hoped to involve the whole community in this celebration and all suggestions are welcome. Tuesday 5th June is expected to be an extra bank holiday in 2012.

11.02.8 PLANNING:

- Change of use, alterations and extension to provide dwellinghouse with annexe, erection of workshop and store at derelict cottage and disused steading, Threepland Backshaw, Biggar, Scottish Borders **11/00066/FUL**

The Community Council has no objections to this proposal.

11.02.9 CARLOWSE BRIDGE, TWEEDSMUIR Councillor Calvert reported that this bridge is being monitored by Scottish Borders Council. There is a weight limit on the bridge which was discussed but the limit is advisory and heavier vehicles are permitted access. However, it is of great concern to the community that this bridge is showing severe signs of stress and the Community Council have contacted the Roads Department asking for urgent attention to the matter. The extensive damage to the bridge was discussed, together with concerns for the residents of Tweedsmuir Village who would be effectively cut off if the bridge were to be closed. The Community Council are hoping for a swift and satisfactory answer to this problem, any progress will be reported at next month's meeting.

11.01.10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Train Services at Lockerbie: Tony Butcher attended a meeting at Lockerbie Station between David Mundell MP, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Virgin Trains, Scotrail and Lockerbie Community Groups. There is demand to improve services at Lockerbie and also to improve rail services on the Western Main Line. The section of track between Lockerbie to Carstairs is the longest section of mainline track without stations in the country. It was felt that despite it being 40 miles away, anyone travelling to the South from the Western Borders may wish to use Lockerbie station. Therefore Tony Butcher has offered to attend these meetings on the behalf of the Community Council. This offer has been gratefully accepted.

Litter Clean Up: It was agreed to hold the annual litter clean up on 26th March.

Floral Gateway: It was agreed that we would enter the Floral Gateway competition again this year. All efforts made by the community in helping the committee prepare for the competition are very welcome indeed.

11.02.11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 21st March 2011 in Tweedsmuir Village Hall at 7.10 or 7.30 pm as notified on the Agenda.