

## UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

17<sup>th</sup> October 2011

### TWEEDSMUIR VILLAGE HALL

**PRESENT:** Pat Middlemas (Chairman), David Halsall (Treasurer), Sally Walker (Secretary), Cllr Archibald, Cllr Calvert, Gordon Fraser, Chris Lewin, Gavin Parker, and Celia Byers (Sub-committees) and two members of the Public.

**10.11.1 APOLOGIES:** Murdo Elder (Vice Chairman), Cllr Bhatia, Nico Alonzi, Michael Lukas, Penny Wedderburn Scott and PC Vanessa Hamilton (Community Police Officer).

**10.11.2 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19.09.11:** these were approved

**10.11.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Animals on the road: a meeting is in the process of being arranged between the farmer and a Community Councillor to see if there is any way to assist the farmer concerned. Parking issues near the school: an issue was raised with SBC who referred it to the Safer Routes to School team. Parking on the Southern side of the school entry gates is causing a problem, white lines were requested from opposite the Brewery entrance heading south to discourage parking which obstructs traffic visibility. Please can parents please try and avoid parking south of the Brewery entrance to help avoid accidents.

**10.11.4 COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT:** On 22<sup>nd</sup> September Quad Bikes and a large quantity of tools were stolen from farms in Broughton, enquiries are on going however if anyone has any information at all, however trivial they might regard it, please contact the Community Police Officer, Vanessa Hamilton at Peebles Police Station, this may be the missing link required to recover these valuable items. On 29<sup>th</sup> Sept there was one vehicle, injury accident near Tweedsmuir and on 14<sup>th</sup> October there was a one vehicle injury accident 3 miles north of Broughton near the Skirling turn off. The Camera Safety Unit carried out 2 checks on the A701 during the previous month but no statistics are as yet available.

**10.11.5 SBC REPORT:** Cllr Calvert had agreed to look at the Rachan flooding issues on the B712, he and Council officers walked the road to the south west and to the north east, and also along the Glenholm road. Short term and longer term measures were identified to help with the issue of flooding at this location, budgets will need to be applied to and therefore no information is currently available about the solutions as yet. There are also issues surrounding the outflow from Rachan Pond which is not helping the flooding on the road. The Council are in contact with the landowner and more information should become available soon.

**10.11.6 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** there were no issues to report.

**10.11.7: BONFIRE NIGHT AND FIREWORKS:** it is hoped that the whole community will pitch in again to help with this event. The new owners of Broughton Place have kindly agreed that the bonfire can be held in the usual spot on the condition that it is cleared up before November 13<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are being sought to help on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> to assist with this. On the night of the bonfire, donations of soup and sandwiches are being sought; 3 volunteers are also being requested to help in the kitchen, serving soup. It is hoped that there will be a good display this year as it is felt that the bonfire night is one of the few community nights that happens in the area.

**10.11.8 CLYDE WINDFARM BENEFIT FUND:** The fund is now open and the initial funding session closes to applications on 4<sup>th</sup> November. There will be opportunities to apply again in the early part of next year if groups do not make an initial funding request at this time. Penny Wedderburn Scott is the representative from the Community Council on the decision making panel, however it was felt that the Community Council may wish to apply for grants or assist other groups in their applications and as such, Chris Lewin has agreed to act as the person responsible for applications to the fund on behalf of the Community Council. Discussions were had regarding making an application to the fund to create 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Units in both Broughton and Tweedsmuir (to have an effect the defibrillators

must be used within 10 minutes and therefore due to distances involved we would need two units and two teams.) Chris Lewin will request information from the West Linton 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Secretary and report back to the Community Council.

**10.11.9 CLYDE WINDFARM EXTENSION APPLICATION:** Scottish and Southern Electric (Scottish Hydro) have submitted their planning application for the extension to the Clyde Windfarm, we do not as yet have the documentation from SBC regarding the application however SSE have sent a large volume of paperwork to the Community Council. This documentation is also available on two CD-Roms which are being held currently by Gordon Fraser (Community Councillor for Tweedsmuir). Should you wish to see any of the technical data submitted, please request the CDs from Gordon or contact Sally Walker for the large box of paper copies. The Community Council are looking for a more accessible place to store the paper copies so that they are available to the whole community and will publish an update on the UTCC website.

**10.11.10 DRAFT LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY:** this will be looked into by Chris Lewin and reported to the next Community Council meeting.

**10.11.11 SCRUTINY:** should the Community Council have anything to raise with the Scrutiny Panel at SBC, they should raise the matter by email with the other Community Councillors to be agreed and submitted before November 18<sup>th</sup> at the latest.

