**UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL (UTCC)**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 17 June, 2024, in Broughton Village Hall**

**Present :** Steph Stewart (Co-Chairman with Justin King), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Susan Brown (Treasurer), Jen McBeth, Tess Goodwin, Shona Scott, Councillor Eric Small SBC and four members of the public

**01.06.24** **Apologies :** Councillor Viv Thomson SBC, Councillor Drummond Begg, Justin King, Jen McBeth, Chelsea Shapiro-Waugh

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, her first as Chair and proceeded to deliver the Parish notices. First of all, to publicly congratulate Sir Hew Strachan, Lord Lieutenant of Tweedsmuir, who received a CVO (Commander Victorian Order) in the recent King’s Birthday Honours, a tremendous achievement as he comes to the end of his tenure; secondly on a very sad note to make mention of the recent passing of two significant figures in the village, Hugh Morrison and Captain Sir David Younger KCVO, a considerable loss to the Community and condolences are sent to family and friends.

**02.06.24** **Minutes from the last meeting** on 20 May, 2024 were approved with a comment that the item, and member of the public who raised the issue, under AOB regarding Geo-Engineering, should be directed towards David Lintott (Merlindale).

**03.06.24 Matters Arising.**  There were no matters arising.

**04.06.24 Actions Register.** The Secretary drew attention to one matter still listed as WIP regarding the monies awarded to the UTCC for a Marque from our successful SSE Windfarm application. Following discussion it was decided that since the Shop had bought a Marque which was of the size and type the UTCC had considered, and, with the understanding that the UTCC might hire it for any events or Village Days that were held in the future, we would no longer go ahead with purchasing our own. There was a further outstanding item regarding a Request to the Council for a new Sandbag Shed to be located in Dreva Road and it was agreed this would be discussed in AOB later on in the meeting.

**05.06.24 Planning.** There was only one Planning Application as follows:

1. **Discharge of planning obligation pursuant to planning permission 03/00349/OUT**

Broughton, Biggar, Scottish Borders (24/00585/MOD75)

It was agreed there was no requirement for UTCC formal comment after the Chair informed the meeting that in this case the ‘obligation’ was the separation of the Farm House from the Farm.

**06.06.24 Treasurers Report** wascirculatedprior to the meeting. Susan stated that the Bank balance @ 17 June was £4,426.31, that there had been no income since the last meeting and the only expenditure had been £170 which was for the refurbishment of the Notice Board situated near the School.

**07.06.24 Youth Bursaries (YB)/Micro-grants(MG):** 1 x YB Application had been received, a youth to attend a Summer Activity Camp at Whiston Lodge; having been circulated in advance of the meeting to the CCs, it was agreed that this was a worthy cause and all confirmed their support for the application. The Secretary did make known that the application had been received at the eleventh hour and requested that applications are submitted in a timely manner to ensure they are not missed.

**08.06.24 Multi Member Ward Report (Police).** The Report (May 24) had been circulated to all members. It was noted that there had been significant anti-social behaviour in the Peebles area and a number of Break-Ins in Drumelzier, Tweedsmuir and Innerleithen. Councillor Eric commented that it would be worth advising all to stay vigilant and alert; Chelsea said she would put the Reports up on the Website so others could read them and take action as they saw fit. Councillor Eric further stated that there had been an incident at Peebles High School and the Anti-social behaviour had involved a private house. He also informed the meeting that should anyone be involved in an incident it is vital they phone 101 and get an Incident Number, thus ensuring the incident is fully logged and can be tracked. Discussion turned to consideration of how we might start a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, it was agreed we would see what interest there was in the Community by putting a message out on the Broughton Facebook Page. Tess in addition commented that there is very little for youths to do and offered to touch base with a person in the village who she knows is keen to get some youth engagement going; Shona further stated that the Police are limited in what they can do with such extensive areas to cover. Councillor Eric agreed to mention our concerns in his weekly meetings.

