

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AGM and COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23rd MAY 2011

BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Pat Middlemas (Chairman), Sally Walker (Secretary), David Halsall (Treasurer), Cllr Bhatia, Cllr Calvert, Nico Alonzi, Celia Byers, Murdo Elder, Chris Lewin, Gavin Parker, Penny Wedderburn Scott, Paul Greaves (Carlowse Bridge Committee) and 3 other members of the public.

05.11.1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Archibald, Evelyn Dodds, Michael Lukas, Gordon Fraser and PC Vanessa Hamilton (Community Police Officer).

05.11.2 RESULTS OF RECENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS: Elections were held for three spaces on the Community Council; one in Drumelzier and two in Broughton. It was an uncontested election with three nominees and therefore Mr Christopher Lewin of Thirlestane, Broughton; Mrs Patricia Middlemas of Ninth Acre, Broughton and Mrs Penelope Wedderburn Scott of West Lodge, Rachan were elected to serve on the Community Council.

The Community Council would like to warmly thank Celia Byers and Evelyn Dodds for their many years of hard work and service to the Community on the Community Council.

AGM

Chairman's Report: During the past year a large amount of Community Council time has been given over to windfarms; Glenkerie is well underway as is the Clyde (consented) windfarm. It is the Community and the Community Council's feeling that as an area we have done our bit for green energy. As this is a National Scenic Area and those areas within our boundary which are not in the NSA are designated Areas of Great Landscape Value our greatest asset is our countryside and visitors to our area, on whom we rely on to support and grow local businesses, come here for our beautiful countryside and unspoilt views.

There have been issues with the Hawdene housing development which have come to a head this year, although for many residents they have been ongoing for some considerable time. The Community Council have attended meetings with residents and with Eildon to try and support residents and to take up their concerns. Eildon listened to concerns and been given the results of the questionnaire put round by the Community Council and seem to be committed to resolving these issues so the situation seems hopeful at this time.

The Crook Inn has featured regularly as a discussion topic. Despite much hard work by the Tweedsmuir Community Company there has been no progress on the Community Purchase and its condition has sadly deteriorated.

Carlowse Bridge in Tweedsmuir has also been a subject that we have spent much time discussing, the general conclusion of the discussions is that it was not designed or built to withstand the weights or the pressure of heavy traffic that it has been subjected to and will continue to be subjected to for the next 20 years.

The Fireworks were a great success and although the clean up was hampered by snow fall within two weeks of the event it was faster than last year. If permission is granted for the event to be held again this year we are committed to clear the field much more quickly. The insurance costs for running the event are considerable and the Community Council will not be able to cover the costs of both the insurance and the large donation that we have given in previous years, next time.

The Queen's Jubilee is fast approaching and we must get organised swiftly as a great deal of preparation is required if the event is to be a success.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer and Secretary for their work throughout the year.

Treasurer's Report: The opening balance was £650.

Income was £907 which was made up of SBC Grant and £170 which was collected at the fireworks to assist with insurance cover.

Expenditure over the year was £1492.78 leaving a closing balance of £64.80.

Election of Office Bearers:	Chairman	Mrs Patricia Middlemas
	Treasurer	Mr David Halsall
	Secretary	Mrs Sally Walker

The office bearers were nominated and seconded by those present.

Date and Location of Meetings: it was agreed that the Community Council would meet in the same manner as last year which was on the 3rd Monday of each month excepting July (when SB Council do not sit) and December.

2011: 20 June– Tweedsmuir, July – no meeting, 15 August – Drumelzier, 19 September – Broughton, 17 October – Tweedsmuir, 21 November – Broughton, December – no meeting

2012: 16 January – Broughton, 20 February – Broughton, 19 March – Tweedsmuir, 16 April – Drumelzier, AGM 21 May – Broughton, 18 June – Tweedsmuir, July – no meeting, 20 August – Drumelzier, 17 September – Tweedsmuir, 22 October – Broughton, 19 November – Broughton, December no meeting.

These dates and locations are subject to change.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

05.11.3 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18.04.11: these were approved.

05.11.4 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: The Community Wardens have been approached regarding issues of dog fouling on the Dreva Road, the Bowling Club area and on the playing fields. They have been out and the secretary is attempting to organise a visit to the school so that the Wardens can speak to the children to attempt to raise awareness throughout the community.

05.11.5 SBC REPORT: Cllr Calvert is attending a meeting with the Forestry Commission on 24th May to continue his investigation into the issues with forestry traffic causing deterioration of Carlowse Bridge in Tweedsmuir. Cllr Bhatia has followed up the request for signs on the Dreva Road to remind drivers that it is a single road with passing places and these have been agreed through SB Local and thus will be going ahead.

05.11.6 COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT: Between 19/03/2011 and 18/04/2011 persons unknown have removed two cast iron covers from a BT Cable pit at Oliver Forrest, Tweedsmuir.

Between 1830 hours on 21/04/2011 and 0730 hours on 22/04/2011 the security fencing at the construction site at Crookhead, Tweedsmuir, has been opened, and a metal storage container forced open. Stolen from the metal container were numerous tools including a petrol generator. Also removed from within the metal storage container was a key to the site fuel tank. The tank was opened and approx 900 litres of Red Diesel stolen. Enquiries are ongoing.

On 03/05/2011 there was a one-car damage only vehicle accident on the B712 close to Merlindale Bridge, Drumelzier.

