

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 15 May 2023

In Broughton Village Hall at 7.00pm

Present

Julian Birchall as the Returning Officer

Andrew Beveridge (current Chairman)

Rosalind Birchall (current Vice Chairman/Treasurer)

Stephanie Jackman (current Secretary)

Committee Members: Chris Lewin, Nick Shapowal, Jayne Cook, Jen McBeth,

SBC Councillors: Eric Small

Five Members of the Public

Apologies

Christopher Lambton, Tess Goodwin

The Returning officer opened the Annual General Meeting for 2023, welcoming all. He then asked if the Minutes of the AGM held May 2022 could be agreed, receiving a positive response he invited the Chair to give his Report. Nick Shapowal questioned whether the AGM should be before or after the usual meeting, the Returning Officer acknowledged it was right to raise this as an issue and intimated it was the Chair's decision as to the order and he had been instructed to conduct the meeting in this way.

1. Chairman's Report

The past year has been the first full year where we have been able to operate without the necessary restrictions imposed by the pandemic. In response to increased public interest in our Community Council meetings we have rotated our meetings between Broughton Small Village Hall, Broughton Primary School and Drumelzier Village Hall to ensure we avoid unduly crowded spaces. This past year also saw two significant Community events with the "Broughton Party in the Park" (BPitP) to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee and the "Broughton Big Coronation Lunch" (BBCL) to celebrate the King's Coronation. Both events were blessed by fabulous weather and strong attendance from the local community demonstrating the wonderful community spirit that exists in the Upper Tweed Community Council area. This past year also saw the return of the ever-popular bonfire & fireworks night which was again extremely well attended.

Thanks

Once again, I would like to thank all the Community Council members (elected & co-opted) for their engagement in Community matters. We should always remember that the Community Council operates on a purely voluntary basis and by definition, CC members have to balance their CC duties with other personal and professional responsibilities. We are therefore grateful to all members of the serving Community Council that have given freely of their time in an effort to serve the local community. Three of our UTCC Community Councillors will step down this year at the end of term, Christopher Lambton, Nick Shapowell and Simon Newstead and we thank them for their contributions to the Community. Three members of the Community Council also stood down earlier in the term, Fiona Pagett, Ian Sharman & Simon Edwards. We also thank them for their contributions to the local community.

Secondly, I would like to thank our elected Council representatives, Councillors Begg, Small and Thomson for their support for the Community Council. Their knowledge of the workings of Scottish Borders Council and being able to connect us with the relevant contacts in the Council departments and their support on key local issues has been extremely invaluable. I would also commend them for their collaborative style and working so seamlessly together to serve our community.

Thirdly I would like to again thank members of our Upper Tweed Community for highlighting the relevant issues that are important to the UTCC. There are many areas that we could focus on but the best judge of what is important comes from members of the local community and we welcome that ongoing input.

Finally, this term I would like to make a special call out to the significant numbers of the community who helped organise and execute our two significant community events, "BPitP" & "BBCL". Without your help and support, events like these simply could not be realised.

UTCC activities & highlights from the past year

1. Resuming face to face meetings, respecting the traditional 3rd Monday of the month in venues fit for purpose, namely Broughton Village Small Hall, Broughton Primary School and Drumelzier Village Hall
2. The organisation of "The Broughton Party in the Park" which saw a fabulous community event attended by an estimated 300 local residents. This clearly demonstrated the desire for the community to get together and we were very fortunate to have Professor Hew Strachan, Lord Lieutenant of Tweeddale mark the event by a speech & toast to the Queen and plant a commemorative tree in the King George V Park.
3. The implementation of "SHOUT" to reach more of the local community and make them aware of the issues the CC is involved in.
4. The revamp of the UTCC Website
5. The trialling of the Broughton to Peebles bus project
6. Circulating the Guidance on planning applications for Community Councillors for new CC members
7. Supporting Micro-grant and Youth Bursary applications which allowed access to extracurricular activities (mountain biking, dance, drama, instrument tuition) by members of the local community and the enhancement of local voluntary organisations.
8. Ongoing awareness of the planned "Destination Tweed" project which will eventually comprise a mixed use 100-mile pathway all the way from Moffat to Berwick-upon-Tweed.
9. Liaison with the SBC Ranger service which facilitated remedial repairs to the "Minister's Bridge" to allow ongoing, safe access to this well used walking route. Also consultation about the potential improvement of other walking routes in the local area.
10. The resumption of the popular Community Bonfire and Fireworks event in the field behind the Village Hall.
11. Hosting a British Fell Running event in and around the village (the community benefited by a generous donation)
12. The organisation of various repairs orchestrated via SBC: road, pavements etc, and the fact that Broughton would be receiving a new Recycling Enclosure, new Dog Poop Bin down near the Bowling Green and that there were new specialist Recycling Bins in the Village Hall for Blister packs, batteries and Bras
13. Ongoing feasibility work for a hard surface path around the King George V playing field.
14. Contributions to the Broughton Hope afforestation plans which yielded a modified planting scheme.
15. The provision of defibrillators in the area has increased significantly during the past year thus giving access to a much wider % of the local community & sporting clubs

