Upper Tweed Community Council Meeting

Drumelzier Village Hall

7pm, Monday 21st August, 2023

Present: **AB** Andrew Beveridge (Chair), **TG** Tess Goodwin, **RB** Rosalind Birchall (Treasurer), **SS** Steph Stewart, **CW** Chelsea Shapiro- Waugh, **VT** Viv Thompson, **ES** Eric Small and six members of the public.

Apologies **SJ** Stephanie Jackman, **SB** Susan Brown, **JB** Jennifer McBeth. J**K** Justin King

**Approval of last minutes** –

**TG** taking minutes for this session in Stephanie Jackman’s absence.

**Proposal for Development Officer for Broughton**. Suggested by Colin McMillan from wind farm that Broughton, Skirling and Tweedsmuir could share a full-time development worker, which would assist greatly with some of the time and energy that is required to get some ‘projects’ up and running. Tweedsmuir already has a development officer, and it is thought that Skirling is in the process of looking into it.

Signage **- RB requested that the Council look at the road signage.** Much of the works regarding the road signage has been done, which is much appreciated. North bound signage needs improvement still - Light out at 30MPH and sudden change of speed as entering the village. **VT** to review. It was discussed again that the speed limit could be reduced more gradually from 60 to 40 before reaching 20mph.

Defib **- RB** reminded everyone of the defib awareness course that is taking place on 20th September in Broughton Village Hall. 15 spaces are available. Contact **Stephanie Jackman** to reserve a place. Posters have gone up around the village.

Sandbags **- VT l**ooking into a container for sandbag storage.

Electrical Charging Point **- Drummond Begg** had been asked to investigate the possibility of an electrical charging point in Broughton. **VT** said SBC are pulling together a plan which would potentially include Broughton.

Fun Day **- CW** updated the group on the ‘Fun Day’ which was potentially happening on 9th or 10th September in Broughton Village Hall**. JM** and **CW** to coordinate and organised. The group agreed that the event would be scaled down from the original plans. **RB** said funding could be made available for this. **TG** is keen that village events/gatherings are not always extravagant in terms of cost and resources as this is unnecessary and living out with of planetary limits.

Planning – NO new planning applications. Short term holiday lets have been approved. Rachan Farm application appealed.

Treasurers Report – The Treasurer’s Report had been circulated with the Agenda. **RB** had made a successful application to SBC for annual Grant including money for meetings venue reimbursement = £830. Expenditure zero for the month**. RB** proposed to take money from resilient fund to pay for defibrillator course £225. No Youth Bursaries. Two Micro grants agreed - £86 to Friends of Broughton Knowe and £250 to Merlindale Festival for horses and mower. One micro grant had been declined as out with the area. Significant money still left in ‘Coronation’ fund £3,130 available for community events during the coming year. £408 ring fenced for bonfire event. Balance in UTCC fund £1,668 for hall hire, website ie running costs of community council. The bank balance on 18th September for all funds was £10,115.
**VT** enquired if UTCC had received the questionnaire from SBC asking if the annual allowance (for running costs of community council) was adequate as has not been increased since 2009 SBC allowance is pro-rata per population. After discussion, it seemed that this survey had not been received yet.

Police Report – There has been no police presence for a long time. **VT** Suggested **James Harrison** new Police Officer could come along to a meeting as Police have attended no meetings apart from two in Peebles (after reports of people being attacked), it was felt that this would raise the profile/visibility of local policing generate community ‘good feeling’.

Simon **Edwards** had agreed to house the pop-up cardboard Policeman which will appear in the middle of the village as a speeding deterrent, (seems to be the main traffic issue in Broughton.)

SBC Report – Working with Housing Associations including Broughton trying to resolve issues. Small Schemes delayed due to change of staff, **VT** is attending to this. Peebles High School 3G football pitch work still ongoing, gym hall happening. Still behind due to weather! A few things from contractor waiting to be installed.

All Councillors to be put on a bus for a jolly in September to look at……? Went to opening of water treatment plant, which was impressive. Only two people operate entire plant.

