**UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL (UTCC)**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 16 September 2024, at 7pm in Broughton Village Hall**

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

**01.09.24 Apologies.** Councillor Drummond Begg SBC, Chelsea Shapiro-Waugh, Mark Davey of Peebleshire News

**02.09.24** **Minutes from the last meeting and Matters Arising.** The Minutes from the meeting held on 19 August, 2024 were approved and there were no Matters Arising that were not to be discussed in the Agenda.

**03.09.24 Actions Register.** The Secretary drew attention to Actions from the last meeting and progress made.

* **Sandbag Shed**. The Sandbags in the Village Hall Car Park are now located in the Resilience Shed, Shona agreed to share a Facebook photo so there would be no doubt which shed it was. It was agreed the Shed would be **left Open**. Councillor Eric suggested we liaise with Tweedsmuir CC as they have to come and collect their Community Sandbags for the Broughton Primary School (Andy Mitchell is the POC at SBC).
* **Phone Box**. Tess has addressed the tidying up of the Phone Box and she expressed a desire to carry on using it as a Recycling Centre and would like to work with the School and the children on recycling. She explained that the majority of the UK’s recycling (from Supermarkets etc) went overseas as the UK cannot handle it, however, her recycling collected she sends to Terracycle but can only send it in very large quantities so she needs help with this. All agreed it would continue and we would monitor progress in 2/3 months time.

**ACTION**: Tess would prepare some information for Shona to post on Facebook; Susan would inform the School; Justin/Steph monitor project over the next 2/3 months.

* **Dog Fouling**. Councillor Viv informed the meeting that the appropriate stencils have been put back by the School; there was some discussion as to what colour they were in as they are not very visible. Steph suggested we have a poo bag dispenser in the park and although requested the shop bin could not be moved.

**ACTION**: Poo Bags dispenser to be located in the Park – Steph.

* **White lines** on the Road. Councillor Viv confirmed this task was on ‘the List’.
* **Community BonFire Event**: The Secretary advised that the organisation of this was well in the hands of the Campbells and would be going ahead (9 November). The meeting were informed that the planned site for the event would need to be trimmed and it was suggested Alan Warnock would do this.

**ACTION**: Susan to liaise with Alan Warnock to get the site of the Bonfire trimmed.

* **Tree Survey**. Councillor Viv SBC will respond on this.
* **Street Lights**. The meeting was informed that some of the faulty street lights have been fixed.

**04.09.24 COMMUNITY FORUM**

The following issues were raised by the public:

* **Buses.** Councillor Viv SBC confirmed that on asking when the contract for the buses was to end was told that it already had but that the status quo would continue until the end of March 2025. She also said that all feedback from the consultation was now in and agreed she had been receiving conflicting information as it was clear there was no funding for a new bus timetable, particularly as the bus was not used enough, so it was a fait a complis that it would move to a dial up ‘taxi’ service. You would need to book a day in advance of travel and you would be taken to the nearest bus stop to be able to alight on a bus to take you to your destination. Following this news there ensued considerable discussion: the Community are not happy with this at all especially as it would appear there was no point in giving feedback if the decision has already been made to stop the bus; the bus is the life line for rural communities; how would the new system work in practice; what happens to the children who need to get to Biggar for School. Justin, chairing the meeting, suggested we make this the main topic for next month’s meeting and asked if this could be widely publicised so we could get a good turnout for the meeting to really be able to gauge feeling on this matter. Councillor Viv SBC did say that the two pilot schemes currently running in other areas were working well but this did not satisfy those present.

**ACTION: Secretary to make The Review of the current Bus Service the main Agenda item for next meeting.**

* **Road Closure.** It was commented that on the recent road closures in the area the signage was very poor indeed. Councillor Viv SBC took note.
* **Tree Survey-Insect Life-Grass Cutting-Hedge Cutting.**   A concerned member of the Community asked why many trees in the area were dead and dieing particularly along the railway line and that he would like a report on this; similarly there was a complete lack of insects these days. In addition, why was the grass only cut every 4 weeks and the hedges once a year it was ‘ridiculous’ and should be more frequent. Tess, having a particular interest in caring for the environment pointed out that grass and hedge cutting were actually one of the many reasons there were less insects about, and we should be cutting far less not more. She also suggested that this might be a topic of considerable interest to many and that perhaps the Community member concerned would like to hold a public meeting one evening to discuss these issues and develop a case to take forward to the Council and those more able to address these type of issues.
* **‘20 Minute Neighbourhood’**. In response to a question Councillor Viv SBC explained that there was a thought for the future that all Neighbourhoods should only be within 20 minutes of life amenities and this is what was meant by 20 Minute Neighbourhood.
* **John Buchan Way Car Park.** Jemima Elliott informed the meeting that the John Buchan Way Car Park currently situated just past Broughton Place was to be closed within the next month and that new signs plus the strategic placing of logs would indicate the Car Park was no longer in operation. A variety of reasons had forced her to make this decision, and that the Walkers for the John Buchan way would have to use the Village Hall Car Park.