in the case of emergency. The new provision (including fit for purpose cabinets) comprises Broughton Village Hall, Broughton Primary School (for public access as well as the school), Rachan Mill and Drumelzier Village Hall. Assessment is also currently taking place into the optimal location for Glenholm Valley. In addition, the frequency of checks has been increased to weekly and is administered by the local first responder team. A huge call out to Jamie French who leads the local first responder team and has been extremely helpful in the expansion of this potentially lifesaving resource.

16. The reprieve of the 101/102 bus route with excellent support from all three of our elected SBC Councillors
17. The organisation & execution of "The Broughton Big Lunch" to mark the Coronation of the King. This was another excellent Community event organised by a working group of the UTCC plus many co-opted volunteers which again showed the appetite for such events that bring the community together.
18. Creation of a Community Woodland to mark the Coronation with all members of Broughton Primary School and other young persons in the local area being invited to plant trees in a corner of King George V Park.
19. Support for the ongoing expansion plans for the UTCE Community Store
20. Review (and comment where appropriate) of all planning proposals in the UTCC geographical area
21. Evaluating (and awarding where appropriate) all Micro-grant and Youth Bursary applications in the UTCC area covering topics such as supporting sporting and artistic lessons for UTCC residents

SBC Councillors

We are delighted to work again with our elected SBC Councillors, Drummond Begg, Eric Small and Viv Thomson and welcome their participation and support in our Upper Tweed Community matters.

AGM

Having received the relevant nominations, we now have 9 UTCC Community Councillors and one co-opted UTCC Councillor for this new CC term and we welcome the following new Community Councillors: Susan Brown, Justin King, Steph Stewart & Chelsea Shapiro-Waugh (co-opted member). We welcome these new Community Councillors into their new roles and look forward to partnering together to best serve the local Community.

The Returning Officer thanked the Chair for his Report and invited the Treasurer to then give her Report.

2. Treasurer's Report (FY 1 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23)

The accounts having been circulated prior to the meeting had been examined by Arthur Lucas.

Opening Balance in the Bank of Scotland @ 1st April 2022

Including balances on Windfarm Grant Funds	£4,414.15
Income for the period	£8,451.73
Expenditure for the period	£8,618.63
Closing Balance @ 31st March 2023	£4,247.25

During the year with the support from the SSE Windfarm, Micro-grants and Youth Bursaries, and from the Glenkerie Windfarm Micro-grants, the UTCC has been able to support a number of local groups, initiatives and youngsters. The Community Council was also able to support the Platinum Jubilee event and the Community Bonfire evening.

The operating deficit for the year, including all funds, was £166.90.

The Treasurer summarized some points:

The UTCC Fund received the SBC Platinum Jubilee Grant of £1,706.9 and money for the Bonfire event £762, the Carnethy Run £500 and the SBC Annual Grant £678. Expenditure included The Platinum Jubilee costs, Bonfire event, Website, Hall hire etc.

Leaving a balance (including £408.55 Bonfire event surplus) of £1,440.89

SSE Youth Bursaries:

£2,500 top up was received from SSE for Youth Bursaries

11 Youth Bursaries were given - £2,200

Leaving a balance of £1,200.00

SSE Micro Grants:

£1,000 top up received during the year

5 Micro grants were given - £874

Leaving a balance of £783.00

Glenkerie Micro Grants:

£1,000 top up received

8 Microgrants awarded

Leaving a balance of £484.48

Following some discussion regarding Windfarm funds, the Chairman thanked Arthur Lucas for examining the Accounts, Nick Shapowal for being the Treasurer and handling the Accounts and the Vice-Chair for taking the role of Treasurer on and completing the Annual Accounts, when Nick found he needed to stand down from the role for personal reasons.

