UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held 20th January 2020

In Broughton Village Hall

**Present** Simon Edwards (Chairman), Andrew Weston (Treasurer), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Chris Lewin, Christopher Lambton, Emma Reid, Nick Shapowal, Councillor Heather Anderson SBC, Gareth Shields, SSE and Sam Bowsher, Wood carver plus two members of the public.

**01.01.20 Apologies:**David Campbell, Andrew Beveridge, Penny Wedderburn Scott, Rosalind Birchall Councillor Eric Small (SBC), Kirsty Hughes

**02.01.20 Minutes from last Meeting (held 18 November 2019)**The minutes were agreed.

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

**04.01.20 Community Initiative - Plan for Tree Stump close to School - Sam Bowsher**

 The Chairman introduced Sam Bowsher of Chip Off The Old Block Chainsaw Carving whom he had invited to give a brief on the options open to the Community for what we might do with the tree stump left by the felled tree close to the School. The Chair suggested a way forward was for us to come up with ideas and then ask the school to choose. The matter of funding was raised and Sam Bowsher gave an approximate figure of £2.2k and it was agreed we would need to apply for funding for such an amount. Following fluid discourse the next steps were generally agreed as detailed below which the Chair accepted to take forward:

 1. Find out the exact status of the Tree stump; if it is rotten it should be taken down to ground level;

 2. Decide on the exact position we would wish the carving to be placed if the stump is not to be used, possibly the triangle of grass close to School;

 3. Pull our ideas together, in particular the theme and then approach the school to choose from a short list;

 4. Once agreed; go back to Sam Bowsher for a quote and outline sketches

 The Chair closed with thanking Sam for attending.

**05.01.20 SSE Funding – Visitor Gareth Shields – SSE Community Investment**

 The Chair introduced Gather Shields from SSE to give the Committee an update on the Wind Farm Funds but in particular to discuss the possibility of an Endowment Fund. Gareth explained that having been approached by Clyde Borders Wind Farm Fund Panel to investigate the possibility of establishing an endowment fund, he thought to look into it for the three communities (Uppertweed, Tweedsmuir, Skirling) allowing for funds to continue for future generations after the Clyde Extension Wind Farm Fund has lapsed. The Fund’s tenure is for 25 years only (currently three years in). He continued to explain an Endowment is similar to an ISA, an amount is put in, is managed by a 3rd party and over the years the initial investment should grow to give a return. “Foundation Scotland” would have an agreement with the Community Councils and the Panel would be the decision makers as they are now (Foundation Scotland is an independent charity established to strengthen local communities by providing a source of funding to community led projects the length and breadth of Scotland). Gareth continued to explain the next step would be to get agreement from all 3 CCs, agree with Foundation Scotland, the Panel take over management and then just a question of how much to put in the endowment. The committee discussed Gareth’s proposal and were all in general agreement this was an excellent initiative, we would be interested in participating, that at least two reps from each CC would represent their CC on the panel much as they do now. Gareth continued to explain that Foundation Scotland use 6 – 10 different organisations to invest in and that he is speaking to all 3 CCs in the same way. There was further discussion on this and then a number of questions posed to Gareth; could the wood carving project be funded in its entirety, with a yes from Gareth. Christopher registered a ‘Thank you’ from the Shop and Isabel asked about Youth Bursaries (18 years of age and below) as to the upper limit, Gareth said no limit as far as he was concerned and it was agreed we had imposed our own limit of £250 per request. The Chair thanked Gareth for attending.

**06.01.20 Bite and Blether**

The Chair informed the meeting that the Bite and Blether trial had been a huge success with a minimum attendance of 24 over the 6 weeks and a profit of £198.56 made. Since the trial concluded there had been considerable discussion between the Chair and Emma regarding taking this forward with a number of options considered including engagement with the Laurel Bank Tea Room who had concluded after three meetings that they would not be interested as they could not afford to take it on. It had therefore been decided to try and satisfy the majority and have Bite and Blether back but on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month only. To set it up permanently some expenditure was required in particular on a George Forman Grill and the profits would be used for this. Emma explained that she had already started to promulgate the dates for the year and attract volunteers to help of which there appeared to be plenty.. Chris commented that we should pop an article into the Community news as we must publicise the event well ensuring people know the dates and expand out to Tweedsmuir and Skirling. Emma was ensuring there was a rota for Cakes.