**10.11.12 COMMISSION FOR RURAL EDUCATION, CALL TO EVIDENCE:** this will be discussed at the next Community Council meeting; an invitation has been sent to Broughton Primary School Parent Council and will be sent to parents involved in Peebles High School Parent Council together with some parents of children in pre-school education. Anyone wishing further information should look at [www.commissiononruraleducation.org](http://www.commissiononruraleducation.org) or contact Sally Walker on 830579.

**10.11.13 ALLOTMENTS:** Some work has been undertaken to identify SBC owned land within Broughton to provide ground for allotments, discussions are underway. However, the Council have not yet decided fully whether they would either: let the ground to residents for allotment use with "get out clauses" after 5, 10 or 15 years or; they would rather sell the land for private housing therefore securing a financial gain to the council or; alternatively hang on to the ground for the duration but refuse allotments due to the risk of not recovering the land for housing once let for cultivation. The Community Council wish to urge the Council to hold the ground and not sell it, but to permit allotments for a minimum period of 5 years, preferably 10 years, but with a secure legal agreement for the term of lease therefore enabling good use to be made of the land, yet holding on to the site for future housing.

**10.11.14 THE CHAMBERS INSTITUTION:** An invitation has been received by the Community Council to the opening of the Scottish Borders Council Contact Centre and Citizens Advice Bureau in the Chambers Institution in Peebles. Cllr Archibald reminded the Community Council that this will be the first time that the Chambers Institution Trust has been returned to local control since 1975. Lady Stewartby has kindly offered to attend on behalf of Upper Tweed Community Council and to report back to the council at our next meeting.

**10.11.15 RESILIENT COMMUNITY, EMERGENCY PLANNING:** there is a strong sense of Community in our area and during periods of bad weather we all look after each other. It may be helpful, in addition to this community spirit, that each housing area has a nominated representative who is aware of those who may need assistance and who also can co-ordinate people willing and able to help such as those with 4x4 cars who may be able to get someone to hospital etc. in the event of no immediate neighbours being able to help, the cascade could be utilised to find specific assistance. In the event of long power cuts, the village hall has a generator to enable those without heat or cooking appliances to be able to have a hot meal in the hall and somewhere warm to go, some residents may need assistance getting to the village hall in such circumstances and other residents may be willing and able to produce soup to feed those without cooking facilities. This could be co-ordinated.

If the Community Council sign up to the resilient community planning we will be given advance warnings of bad weather, information regarding flooding and a supply of high visibility waistcoats for use. There is a flexible assistance package on offer from the Council to enable us to set this up in

our community from a very structured system with public meetings and questionnaires to a much more simplified cascade system that we favour.

Scottish Borders Council has kindly extended the Community Council Insurance to any person who is working under the auspices of the Community Council and who is doing non-mechanised work on their behalf, such as snow clearing.

The Community Council request, please, that all residents help by clearing pavements and those of elderly and infirm neighbours again this year to try and keep the community moving.

**10.11.16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Grit Bins: a request was made that we ask for grit bins to be kept full during the anticipated bad weather over the winter.

John Buchan Museum: Sadly the John Buchan Museum closed in Broughton on Sunday. A smaller exhibit will be opened in the Chambers Institute in Peebles in the near future but some items from the museum that are not needed for the smaller exhibit will be going to Glenholm to create a local display. There is a photograph album that was restored some years ago by the Community Council and the future of this photograph album was discussed. Lady Stewartby will bring the album to the next Community Council meeting to enable a decision to be made regarding its future. There seemed to be a general agreement that Glenholm would be a good place to hold such a piece of local history as it would be available to view by visitors and locals, a final decision will be taken next month.

Tweedsmuir Outdoor Centre: it was raised at the meeting that the current incumbents, Urban Saints, at the Tweedsmuir Outdoor Centre are relinquishing their lease. Fire escapes and kitchen equipment are due to be removed, presumably as they are owned by the current leaseholders, on 27<sup>th</sup> October. The lease is with SBC; however there is some question whether the ground was donated for community use and it is believed locally that retention of ownership was written into the agreement when the land was donated to the Council so that it should be returned to the owners of Dykehead should it cease to be a community asset. This matter is currently in the hands of SBC Legal. There are local residents willing to take on the lease and run the outdoor centre. There remains a question over whether SBC recognise the alleged ground ownership and will permit another lease to be taken out or whether they will try to sell the building to gain funds for the Council. The matter of Asset Transfer (as is recognised by the Scottish Government) was raised as an aspiration by the Tweedsmuir Community Company. TCC would take on the buildings of the old School and School House to be used to benefit the community rather than be sold for private housing.

**10.11.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 21<sup>st</sup> November 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](http://www.uppertweedcommunitycouncil.org.uk)