**Actions: Shona Scott to post a Neighbourhood Watch canvass message on the Broughton Facebook page**

**09.06.24 Councillors Report:** Councillor Eric SBC commenced by reporting that the works to install Solar Panels on the roofs of the houses in Hawdene was now complete to the delight of the residences. It is anticipated it will make a considerable difference to each household; He continued to explain that a planned Talk to the Children in the School had had to be postponed till after the Election but will be going ahead; Moving on to Speeding which continues to be an issue in the area, Councillor Eric reported that Skirling and West Linton had come together tyo form a group in order to support each other in the capture of data for speeding through their villages. As Councillor Eric explained it was necessary to have the evidence to back up the claims before anything will be done. A detailed discussion followed but it was clear all the CCs were in agreement, something must be done to stop vehicles speeding through the village. Tess offered to touch base with Skirling CC re joint CC's meetings re speeding issues. On conclusion of the discussion the Chair summarised stating that in the future we would have Speeding as a Standing Agenda item each month ensuring we continue to work on the matter until we reach a suitable solution; we would try and source a pop-up body, the Secretary saying they only cost £150; Councillor Eric also suggested we should be in touch with Sgt Harrison, J Division Borders/Peebles Area to source a Speed gun and finally we would look into having some new white lines put down at the junction with the B7016 to prevent parking on the corner.

**Actions: The Secretary will have ‘Speeding’ as a Standing Agenda item; the Secretary will get in touch with Phillips Gilhooly SBC again regarding anything further we can do to encourage drivers to slow down to the speed limit on entering the village; the Secretary will get in touch with Sgt Harrison regarding obtaining the Pop Up Bob promised and potentially look into the UTCC having its own speed gun.**

**10.06.24 How Many Planets?** Tess Goodwin delivered a brief interactive presentation regarding our overuse of the natural resources on our planets and how we are harming earth. It was extremely interesting and informative and most agreed that her recommendation to stop buying new and to look for second-hand made a lot of sense.

**11.06.24 AOB:**

**Christmas Lights at the School.** Susan reported that the Christmas Lights at the School need replacing, it was agreed that the UTCC should fund these.

**SSE Panel Meeting.** The Secretary informed the meeting that she had attended the recent meeting of the Panel for the SSE Windfarm. One item was of significant interest in that all the Community Councils agreed that Youth Bursary requests were on the increase but it was felt this was a good thing in that the youth were getting some real tangible benefit from the Windfarm. She further explained that our annual grant would be increased and that although the monies were ring fenced for Youth Bursaries and Micro Grants it mattered not that we spent most on Youth Bursaries if this was driven by demand.

**Sandbag Shed**: The Secretary delivered the update as she understood it, in that our request for a new Sandbag Shed to be located on a small piece of ground on the Dreva Road, on the left just beyond the bridge, had been declined by the Council, the alternative suggestion to put it in the Village Hall Car Park had been declined by the Hall Committee. During discussion it was pointed out that since Broughton in Bloom was no longer their shed in the Village Hall Car Park would now be vacant and potentially this could be used for Sandbags. This would be a welcome action with the residents close to the Village Hall. Discussion continued and it was evident that our now lack of any sort of Resilience Group in the Community would be an issue when we move from Summer months to Winter months. All agreed it was not a desirable situation and that together we needed to come up with some ideas, a few thoughts were put on the table but more consideration was needed and this would be taken up again at the next meeting. In the meantime the Secretary would make enquiries with our Resilience contact in the Council, Andy McLean.

**Action: The Secretary to discuss Broughton’s lack of Resilience Group with Andy McLean.**

**Toilets:** A member of the public requested that the Public Toilets be refurbished as they were in need of an upgrade. Councillor Eric said he would look into this.

Next meeting is on **Monday, 15 July, 2024 at 7pm, in DRUMELZIER VILLAGE HALL.**

SLELL 07/07/24