UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting and AGM held 17th June 2019

In Broughton Village Hall

**Present** Simon Edwards (Chairman), Andrew Weston (Treasurer), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary) Andrew Beveridge, Rosalind Birchall, David Campbell, Kirsty Hughes, Chris Lewin, Emma Reid, Nick Shapowal, Penny Wedderburn Scott, Councillor Heather Anderson (SBC) plus Ms Carn Peaston, Headteacher Broughton and Newlands Primary Schools.

**01.06.19 Apologies:**Christopher Lambton, Sally Walker, Councillor Kris Chapman (SBC), Councillor Eric Small (SBC)

**02.06.19 Minutes from last Meeting (held 20th May 2019)**The minutes were agreed

**03.06.19 Matters Arising from previous minutes**All to note that Planning Applications are now all on the SBC Public Access Portal (search by ‘current’ and area/postcode); no comments had been received regarding the Planning application at Kilbucho.

**04.06.19 Community Plan**- 5’x 3’ Notice Board: No progress to date. Following a discussion on size and type, Nick Shapowal agreed to look into getting a 5’ x 3’, ‘all weather’ Notice Board with sliding door made to be erected outside the Shop.

 **-** Electric Car Charging Points: None designated for Broughton, Dawyck assigned 2.

 - Transport: The Transport Summit, 28 June 19, Chris Lewin and Kirsty Hughes will be attending.

 - Broughton Speed reducing measures: A list of houses near Broughton Village Hall and the School is now compiled that will place ’30’ stickers on their bins, with the bins on the roadside facing the oncoming traffic, either side, alternate weeks to maximise effect. With regards the Traffic Speed Camera Van, Andrew Weston agreed to speak to a Mr Murphy to discuss the physical sighting of the van as in its current position the number plate recognition camera is inoperable clearly reducing overall effectiveness. Further to the Community Speed Watch initiative, the Chair has written to all 8 Tweeddale West CCs to gauge interest in obtaining an area Speed Gun; 6 of the 8 have now indicated an interest. Costings for this still to be sought and Vetting Forms to be completed, Councillor Anderson SBC agreed to assist. Rosalind Birchall made the meeting aware of speed calming measures required in the area of the bridge at Drumelzier. 3 accidents last year, none to date this year but numerous incidents. Councillor Anderson SBC impressed on the meeting the importance of reporting all incidents of any nature in order that a database can be built to fully evidence the issue.

**06.06.19** **VE Day 8th May 2020** (Meeting moved at this point to Item 6 of the Agenda; joined by the Headmistress of Broughton and Newlands Primary Schools, Ms Carn Peaston, to discuss this item). The Chair briefed that next year is the 75th anniversary of VE Day and it is intended to mark and celebrate this event. Broughton Village Hall has been booked from 4pm on Saturday, 9th May and it is hoped to involve the School in the afternoon celebrations and adults in the evening. Format for the event yet to be decided and it will require a Working Group of 3 or 4 people to be established to take this forward. Neil Morrison (Burnside) is very enthused about this and would like to be involved if his health permits. Thoughts would be a themed event with a bar and band for the evening. Ms Peaston expressed her delight at being involved and suggested that the School could make VE Day a focus for them in the period leading up to the day. She stated that a plan could be to involve staff and pupils and that there are numerous options as to what format this could take – class work, displays, drama, stalls and much more and she would be more than happy to work with the CC and its Working Group. She suggested this was something that the School could pick up after the February holiday and run through to the day itself. Each Year Group could be tasked with a different aspect. Ms Peaston further suggested part of the two In-Service Days for staff could be utilised for a brainstorming session on this, one of these days is 20th August to which the Chair asked to attend. It also transpires that England and Wales have altered the May holidays to accommodate the celebration of VE Day and Councillor Anderson was asked to check if this might be the same in Scotland.

Ms Peaston then took the opportunity to make the meeting aware of the significant effect on Broughton Primary the closure of the privately run Playgroup ‘Bananas’ will have. A number of parents have concerns due to the non-availability of the Breakfast Club and after School activities with this closure and a second order effect of this will be to ultimately drive parents to take their children to other schools where this is provided and thereby starve the Primary School of pupils. Newlands do have these facilities but the issue, as pointed out by Chris Lewin, is the transport between the two schools, we would need a bus. Councillor Anderson SBC explained to the meeting having spoken to Councillor Stewart Easingwood also of SBC, that this is a real issue and not just happening in Broughton, there is an imbalance across the region and it requires real attention as part of the Protection of rural communities issue. Families will settle where their children can have ease of access to schools. To note Biggar is full to capacity, not a level playing field. It requires 800 people a year to come and live in the south of Scotland to maintain current levels of service. The nearest council run facility is West Linton as Newlands is a private facility. Rural schools are strongly protected although Broughton reduced from 4 to 3 classes but will finally see a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) to join them. Ms McKinnon told the meeting that Broughton had 69 pupils and Newlands 82 and numbers are dropping as projections out to the next couple of years are showing. She further suggested this is a systemic issue not been highlighted enough. It was suggested the CC write to Councillor Easingwood to express our concerns and to find out exactly what is happening. A discussion ensued regarding what might be the uptake if transport was made available to get to Newlands, whether approach to the Wind Farm for funding for transport could be made, could ‘Bananas’ be sold; with the Summer holidays looming the situation was heading towards a crisis situation. Councillor Anderson SBC assured the meeting there was significant work going on in the background and that this matter was all part of the larger ‘Pre School Care and After School Care Rural Sustainability Issue’. Clearly much more to follow on this matter. Following this item Ms McKinnon left the meeting.