Peebles swimming Pool refurb complete.

Live Borders recent research into how residents travel to/access facilities/events (particularly evening things) was very biased in the format of its questions to people living in towns and larger conurbations ie not accounting for rural living at all. This was raised by our councillors.

 Starting to communicate across borders with Lanarkshire for a more joined up approach. A bid was submitted for a late-night bus for the Edinburgh Festival period but heard nothing back. **AB** suggested it being organised for the Biggar Little Festival in October.

Noticeboard - RB said the UTCC notice board at the school gates was owned by the guild and was installed in 1987 and is no longer fit for purpose as there is no key and door falls off when opened. **RB** suggested that a new ‘Coronation’ Noticeboard should be purchased at a cost of approx. £400 with left over money from coronation lottery fund. **CW** said the school’s noticeboard was barely used, so rather than purchase a new one the UTCC could probably use that one instead. **CW** to check regarding the school’s board. **RB** also suggested a ‘Coronation’ bench should be installed somewhere in the village – no one could think particularly of a good place for one and it was felt that this would be best left until the upgrade works in George IV playing fields were underway.

Any Other Business

**Litter Picking** back on the agenda with involvement of school children to contact Simon Edwards/ Dave Campbell as regards equipment. This should happen regularly. Skirling and Biggar litter picking groups are quite proactive and have picked halfway along the main road to Broughton over the past year, collecting 15 bags of rubbish. **TG** suggested that it could be part of the fun day in September, saying that including these things as part of a larger and ‘fun’ event would involve more people and ‘normalise’ taking care of ‘our place’. **SS** thought this to be a good idea – maybe in the morning of the event or sandwiched in between fun activities and food.

**Newcomers Party** hasn’t happened for 4 years. It used to be an annual event organised by Richard Carr. Donald Stewart helped to co-ordinate previous years. **CW** suggested that perhaps it could be combined with the Social club event. Suggested November or mid Jan/Feb, date to be confirmed, for anyone new to the village in the past 5 years particularly welcome, but also anyone else – to further mitigate the isolation impacts of Covid. **DS** to check in with Richard Carr as to whether he still wants to be involved with organisation. **TG** to look at dates as regards to combining with the Social Make and Play.

**Dumping of bottles/rubbish at bottle bank –** concerns regarding the amount of rubbish and bottles (some broken) being dumped on a large-scale basis, also, people urinating there (hidden by the overly tall enclosure). The enclosure is in disrepair and due to be replaced by the council - could be lowered or removed. Community members are regularly cleaning up the mess. **VT** communicating with the council re the enclosure.

**Community Conversations** – Peebles 29th August 4-7pm at Peebles High School ‘What Really Matters In Your Community’ raise any issue/thoughts with a team of councillors. **CW** will make a poster for shop window.

**UT Community News - Emma Reid** asked if the UTCC would consider helping with funding for the publication to be distributed for FREE to all Broughton households quarterly. This already happens in Tweedsmuir. The Upper Tweed Community News is an important source of information that keeps all the different communities connected, especially for those without social media. The UTCC agreed to look into the options available and perhaps communicating with other Community Councils is the way forward when applying for grants. **SS suggested we** fund raise some of the money needed as a token gesture. Approx. 288 households (according to 2011 census) x 4 = £1152 per year.  **VT** to ask Kenny Harrow at the council re any suitable funding pots.

**TG** suggested school children, both primary and high school being regularly involved with Community News in small reporting roles. **CS** to bring this to next parent council meeting.

 **Water bottle refill station in Broughton - TG** contacted Scottish Water regarding this idea and they said they have had hundreds of requests, but Broughton is now on the list. Perhaps a better solution would be to use outside tap that has already been installed at the public toilets by **Broughton in** **Bloom**. We will need to ask Broughton in Bloom out of courtesy, but firstly **VT to check with** the water treatment plant if it is drinking water.

Date of next meeting - 7.00pm Monday 18th September in Broughton Village Hall