

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15th August 2011

DRUMELZIER VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Pat Middlemas (Chairman), Sally Walker (Secretary), Cllr Bhatia, Cllr Calvert, Nico Alonzi, Murdo Elder, Chris Lewin, Michael Lukas, Gordon Fraser, Gavin Parker, Penny Wedderburn Scott and Celia Byers (Brighten Up Broughton).

08.11.1 APOLOGIES: David Halsall (Treasurer), Cllr Archibald, and PC Vanessa Hamilton (Community Police Officer).

08.11.2 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20.06.11: these were approved

08.11.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: Broughton Community Company: an update was sought on Broughton Community Company by Community Councillors, there appears to be an outside purchaser for Broughton Village Store which is very good news, therefore the Community Company would be used for other purposes. An idea is being investigated regarding putting solar panels on the school roof using windfarm community benefit funds which will (over a period of 25 years) pay back double the initial investment which will be used to support community projects and events. Discussions are currently underway with SBC about using the school roof. Allotments: enquiries have been made about using a section of Council owned land for allotments within Broughton, Cllr Bhatia will chase this up for us. Planning: the application for erection of guest house and formation of new access on land north of Over Tweed, Broughton has been refused.

08.11.4 COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT: no police report was available.

08.11.5 SBC REPORT: Cllr Calvert attended meetings on 2nd August regarding; Oliver Field Forestry proposal and Carlowse Bridge.

Oliver Field: a meeting was held with members of the community likely to be affected, Scottish Woodlands and Iain Laidlaw from The Forestry Commission. The meeting raised several issues but a question remained regarding the specific data supplied from the Hydrology report about what would happen to water after the initial 6 year period. Scottish Woodlands agreed to look at forestry design to try and reduce the Sitka Spruce plantings in the catchment of the houses that would see the greatest predicted water reduction.

Carlowse Bridge: the meeting with Council Officers and Forestry Commission representatives together with Scottish Woodlands seemed to go very well. The Council have suggested a likely date for Carlowse Bridge to be mended in 2013. They have suggested 8 options for access into Tweedsmuir and beyond during the period when Carlowse Bridge is out of action. These options will be published on our website for interested parties to view.

Cllr Bhatia updated us on the planned works on the A72 at Neidpath Corner. The works are due to take 8 weeks and the council will try to keep the road open during work. If not possible then they will try and only close the road at night time. Stobo, Manor and Lyne Community Council (who hosted the meeting) requested that the road be passable in an emergency, for Fire Engines and Ambulances. The Council Officers appreciate that delays in Emergency Services Access to Tweeddale West during works would be undesirable.

Cllr Bhatia also attended a meeting of the Glenkerrie Windfarm Trust with two Community Councillors and the rest of the Trustees. Much of the meeting was given over to legal deeds and Cllr Bhatia suggested an independent legal eye should be cast over documentation, turbines are due to start working end of October and the Trustees have another meeting due in September.

08.11.6 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: there were no issues to report.

08.11.7 HM THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILIEE CELEBRATIONS – SUBCOMMITTEE: the Secretary will look into the possibility of a grant to help with costs for the celebrations. As time is marching on a subcommittee is required to organise the event. Volunteers are very, very welcome and a meeting has been arranged for 29th August to discuss ideas. Please contact the Secretary on 830579 for details.

08.11.8 CODE OF CONDUCT – Upper Tweed Community Councillors have all agreed to be bound by the code of conduct.

08.11.9 DRAINAGE AT RACHAN POND - there continues to be pooling of water in this area. The Secretary will contact Technical Services to look into this again.

08.11.10 COMMUNITY COUNCIL EVENTS: it is necessary to define which events are Community Council run events: the criteria will be;

- a) Events planned and minuted in meetings; or
- b) Events run by sub-committees which are set up and documented by the Community Council.

Current Sub-Committees are: Brighten Up Broughton and Bonfire Night committees. “Brighten Up Broughton” is run by Celia Byers, Evelyn Dodds, Pat Middlemas (CC Chairman) and 5 other volunteers. Whilst Brighten Up Broughton does not run an event, it's work planting around the village is much appreciated and is done on behalf of, and under the auspices of, the Community Council.

The Bonfire Night Committee is run by Celia Byers and Gus Swan together with an army of volunteers who make the event such a great community night out.

The Diamond Jubilee Community Day will also be run by a sub-committee which is in the process of being set up.

08.11.11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Dumping – The Community Council has been asked to look into the Dumping of Garden waste into local water courses. Please can all householders be aware that our watercourses are tributaries of the River Tweed which has SSSI status and therefore protected and garden waste should not be allowed to enter watercourses.

Earlshaugh Windfarm – Wind Energy (Earlshaugh) Ltd held public exhibitions in Tweedsmuir and Moffat on 26th and 27th July. A leaflet containing all the information displayed at the exhibitions will be left in Broughton Village Store for those who didn't see the exhibition.

Bonfire Night – Due to the high cost of insurance for this event, the Community Council will be unable to give as large a donation as it has done in previous years. It is hoped that the community will make this event “go with a bang” by donating generously so that we can raise the target amount of £1000 for fireworks to make the night as much of a success as it has been in previous years. Donations of Soup and Sandwiches on the night will also be most welcome.

The Crook Inn – despite the negative press articles the Tweedsmuir Community Company and Inverwest are involved in a very positive dialogue after a site visit where TCC were pleased with the works undertaken on the Crook to get rid of the Dry Rot and Damp issues.

08.11.12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 19 September in Broughton 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