3. Election

The Returning Officer then commenced the Election of the Council stating that five of the present Council were elected in 2021, three of whom are standing for re-election, these being The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary. The other two had intimated they wished to resign, these being Christopher Lambton and Nick Shapowal. Three other members, elected in 2021, resigned during the year, these were Simon Edwards, Fiona Pagett and Dr Ian Sharman.

Two Councillors were elected in 2022, so have a second year to serve, of these Tess Goodwin wishes to continue, although sent her apologies for not being able to attend today, and Simon Newstead who wishes to resign as he is leaving the area.

The Returning Officer then summarised that this left four of the current Council wishing to continue with six vacancies to bring the Council up to its full strength of 10 members. He continued to comment that he had received Nomination Forms for five new members as follows:

Jen Macbeth, who was Co-opted last year

Jayne Cook, also a co-opted member

Justin King

Susan Brown

Stephanie Stewart

These five were duly elected to serve for a period of two years, bringing the Council up to nine elected members.

He continued that at present there were three co-opted Members, who had been co-opted for one year at a time, two who had stood for election, with the third, Chris Lewin, a former Chairman, who wished to stand down. A further new face in Chelsea Shapiro had intimated a willingness to become a co-opted member.

The Election of Officers was conducted: The Chairman, Andrew Beveridge, Vice-Chairman, Rosalind Birchall and Secretary, Stephanie Jackman, are willing to continue in office.

Proposer: Jen McBeth

Seconder: Jayne Cook

Election of Treasurer: Rosalind Birchall had intimated she wished to stand down as Treasurer but will continue as Vice-Chairman. Susan Brown agreed to take up the reins.

Proposer: Andrew Beveridge

Seconder: Rosalind Birchall

The Returning Officer then stated that this concluded the business of the Annual General Meeting.

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 15 May, 2023, in Broughton Village Hall

Present

Andrew Beveridge (Chairman), Rosalind Birchall (Vice-Chair), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Susan Brown (Treasurer), Jen McBeth, Jayne Cook, Nick Shapowal, Justin King, Steph Steward, Chelsea Shapiro, Councillor Eric Small SBC

01.05.23 Apologies.

Tess Goodwin, Councillor Viv Thomson SBC, Councillor Drummond Begg SBC

02.05.23 Minutes of Meeting held on 17 April 23

The Minutes were approved. The Chairman having made reference to the British Heart Foundation trying to increase awareness of locally held Defibrillators and the importance of our Community knowing where the Defibrillators are located, suggesting a poster be put up in the Shop.

03.05.23 Matters Arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising that would not be taken in the Agenda below.

04.05.23 Actions Register

The Secretary went through the Actions Register (see attached). Discussion was had regarding Windfarm grant applications in relation to works started on the Community Shop addressing the need for increased storage. Further mention was made of the need to advertise the new Bus routes in particular Route 91 linking in with the Biggar/Edinburgh bus of which Councillor Eric agreed to take and note and investigate.

05.05.23 Planning Applications (0)

There were no new applications to discuss but Councillor Eric reported that the Review Panel had had cause to meet again.

06.05.23 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report had been circulated with the Agenda. Current bank balance was £7,405.95 with the balance of Funds @ 12 May, 23 as follows:

UTCC Funds £4,686.49

Upper Tweed Resilience £338.88

SSE Youth Bursary £1,000

SSE/Glenkerie Micro-Grants £1,380.48

07.05.23 Microgrants/Youth Bursaries. (2+1)

Two Microgrant requests were awarded, one to the Primary School Breakfast Club and a second to The Community Drivers to cover insurance. The Vice-Chair explained they had also put in for a grant from the Windfarm to cover their insurance costs etc but being unsure if this would be successful put in for a Micro-grant which they would return should their windfarm monies be awarded. There was also an application for a Youth Bursary, previously circulated to Council Members, that was also awarded.

08.05.23 Police Report - emailed in advance.

Secretary confirmed she had once again not received a report, Councillor Eric SBC again agreed to investigate this but, in the meantime, made the meeting aware that there had been a rise in Anti-Social Behaviour in the Peebles / Innerleithen area.

