

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20th June 2011

TWEEDSMUIR VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Pat Middlemas (Chairman), Sally Walker (Secretary), David Halsall (Treasurer), Cllr Archibald, Cllr Calvert, Nico Alonzi, Murdo Elder, Michael Lukas, Gordon Fraser, Gavin Parker, Gavin Willins (President of Broughton Tennis Club) and 11 other members of the public.

06.11.1 APOLOGIES: Cllr Bhatia, Chris Lewin, Penny Wedderburn Scott, and PC Vanessa Hamilton (Community Police Officer).

06.11.2 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23.05.11: these were approved

06.11.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: it was agreed in the previous meeting to pay for the hall to enable Hawdene Residents to form a Residents Association. The date for this has not yet been set as the residents are deciding whether or not it is better to hold that meeting once the works have been completed and thus the Residents Association could then chase Eildon up on any works outstanding.

11/00650/PPP: Erection of Guest house and formation of new access road at Land North of Over Tweed, Broughton. None of the immediate neighbours were informed by the applicant or planning department despite the neighbour notification sheet on the website stating their names. Other issues were discussed but the individuals will take the matters up with the Planning Department in individual objections.

06.11.4 COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT: Since the last Community Council meeting there have been a total of 5 Road Traffic Accidents which are broken down as follows: -

09/06/11 – Hit and Run accident occurred on the A701 near to Tweedsmuir.

10/06/11 – An injury accident occurred at Rachan involving a motorbike and a car – the motorcyclist was injured.

17/06/11 – An accident occurred in Broughton involving a car hitting a lamppost.

17/06/11 – Accident occurred near Rachan involving one vehicle.

18/06/11 – An accident occurred near the Dumfries and Galloway boundary involving 2 vehicles, 3 occupants in one vehicle were injured and the driver of the other vehicle was fatally injured.

Speed Checks: During June the mobile speed van carried out 2 checks on the A701.

06.11.5 SBC REPORT: Cllr Calvert has attended an initial fact finding meeting with the Forestry Commission and is due to attend another meeting regarding Oliver Field forestry proposal on 21st June. All our Councillors attended the Stobo Manor and Lyne Community Council meeting along with our Chairman to discuss bridges in our area, the Councillors are aware of the issues and are working together. Cllr Calvert also stated that the Council Officers will invite local Community Councils to meetings in Peebles regarding bridge concerns. The meeting between the Carlowse Bridge Advisory Group and Council Officers will be delayed until August 2011.

Mr Rob Sibbald of the Carlowse Bridge Advisory group advised the Community Council that the group has been in touch with the University of the West of England regarding Carlowse. A Dr Adrienn Tomor is happy to undertake some pioneering research on Carlowse Bridge by using some non invasive techniques. The University Team are due to visit in July and will be able to give results the same week regarding the structural capabilities of the bridge and what stresses it is undergoing. The comment made by Dr Tomor on viewing photographs of the cracks in the structure was that construction of the bridge in 1783 would have used Lime Mortar which has some “give” in it. Later modification or repairs used Concrete which is much more rigid and does not “give” hence cracks are appearing.

Cllr Bhatia has forwarded on some notes on how weight limits are applied from the relevant Council Officer, these do not represent an official council method statement and the Officer has been asked for that information. Mr Sibbald also informed the Community Council that the previous weight limit assessments were carried out in 1991 which is long before the logging traffic started and is before the bridge reports note significant deterioration.

06.11.6 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: there were no issues to report.

06.11.7 OLIVER FIELD HYDROLOGY REPORT AND ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT: there have been some queries made by the residents following reading the report supplied by the independent Hydrologist. Firstly, the met station used was Eskdale and the question was posed whether or not the data would be comparable. The methodology used in the report was normally used on much larger areas also the validity of this approach was questioned. The assumption was made in the report that the Bracken on the hill (which it was stated uses more water per day than broad leaved trees) would be replaced by forestry whereas the situation will be the hill will be covered by both Bracken **and** Trees thus greatly increasing the use of water.