**05.06.19** **UTCC Website**

The Chair briefed he had sourced a Service provider and platform for the Website (£57 + VAT /yr) believing this still to be required to ensure the ‘.org.uk’ domain name. However, Emma Reid explained to the meeting that she had previously addressed the issue doing 95% of the work but a misunderstanding had resulted in her reversing her actions. It was also agreed that 2 or 3 people should have access rights to be able to update the site so it was not left reliant on one person. Emma kindly agreed to redo the work she had done and get us back up and running with the desired domain name.

**07.06.19 Planning**There have been two planning applications received
19/00797/LBC Internal and External alterations to Farmhouse and Steading buildings to form 5 No holiday Lets. Rachan Mill Farmhouse & Steading Buildings, Rachan Mill Farm;
19/00786/FUL Alterations and extension to existing Farmhouse and change of use, partial demolition and alterations of steading buildings to form 5 No holiday Lets. Rachan Mill Farmhouse & Steading Buildings, Rachan Mill Farm;
Details had been circulated by email for comment amongst the Community Council and comments received. Of particular note was the change of ownership to the ponds behind the Mill; it was also noted that 21st June is the closing date for comments and any received will be submitted by the Chair. An observation was made that a change to Holiday Lets was a shame and that it would seem current legislation for Landlords was pushing them towards Holiday Lets as opposed to private renting which will result in a significant shortage in the future. The meeting agreed to send concerns in to the Council and Councillor Anderson (SBC) accepted it would appear the Council are not actually looking at what is needed in the area.

**08.06.19 Microgrants**
2 applications received both from the Broughton Bowling Club.

£250 towards a Canopy between the Tennis Court and Bowling Pavilion; The Clubhouse is just not big enough especially when tournaments are on as has happened twice recently.

The second was ‘a contribution’ towards Green expenses due to these increasing (now £1,500 per annum). This was agreed. (Meeting Afternote: no figure was recorded).

**09.06.19 Shop Report**The Chair thanked everyone who has helped to prepare the shop for opening and he also thanked all those that turned up on 1st June for the official ribbon cutting. The shop is now laden with equipment and it is planned to open the doors on Saturday, 22nd June. This has been a tremendous effort by so many and a real Community success.

**10.06.19 Police Report**
None received
Andrew Beveridge made reference to the speeding through the village, which is of concern to the Police. There is intent to put more Traffic Camera Vans out and he made the meeting aware that the current site of the Van is not the best as it can be seen by offenders plus it is not well situated in order to provide it with a clear view of the front and rear of passing vehicles.

**11.06.19 SBC Report**The Council is currently engaged with a number of matters, the Speed Watch findings and the Nursery closures (as previously mentioned by Ms Carn Peaston. In addition, considerable consultation has been undertaken for the creation of a new Agency ‘South of Scotland Enterprise Agency’ concerned with rural economic development and tourism. The feedback has been positive and the Agency is to be created on 1 April 2020 delivering on Scottish Government’s vision for the South of Scotland.  The main themes are Tourism, Economy, Transport and Infrastructure and the areas of priority for the new agency will be infrastructure, good employment opportunities, the creation of a skilled workforce, and more opportunities for young people. The main benefit is to provide a proactive approach to helping and supporting communities. Furthermore there is work in progress on a very significant Borderlands Initiative – including Scottish Borders, Dumfries and Galloway, Cumbria and Northumberland. Innovative ideas are currently looking at Tourism in particular a Cycling Tourist Trail to/from the source of the Tweed. Desire to improve movement across the area is on the list plus there is funding available. Of special interest there is also the plans for the Crook Inn Development, plus maximising on the use of railway land. The South of Scotland Partnership is looking into this, headed up by Rob Dickson. Tweedsmuir are resistant to the use of the old railway line.

**12.06.19 AOB**

CPR/AED Refresher training has been organised for the evening of 4 July to be held in the Village Hall. So far up take has been poor. The event can take 12 at a time.

B7016 Road is closed with local access only.

Those asking for the App on which to report pot holes – it was given out by Councillor Kris Chapman and it is ‘Fix My Street’.

Sadly it is confirmed that the Laurel Bank Tearoom will close in September, possibility a For Sale sign is going up.

Re AGM Voting frequency will be moved to the next meeting.

There are numerous complaints regarding Parking in the village as well as Near Misses caused by poor parking and parking on pavements in the area of the School. After a discussion it was agreed that the CC should write to Councillor Jason Hedley regarding all concerns.

Andrew Weston is working on the Treasurer’s Report.

Broughton in Bloom – Emma Reid is working on the closure plan.

Chris Lewin and Kirsty Hughes briefed that they will be attending the Transport Summit on Friday, 28 June, 2019. Kirsty is focusing on transport to and from Edinburgh and Chris Sunday Bus Services and will report at next meeting.

Nick Shapowal reported that a timber waggon had been seen travelling along the Biggar Road which it clearly should not have done. It appears this is a significant issue.

Penny Wedderburn Scott briefed on the Clyde Borders Community Wind Farm Fund Panel meeting held on 5th June 2019 in Tweedsmuir Village Hall. The essence of the meeting had been focused on the plans for the significant development of the Crook Inn and she shared copies of the some plans showing what is proposed – initially a Café and Bunk House to start generating income. This development would be included in the wider plans for the Borderlands as briefed already by Councillor Anderson. It is to be awarded funds but with match funding will be asking the Wind Farm Fund for more funding (having already had significant monies). Penny also briefed that the two applications presented to the Panel, one for Broughton Village Hall and one for Drumelzier Village Hall had been agreed. There was also a review of the fund which is extremely healthy.

Meeting AfterNote – The date of the Next Meeting will be Monday, 15 July, 2019 in Broughton Village Hall.