UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held 16th March 2020

In Broughton Village Hall

NOTE: Meeting Held in Main Hall due to commencement of Social Distancing under COVID-19 Restrictions

**Present** Simon Edwards (Chairman), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Christopher Lambton, Emma Reid, Nick Shapowal, Andrew Beveridge, Kirsty Hughes, Councillor Eric Small SBC, plus two members of the public

**01.03.20 Apologies:**Penny Wedderburn Scot, Rosalind Birchall, Councillor Heather Anderson SBC, David Campbell, Chris Lewin

**02.03.20 Minutes from last Meeting (held 17th February 2020)**The minutes were agreed.

**03.03.20 Matters Arising from previous minutes**No matters arising.

**04.02.20 Community Plan**

The Chair opened by making reference to the unprecedented situation we found ourselves in with the Coronavirus pandemic now becoming an issue of National significance, he explained he did not want to have a long meeting and suggested most matters that the Committee discussed could continue to be dealt with via email and that he wanted to discuss the pandemic from a Community Council perspective to see what measure we should be considering in the light of an impending ‘Lockdown’ for all.

 **Public Bus Initiative**

Chris Lewin to continue with this matter via email. More than likely on hold till Sep/Oct time.

 **Paths & Signs**

Again progress to continue via email.

 **Litter Collection**

Chair stated that this was to be organised for 4 April 20 but clearly under current circumstances would not go ahead as last year and suggested if folk were out walking and could ‘Pick Up’ to do so but nothing would be organised officially.

**05.03.20 VE Day – Friday, 8th May 2020.**

Chair stated update would be forthcoming via Email, likely to be cancelled.

**Post Meeting Edit**: It is hoped that similar celebrations will be held on the anniversary of VJ Day on the weekend of 15th & 16th August 2020.

**06.03.20 Planning Applications.**

Glencotho Wood was the only new application and the Secretary (a resident of the area) informed the meeting there was nothing unexpected and Tilhill were communicating with local residents.

**07.03.20 Mircrogrants.**

Application from Broughton in Bloom anticipated and the Chair agreed to deal with this via email.

**08.03.20** **Police Report**.

The Chair reported he had received a very comprehensive report from the police (6 pages) covering the whole of the Tweedale area. For the Uppertweed area the Police made reference to a number of thefts, one of a trailer and another of an oil tank plus a number of counterfeit £20 notes have come to light in the area.

**09.03.20 SBC Councillors Report**

Councillor Eric Small said he did not have a report as the Council were currently focused totally on responding to the Covid-19 crisis but there would be plenty of information and advice coming out via various mediums.

**10.03.20** **AOB**

 **UTCC Bank Account.** The Chair informed the meeting that he was still waiting for the account to be assigned to him, pending a new appointment of Treasurer. There are a number of Liabilities to be cleared and the UTCC financial year end is imminent.

 **Grit Bin .** Andrew informed the meeting he had reported the Grit Bin empty using the SBC website and it has now been refilled.

 **Dog Poo #1.** The Chair informed the meeting that he had asked Councillor Heather Anderson to bring this matter to the attention of the Dog Education Officer and he has also emailed Neil Pringle to see if we could obtain extra bins. Following a discussion the Chair suggested labels should be placed on all bins to informed the community that dog waste, properly bagged, can be placed in any bin as it was evident that people were unaware.

 **Dog Poo #2.** The Chair explained that a local land owner was having difficulties with local residents who were exercising their dogs, off the lead, in a field of livestock. In addition to which, dog poo was being left and not collected. This is a serious issue and due to some local residents ignoring requests from the land owner, Police Scotland are now involved.

 **Covid-19.** The Chair explained to the Committee the real reason he had been keen to rush through the normal Agenda (plus why we were sat in the main hall adopting 2m distance from each other) as everyone was well aware of the situation regarding the spread of the Coronavirus and the imminent increase in restrictions anticipated by the Government in order to introduce Social Distancing and a ‘Support the NHS, Stay Home, Stay Safe’ policy. A thorough and comprehensive discussion was had regarding who we might consider Vulnerable in the Community, how as a CC we would support with the provision of Resilient Community Volunteers and in particular how to ensure the Shop stayed open in particular whilst also protecting the Staff. After a very useful, informative and full discussion on how the CC could support the Community the Chair confirmed his three immediate thoughts:

 1. Await further information /instructions (from SBC)

 2. Thinking of Security was paramount

 3. Any support provided would not involve the handling of money (goods can be ordered from the shop and paid for over the phone)

The Chair further confirmed that we must look for direction from SBC and suggested he would engage with Councillor Eric over the next few days in particular on guidance being promulgated, on how they anticipated communities look after their number and the Facebook page would more than likely be the main Community information portal.

 **Date of Next Meeting**. The next meeting is scheduled for 20 April, 20 but further details of how this will take place to follow in due course as it was felt unlikely we would be ‘meeting’.

**Post Meeting Edit**: An invitation for an online meeting will be issued in due course.