**ACTION: Shona to advertise the current John Buchan Way Car Park would be closing and Walkers to use the Village Hall Car Park.**

**05.09.24 Planning.** No applications for discussion.

**06.09.24 Treasurer’s Report** wascirculatedprior to the meeting. Susan stated that the Bank balance @ 16 September 2024 was £6,119.31; expenditure had been on the Village Day and Hall Hire amounting to £410.00 plus the payment of one Micro-grant. In terms of income, SBC had paid the Hall Hire and Annual Allocation monies amounting to £923.00.

**07.09.24 Youth Bursaries (YB)/Micro-grants(MG):** 0. Susan asked for confirmation of who to pay monies to support the Community Bite & Blether and it was agreed it should be paid to the Manager of The Shop (Jen) as they were now running Bite & Blether, the income from the event would go towards paying for the hall hire.

**08.09.24 Multi Member Ward Report (Police) - AUGUST.** No report received as Sgt Harrison has moved on; the new incumbent has yet to take up the post.

**09.09.24 Councillors Report.** Councillor Viv SBC commenced by reporting on The Small Scheme List stating they were currently up to date, had budgeted well and would be soon coming round again to refresh the list of tasks to be addressed (roads/pavements etc). Councillor Eric SBC reported that the new Play Area design would be coming out either this coming week or the next and would be sent to the CC and to the School for consultation (minor rather than major tweaks). Works would start imminently with the clearing of the bark and completion was to be March 2025. He said there was a lot of equipment included in it and we had the option to add things to it if we wished. It should be noted that the current equipment would be taken away and the area soiled over so it could green up; the actual area of the equipment would be spongy and the design was merely a draft. Time for comment once we had seen the plan.

**10.09.24 Speeding.** Gwen confirmed that the new ‘Be Speed Aware’ ‘child’ cut-outs now had funding with monies agreed for Peter; she had seen the head teacher and Secretary, and the School were keen. She asked the Councillors present if it was alright to locate the cut-outs in the verge, that they would be painted with reflective paint and varnished to withstand the weather, they would be approximately 4ft, numbering 8 with some for Drumelzier too and they would be on stakes. The Councillors commented that as long as they were not causing an obstruction they saw no issue. Councillor Viv SBC also commented that it had been confirmed that ‘Tracks’ had registered there was no issue with speeding through the Village but that she was well aware having stood at the side of the road the reality was quite different.

**11.09.24 UTCC Place Plan.** Steph reported that she was planning on attending Bite and Blether on 2 October to talk to folk there about our ideas and the way forward; she asked Susan if she could take the ideas to the School and talk to Staff and parents there with an aim of getting more ideas to add to the current list. Councillor Viv also suggested we speak to other CCs, West Linton for example to get further thoughts and inform our own thinking, she explained the SBC Local plan which was in place for 5 years was purely about Planning (homes) whereas our Place Plan should be more extensive and about what we wanted for and in our Community, what we ultimately wanted our Community to be like and how do we make it happen; she further suggested looking at Tweedsmuir as they were now on their second 5 year plan. It is all about Our Aspirations for the Place where we live. Councillor Eric suggested we also considered Destination Tweed within our thinking and Plan.

**12.09.24 Website / Facebook.** Shona explained that she and Chelsea had met and she now has the ‘Rights’ so can start ‘writing to the Website and the Facebook page.

**13.09.24 Initiatives.** The Co-Chair, Justin, gave the update on the following: *(a new item listing the major projects/plans that the UTCC are currently undertaking or hoping to undertake, and where progress is detailed).*

**Children’s Play Park.** This has already been covered above and not strictly being delivered by the UTCCbut is listed here as a developing project. To be in situ March 2025.

**Community Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (CNWS).** A meeting is to be arranged, details to follow.

**Thermal Imaging.** Currently on-going in West Linton, Biggar and Tweedsmuir; West Linton have the equipment, and we are looking to join with Tweedsmuir in attaining the equipment for ourselves. We currently need volunteers to be trained to use the equipment and conduct the surveys. (If you are interested in this please get in touch).

**King George V Park.** Sub-Committee now established consisting of Justin, Tess, Gwen, Chelsea, Andrew Dunlop and Vicky Grant. Ownership and status of the Park confirmed with Field in Trust; engaged with a local landscape architect to get initial thoughts drawn up (hopefully without cost) producing a Master Plan to send out for Community engagement and consultation. Intent will be to hold Town Hall sessions to revise the plan and on development of this start to look for Funding (Windfarm etc).

**Pickle Ball & Paddle (Tennis Club).** Plans are to look to establish Pickle Ball & Paddle sessions on the Tennis courts, the Tennis Club are supportive, funding needs to be sourced.

**Park Public Toilets.** Councillor Eric SBC asked if the Community would like to take over the running of the Toilets. This question was met with a strong ‘No’.

**14.09.24** **Final Notices.** There being no more items to discuss the Chair confirmed the meeting closed.

***AFTER MEETING NOTICE.*** *On the conclusion of 5 years in post the current Secretary, Stephanie Jackman, has decided to ‘hang up her boots’. She has thoroughly enjoyed her tenure in post but feels it is time for someone else to pick up the reigns. She would like to wish the co-Chairs and current CC members all the very best for the future and their tenure and wishes to pass particular thanks to the UTCC’s three SBC Council Members who it has been a pleasure to work with.*

Next meeting is on **Monday, 21 October, 2024 at 7pm, in BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL.**

SLELL 10/10/24