

## UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2011

#### DRUMELZIER VILLAGE HALL

**PRESENT:** Murdo Elder (Vice Chairman), Sally Walker (Secretary), David Halsall (Treasurer), Cllr Archibald, Cllr Calvert, Nico Alonzi, Celia Byers, Evelyn Dodds, Michael Lukas, Gavin Parker and two members of the public.

**11.04.1 APOLOGIES:** Pat Middlemas (Chairman), Cllr Bhatia, PC Vanessa Hamilton (Community Police Officer), Gordon Fraser

**11.04.2 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21.03.11:** these were approved.

**11.04.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** There were no matters arising.

**11.04.4 COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT:** There have been two road traffic accidents in the past month, both occurred on the A701 and involved minor injury. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1000L of red diesel was stolen from forestry ground near Tweedsmuir and on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1600 -1800L of kerosene was stolen from a farm near Broughton. A large woodland fire was reported on 28<sup>th</sup> March near Rachan. In response to the Police report there was some discussion about padlocking fuel tanks which can discourage the opportunist thief. The question was also raised about parking on the main street in Broughton, a site of one of the recent accidents, and a discussion was had regarding whether or not traffic is slowed by the car parking or whether removing the cars would make the street safer.

**11.04.5 SBC REPORT:** Cllr Archibald raised the point that Halyrude School has now moved successfully to new premises. This is the only Catholic school serving our area.

**11.04.6 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** There were no issues raised.

#### **11.04.7 PLANNING:**

- **Land North West of Hartree Grange, Biggar. Formation of pond, creation of bund and infilling of paddock. 11/00319/FUL**  
There were no objections to this proposal.
- **Land and Steading at Kilbucho Mains Farm, Kilbucho, Broughton. Conversion, alterations and extension to steading to provide dwellinghouse and erection of garage with games room above (amendment to previous consent 02/01707/REM) 11/00350/FUL**  
There were no objections to this proposal.

**11.04.8 CARLOWSE BRIDGE, TWEEDSMUIR:** Paul Greaves attended the meeting to represent the Carlowse Bridge Committee. Residents of Tweedsmuir got together to discuss the bridge and in particular their concern over the lengthy closure of the road during repairs. The Community and the Community Council feel that a diversion over Talla Linns and via St Mary's Loch is inappropriate and would put lives at risk in the event of the Fire or Ambulance Service being required.

The application for funding to provide an alternative bridge for forestry from the Strategic Timber Transport Fund was discussed. In the past Scottish Borders Council have been successful in bids for funds for major road and bridge repairs where forestry traffic has hastened the degradation of the route. In this case it would be a difficult application for SBC to make as there is only one landowner involved, Mulitoptique, and therefore this may be seen as State Aid despite the fact that it is the community itself that requires assistance. Whether or not it was appropriate for the community to apply to STTF was raised and it was felt that the Council have the responsibility for the roads and the cost of upkeep both now and in the future, they also have a duty of care for the residents and Cllr Calvert suggested that confirmation of diversions were sought from the council rather than relying on the Peebleshire News reportage.

Forestry extraction figures were supplied for the next 10yrs but the Carlowse Bridge Committee felt that the figures were extremely conservative. Multioptique was approached via their agent, Scottish Woodlands, to enquire whether or not they would be willing to build the alternative access over the bridge at Hearthstones (where there was previous planning consent granted to Multioptique) whilst they are supportive of the community aspiration for an alternative route and crossing for timber they were not in a position to give financial assistance in this matter.

The Community Council will write to both Fire and Ambulance Services to ask about how a diversion via St Mary's Loch will affect response times. Cllr Calvert will enquire about the likelihood of using Glenrusco Bridge as an alternative crossing.

**11.04.9 JOHN BUCHAN MUSEUM:** An enquiry was made to the Community Council about the building which houses the John Buchan Museum. The future of the museum is still in question and a **public meeting** will be held on **May 16<sup>th</sup> in Broughton Village Hall** to seek the community opinion regarding the museum's location. Should the John Buchan Museum relocate to the Chamber's Institute in Peebles which is an alternative venue for it, the question was raised about the Free Church building and what its future might be. It was asked whether or not the community feel that it is very important to the history of Broughton and whether or not it should be listed to recognise its historical importance. The Community Council will approach Lawrence Parkerson from SBC to discuss the matter. However the Community Council acknowledged that listed buildings can be difficult to convert or sell on; if it were listed and then not sold it may fall derelict which would be to the detriment of the village environment and if it were knocked down and replaced with up to three houses this would also be detrimental to the village environment.

**11.04.10 BROUGHTON AND DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB / BROUGHTON TENNIS CLUB:** the club's were not able to send representatives to this meeting and therefore they will be on the agenda for May's meeting.

#### **11.04.11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

##### **Community Council Election:**

The Community Council are holding rolling elections. There are three places on the Community Council for the election this year, two in Broughton and one in Drumelzier.

The Nomination forms (which those wishing to serve on the Community Council should complete) will be located in Broughton Village Store together with the ballot box and the closing date for completed nomination forms will be **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May**. If there are no more nomination forms than places on the council those who have completed nomination forms will be elected. If there are more nominees than spaces an election will be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at the Community Council AGM.

##### **Dog mess on Dreva Road:**

There is a constant issue with dog owners not picking up their dog mess along the Dreva Road. The community wardens will be asked to visit to try and prevent this occurring. Can all residents please ensure that they do not leave dog mess for others to tread in.

##### **Dog mess on King George V playing fields:**

There is a problem with both residents and visitors not picking up dog poo on the playing fields which is a health hazard to others. Please can residents ensure that they clean up after their dogs? The community wardens will be asked to visit the school to make a presentation to the children to encourage families to be aware of the issue.

##### **Vehicles on the King George V playing fields:**

A report was made to the community council about vehicles entering the playing fields; the Community Council will ask SBC about the possibility of erecting a lockable bollard to prevent this occurring.

##### **Allotments:**

An enquiry was made about field areas being given over for allotments, Cllr Calvert confirmed that change of use permission from SBC Planning Department was required if this were the case.

**11.03.12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING and AGM: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011 in Broughton Village Hall at 7.10 or 7.30 pm as notified on the Agenda.**