09.05.23 Broughton Fayre - Broughton Big Coronation Lunch (BBCL).

The Chair commenced this item by thanking all who were involved for yet another superbly successful event, unfortunately he had been away but had heard nothing but excellent reports. All agreed it had gone to plan and were delighted with the outcome expressing that once again the weather had made it. There was a light discussion regarding plans for next year and, following on from the Treasurer's Report, the Secretary commented that there was still money left over from funds awarded by The National Lottery (TNL) for the event, in addition she was very aware that they would not be keen on monies being returned. Jen then announced that, in conjunction with the School, there had been some discussion as to whether we could put on another event, a Funday in the Park, in August for the Children and perhaps some of the remaining funds could be used to support this. The idea was met with general agreement and Jen said she would come back to the next meeting with a better idea of what the Funday might entail. The Secretary agreed to get in touch with TNL to glean a better understanding of what might be in scope for the remaining funds.

ACTION: Provide an outline Plan for a Broughton 'Funday in the Park' to be run in conjunction with the School, what it might entail and an idea of costs. (Jen McBeth)

ACTION: Report back to TNL and get an idea of what they might allow remaining funds to be used for. (Secretary)

10.05.23 Merlin Trail.

The Vice-Chair appraised the meeting of the existence of an increase in interest to develop a Merlin Trail in the area, with plans to make much more of the general interest there is now. A feasibility study is to be conducted with a view to strengthening tourist interest, possibly

establish an interactive museum or similar and tie it in to 'Destination Tweed'. She explained it was just a 'heads up' now and no doubt we would all hear more in time. The news was met with limited enthusiasm.

11.05.23 SBC Councillor's Report

Councillor Eric first remarked on a matter discussed last month regarding trees in the King George V Park, they had been noted for survey but the work was still outstanding, Jayne reiterated it was to tidy the area up and make it safer. Councillor Eric further remarked that the only other matter to report was that there had been a meeting at Biggar High School between South Lanarkshire Council and Scottish Borders Council with the aim to understand how their work could be more collaborate across the border of the two Council areas in relation to road maintenance, bin collection etc. There was a proposal to potentially have a shared yard and work together to achieve the best aim. Furthermore discussions were also being had in order to develop the provision of better Health Care across the ML12 postcode area, endeavouring to work collaboratively to achieve the best outcome. This news was received very well by members.

12.05.23 Any Other Business

BBCL Photobook. Jen proposed an idea to put the 162 photographs that were taken on 7 May into a special Photobook as a Village memento, this was met with a very positive response, and all agreed it was a lovely idea, she agreed to take it further. It also raised the matter of the aerial photograph that was taken last year at the BPitP by Ken Foulis with questions being asked as to what had become of the picture.

ACTION: Find out what happened to the Community Aerial Photograph from June 22 (Secretary)

Destination Tweed. Councillor Eric appraised the meeting of a presentation he had seen on Destination Tweed. He commented that it was a very exciting endeavour that would bring a considerable number of tourists to the area suggesting we should view this as a very positive venture. The Chair stated that the exact route of the path was still unclear but that it would broadly follow the river Tweed from Moffat to Berwick-upon-Tweed, and accommodation across the area was being looked at but there was considerable funding being put towards it. He understood there was still some discussion to be had with landowners. Nick made a comment about the fishing industry in the area remarking that this needs careful management too.

Communication. Nick asked the question as to what the plan was for the ongoing management of the UTCC Website and FaceBook Pages now that Simon Newstead, the previous administrator of both, had left. After a

short discussion Chelsea said that she would be more than happy to take care of the 'Social Media' side of things for the CC.

Weather Warfare. A concerned member of the public brought to the attention of the Chair a very serious matter concerning the 'massive weather warfare programmes' that most people were most probably unaware of, that the situation was getting quite extreme and worrying and would it be possible to arrange to give a 15 minute presentation at the next meeting. The Chair thanked the member for raising this important matter but suggested that as this was of such grave concern it might be something that the member might wish to raise as a matter for general public interest (public presentation) and not confine it to the UTCC.

Update on Proposals for King George V Park. Chelsea asked if there was any update on plans that had been muted for the Park. Jayne explained that she had hoped to have an outline drawing of a proposal to share with the Community but unfortunately it had not materialized and that now might be the time to formalise ideas and seek out a landscape architect to draw up the plans. She confirmed that the Park was managed by SBC but owned by Fields in Trust with an understanding it must remain for the use of the Community. The CC were happy with this and then the discussion broadened, and comment was made as to the poor design of the area in front of the School where the children were dropped off and collected, to the fact we still have issues with speeding through the village. Nothing conclusive was determined but an issue that would be raised at a further meeting.

Before the meeting concluded the Chair formally thanked those that had stepped down from the CC, for their time, commitment and efforts whilst serving on the CC.

12.05.23 Date of next Meeting – 7.00pm, Monday, 19 June, 2023, in Broughton Village Hall