Statements were made in the report about using best practice, assurances are required that these best practice suggestions will be adhered to.

The residents of the properties affected by the projected reduction in water supply wish to have some kind of guarantee that the commercial operation whose actions threaten the essential water supplies to these houses will bear the risk rather than the private individuals. Without sufficient water supplies normal life in these properties would be compromised and would render the houses unsaleable. the report also did not seem to take into account the projected new properties at the Crook Inn for which planning was granted in 2010. It should also be noted that Scottish Water have no plans to extend the water supply to the affected houses and if this were required Scottish Water would only be responsible for paying approximately the first £1000 of the costs of connection according to a Scottish Government Official.

Mr Simon Goldfinch stated that a mature deciduous tree consumes 600 gallons of water per day. This figure certainly gives cause for concern to residents facing a whole hillside of both deciduous and evergreen planting.

06.11.8 BROUGHTON COMMUNITY COMPANY: Mrs Jan Noble attended the Community Council Meeting to discuss the proposals for starting a Community Company which could be used in several different ways. Initially the idea for setting up such a company would be to use it to acquire funding to enable the community to try to ensure that Broughton Village Store does not close. It is recognised that the structure of such a co-operative approach may not be able to secure the relevant funding given the current cost of the shop. The Broughton Community Company could also be used as a vehicle for other community projects such as applying for funding from the Windfarm Community Benefit fund for ideas such as Solar Panels to create revenue for further community use. As regards the proposed backup if the shop does not sell, a questionnaire will be sent round the local area to establish demand for the continued presence of the shop. Indications will be sought of whether or not people would be interested in buying shares. The Community Council agreed that the Broughton Community Company is a good idea to help the community in the future.

06.11.9 UPDATE FROM TENNIS AND BOWLING CLUB: Gavin Willins, President of Broughton Tennis Club, attended the meeting to inform the Community Council that funding has now been secured to resurface the court. The Club has over 100 members currently but due to the low grade of the current surface members have been using West Linton tennis courts instead. Work is due to start in July and will take approx 2 weeks to complete, temporary lines will be drawn and permanent lines will be put on 3 weeks later. The Tennis Club are to be congratulated on their hard work securing funding and raising money to resurface the court which will be a welcome resource for many members of the community. The Bowling Club has undertaken a feasibility study to look at the club house for which they secured a grant from Awards to All. The club house does not currently support their needs and is not fit for purpose. A suitable clubhouse cannot be built on the same footprint due to new legislation such as current disability access legislation and the size of area required for the activities undertaken by the club. They need more space. A questionnaire asking about the current use of the club house and about community requirements regarding the clubs was sent round via the

Community News and 78 responses were received. The consensus opinion was that the clubs require more space. The Community Council would like to add their wholehearted support to the efforts of the clubs to serve their members and the wider community by providing more up to date facilities.

06.11.10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Allotments: a request for a list of council land in Broughton was made at the last Community Council meeting. A list of council owned land has been sent which includes: The Primary School, The King George V Playing Fields, A former brewery industrial unit (that is let), a field next to the existing former council estate in Broughton, the cemetery and the war memorial. Given the level of demand for allotments within Broughton and the availability of council land at Springwell Brae the Community Council will ask Council Officers to provide land for allotments.

Roads and Flooding: signs have been erected at the junction of the Dreva road and the B712 to notify drivers of flooding at Dawyck and Merlindale which enables drivers to take the alternative route over Dreva. The signs at the other end of the flooding have been mistakenly erected in Drumelzier beyond the Merlindale flooding area, thus they need to be moved back to the junction of A701 and B712 to enable Drivers to take the alternative route.

The essential works to drainage at Rachan has still not been undertaken. A reminder will be sent to SB Local as these blocked drains cause flooding frequently as rainwater cannot run off.

06.11.11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 15th August in Drumelzier 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