**07.01.20 BT Adopt a Kiosk.** The Chair announced that we were now the proud owners of the Kiosk in Dreva Road, but not the one at the School or in Drumelzier as SBC told BT that these should be retained. The Phone in the kiosk at Dreva Road has been removed and is owned now by Broughton in Bloom with notices inside to say no longer a telephone box. Broughton in Bloom are now able to do what they wish with the phone box and have the details on how to maintain (paint etc). Chris asked if there were any duties/responsibilities devolved that go with the ownership and if we are covered for accidents. The Chair was able to reassure that following the Insurance renewal we had the necessary cover and SBC pay for it. Tess advised that she had an idea of using the phone box as an ‘Exchange Box’ for the village, where garden items and the like could be left to be exchanged, items not able to fit in the phone box could be detailed in a book and where to find them. This was generally considered a good idea although the Health and Safety aspect would have to be looked at and one or two concerns of security were raised but certainly an idea in the making for consideration.

**08.01.20** **VE Day – Friday, 8th May 2020**

**T**he Chair was pleased to announce that we have a Bugler for the day and the programme is confirmed. The outline is as follows:

1455 hrs Bugler plays last post

 1500 hrs piper plays Battle’s O’er

1505 hrs Sir Hew Strachan, Lord Lieutenant of Tweeddale, Speech

Callum McDougal to deliver the Blessing at the War Memorial

 On completion all to retire to the Village Hall

 The School are putting on ‘games’ of the period and the walls of the hall will be decorated with the work produced from the Schools various projects as well as covered in plenty of bunting. In the evening the hall will be set with long tables and it is thought there will be food of the era but very much a Bring Your Own Bottle event. There will be local entertainment and the Chair confirmed he had emailed Biggar Big Band who play Swing Music, it is also planned to have News Reel footage of the time showing. The Hall is now booked from midday to midnight and a Wind Farm grant is being applied for to cover the costs for the day. It is hoped to be a ‘cracking’ event.

**09.01.20 Planning Applications**

 **3 New dwelling houses at Beechgrove**: These houses were discussed, the details of this application had previously been circulated to the committee by the Chair and he explained that since receiving comments he had written to the SBC Planning Officer regarding the concerns the Committee had in particular the design proposals, also the need to the extend 30 mph speed limit and extension of footpaths. There was a general discussion regarding the state of the roads in the area with numerous pot holes and the lack of action being taken by the Council despite being repeatedly reported. Councillor Heather remarked that there appeared to be a failing of the process of reporting as even her formal requests for action were not being addressed.

 **Housing at Springwellbrae**: It was generally agreed there was no objection to the housing (should look at as a planning gain as remarked by Christopher, more people into the village) but that it was the junction with the main road that was the cause for concern. The Chair confirmed he had written in November, including an offer of a meeting on site but to date had heard nothing in response. Scott asked what other options we might have to solve the road junction issue and the Chair offered that the only other option was to have a new road built round the back, the Smith Croft option which would see an extension of Hawdene. This was discussed at some length and Councillor Heather was asked if she could assist in getting some movement on this matter.

**10.01.20 Mircrogrants.**

 3 requests for Sport grants were agreed, limited to £250 each.

**11.01.20 Police Report**.

The Chair reported that the first of the new generic Police Reports had been received. It was brief but highlighted a number of rural thefts and accidents along the B7016 Biggar to Broughton road.

**12.01.20 SBC Councillors Report**
Councillor Heather reported that Peebles High School was now getting back up and running following the fire at the end of last year with a number of portacabins installed. It is anticipated that the new School will be built much earlier than the current 2032 plan. No particular other issues to report. The UK Governance Budget is set for 11 March which is a problem as it effects Scotland; 20 February is the SBC Budget Meeting. Other matters to report is the Sustainable Development Meeting on Climate change on 31 March, could have a significant impact in this area.

**13.01.20 AOB**

The Chair advised the meeting that the First Responders Group were actively seeking more volunteers with a plea from Fiona Pagett to get in touch (Fpagett@gmail.com).

 The Chair publically thanked Malcolm Bruce for the super Christmas Tree and lights displayed over the festive season.

 The Chair announced that sadly due to ill health Andrew Weston would be resigning as Treasurer, he thanked Andrew for all his hard work and efforts on behalf of the UTCC and wished him well for a speedy full recovery. He further advised that the CC would now be seeking a new Treasurer.

 Isobel Bruce informed the meeting of the huge difference Phase 1 of the footpath works to Rachan Mill had made for access to all pedestrians. There is still the part to be done from the 30 mph sign to Rachan itself yet to complete but at least the path up to this point is accessible to Prams and mobility scooters etc. Perhaps these works are suitable for the small grant scheme. Robert Cook was thanked by the Chair and Committee for his efforts with the clearing of the path through Broughton.

Emma reported that dog fouling has become a big issue once again and that she had already made signs and spoken to Rose Hogg, the Dog Education Officer.

 **Date of Next Meeting**. The next meeting will be held on 17 February 2020 in Broughton Village Hall.