Between 1700 hours on 07/05/2011 and 0900 hours 09/05/2011 persons unknown have smashed two Scout Hut windows (directly behind Broughton Primary School), and damaged various plant and vegetable patches belonging to the Primary School. Enquiries are ongoing.

05.11.7 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: there were no issues to report.

05.11.8 PLANNING:

11/00550/FUL: Erection of replacement garage at Dassfauld, Main Street, Broughton.
There were no objections to this application.

11/00573/FUL, 11/00574/FUL, 11/00575/FUL and 11/00576/FUL: Erection of 60m high meteorological masts at and around Earlshaugh Farm, Tweedsmuir. There were no objections to these applications.

11/00650/PPP: Erection of Guest house and formation of new access road at Land North of Over Tweed, Broughton. There were no objections to this proposal as long as the visibility splays are up to the standards required by the Government and SBC. (Note: this application was received on the morning of the meeting so did not feature on the Agenda)

05.11.9 CARLOWSE BRIDGE: Mr Paul Greaves of the Carlowse Bridge Committee attended the meeting to give an update. A letter has been received from SBC stating that major repairs to the bridge will be required but that these repairs are not imminent and that SBC have not set any formal timescale for repairs. The request to set a weight limit on the bridge has been rejected at this time, it was stated that HGVs have a right to use the road but the bridge will continue to be monitored. Carlowse Bridge and the route through Tweedsmuir is designated a consultation route but no consultation has ever taken place as the Timber Transport Group was only set up in 1999 and forestry extraction was already taking place; consultation can only occur on new forestry extraction. From Freedom of Information requests bridge reports have been obtained by the Carlowse Bridge Committee back to 2002. In 2002 the bridge repairs were designated 'H' in the report, meaning that repairs should be done within one year. Mr Greaves reported that the repairs were estimated at £40,000 at that time. In the 2009 report the engineer recommended that repairs should be undertaken in the near future. Current estimates of the cost of repairs are £176,000.

Mr Simon Goldfinch, a Lecturer in Engineering at Edinburgh Napier University (and a local resident), has looked at the bridge in some detail; he believes that the telltales are not fixed correctly, and that the construction method of the bridge means that it is resting on a keystone. It is Mr Goldfinch's opinion that the depressions on the carriageway could signify stress to the keystone and thus he called the safety of the bridge into question particularly given the loads of up to 80tons that are being driven over this bridge. Mr Goldfinch commented that in 5yrs of regularly using the bridge he has seen very significant deterioration and on some days has counted more than 20 heavily loaded Lorries. A report was made that recent wide loads have required that signs on the bridge were taken down to enable wide vehicles to cross.

Much discussion was had regarding the state of the bridge and the Community Council have asked the Councillors to look into the consistency of application of weight limits by SBC. A weight limit of 15 tons was suggested and Cllr Bhatia and Cllr Calvert will look into this matter.

There are 49 people living on the far side of the bridge and the current expected diversion over Talla Linns is unacceptable. Glenrusco Bridge is an alternative and Cllr Calvert will ask Scottish Water about the possibility of removing bollards to allow cars and pedestrians to cross this way. One resident who works at Stobo timed the resulting diversion of using the Linns and it was stated that the journey time was an hour and a half. The residents of Tweedsmuir, the Community as a whole and the Community Council do not wish to see the historic, category B listed, fine example of a random rubble bridge which was built in 1783 lost due to inaction.

The Carlowse Bridge Committed are intent on applying for funding through the Strategic Timber Transport Fund although they are not hopeful for success due to a lack of matched funding and a single forestry owner meaning that public monies used in this way could be seen as state aid. Other routes out of Tweedsmuir for forestry are desperately being sought and it was remarked during the meeting that upgrading the forestry owner's own bridge (planning consent for this was gained in 2001) would cost less than the current estimated repair bill for Carlowse.

05.11.10 HAWDENE PROPERTIES: A quick summary of the meeting between Cllr Bhatia, the Chairman, the Secretary and Eildon housing was given. The subject of the mouldy plasterboard

being retained and painted over with mould resistant paint was discussed together with the suspected health issues of living with mould spores. Cllr Bhatia will continue to encourage Eildon to remove any mould damaged plasterboard which will help to reduce the opportunity for re-growth. The Community Council have agreed to assist the residents to form a Residents Association and it was agreed that the Community Council will pay the hall charges for this meeting.

05.11.11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS: A road closed sign has been erected in the village for closure of the A701 from 30th May for 10 days during the hours 8.30am to 4pm. The Community Council have not yet been informed of this road closure by SBC so will request information and will post any details gained on the website as soon as possible. www.uppertweedcommunitycouncil.org.uk

The lack of white lines on the B712 was discussed and the Community Council will follow this up.

Allotments: the Council were asked to look into land for allotments in the vicinity of the village.

Lockerbie Station: Mr Tony Butcher attended a meeting on behalf of the Community Council regarding train services at Lockerbie Station as this is our closest and easiest connection to the South. We will be kept informed by the South West of Scotland Transport Partnership SWestrans. The intention is to increase the number of services to London from Lockerbie.

John Buchan Museum: as most residents will be aware, the John Buchan Museum will be relocating to Peebles at the end of the year. The Committee have very kindly offered to return the donation of £90 given by the Community Council for the signs on the edge of the village advertising the Museum, which has been gratefully accepted. The signs will be taken down once the Museum has moved and will be archived.

05.11.12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 20th June in Tweedsmuir Village Hall at 7.10 or 7.30 pm as notified on the Agenda.

Please see these minutes and more on our website at: www.uppertweedcommunitycouncil.org.uk