

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 19 July, 2021,

Via Zoom due to Covid-19 Restrictions

- Present** Andrew Beveridge (Chairman), Rosalind Birchall (Vice Chairman), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Nick Shapowal (Treasurer), Chris Lewin, Christopher Lambton, Simon Edwards, Fiona Pagett, Councillor Eric Small SBC
- 01.07.21 Apologies**
Councillor Heather Anderson SBC, Penny Wedderburn Scott
- 02.07.21 Minutes from last Meeting (held 21 June, 21 via Zoom). Comments by email in advance.**
The Minutes were agreed.
- 03.07.21 Matters Arising from previous Minutes (via Email)**
None
- 04.07.21 Planning Applications**
The Chair introduced each of the three new applications in turn.
- 21/01017/PN, 17 Jun 21, Land NE of Easter Standhope Cottage Craighead, noted this had been Approved.
- 21/01021/LBC, 18 Jun 21, Green Farm Steading – plus 21/01022/FUL, 18 Jun 21, also Green Farm Steading, were discussed together, only a few comments from a heritage perspective although flooding issues noted. Simon Edwards explained that this was a Grade II listed building that had already had work done to the annoyance of Scottish Heritage in particular the Dairy had been converted where they had wanted it kept. The flooding issues were consistent for the area. Chris Lewin suggested that the proposals to do limited changes seemed a good idea to prevent further deterioration, a shame but sensible and we should not object, there would seem more chance it will be brought back into full use in view of the proposed good quality short term holiday Lets available. It was also noted alterations to the Manse had been approved recently.
- 05.07.21 Microgrants**
The Chair introduced one Microgrant for approval, previously circulated to Council members, which had been presented by UTC Enterprise member, Charlotte King, aimed at encouraging youngsters to support the care of the community by litter picking and for their efforts be rewarded with an Ice Cream. Councillors were in general agreement this was a good idea and worth trying; Simon Edwards commented that the young people would need to wear High Visibility PPE so they can be seen and members discussed where this could be found.
- 06.07.21 Police Report – emailed 4 July, 21**
No Comments; most matters not applicable to the area.

07.07.21

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer confirmed that following a Handover/Takeover with the Acting Treasurer, Simon Edwards, he was now officially the Treasurer and that there had been no activity on the account since the audit was completed.

08.07.21

SBC Councillors' Report

With the Summer Leave period in full flow there was no Councillors' Report.

09.07.21

Community Council Scheme in the Borders – emailed 12 July, 21

The Chair opened the discussion on this SBC initiative stating that it was bureaucratic by nature and there was a need to go through the proposals very carefully, not that he wished to discourage ideas and change but there was real danger if all the ideas were to go through. Simon Edwards suggested that the Scheme was in support of the Government's desire to put significant emphasis back to Local Government, empowering local areas, although he was unsure as to how it related to CCs funding although he was aware that SBC are keen to off load some overheads to local communities. He further mentioned a paper issued by Joe Furland regarding Public Toilets being moved into Private hands. Chris Lewin felt there were a number of other issues as well to take into consideration, whether the Community Council is best placed to determine policy matters and direction of travel as well as driving matters forward and if this was the case there should be some element of remuneration for the 'Volunteers' who make up the Community Council. He felt members should be able to claim one day per month equitable to a comparable employee of SBC. An extensive discussion ensued regarding the status of volunteers and the second and third order effects of offering remuneration as described, however, it was wholly agreed that more information was required on what exactly SBC were trying to achieve and the Chair agreed to write a draft response for circulation as a first step. Further discussion regarding the Broughton Public Toilets was had, the understanding was that due to the pandemic and the challenge of complying with the hygiene requirements, SBC had closed the Toilets and appeared to now be trying to pass the responsibility to the Community should the Community wish the Toilets to open. Councillor Eric (SBC) advised he was to have a meeting with Neil Pringle on 20 July so would find out more, members would be interested to know what the terms would be and if SBC would be prepared to allow a local person to charge what they wished for using the Toilets (it was understood that in Peebles it is 30p).

10.07.21

The Fallago Environment Fund – emailed 4 July, 21

Christopher Lambton made the meeting aware that he had knowledge of this fund and that it was too far outside of our area to be of benefit. Instead Nick Shapowal appraised the meeting of his attendance at the **Destination Tweed Meeting** this last month. He explained that considerable funds had been set aside to create the Path and then the Council would have to maintain it. The path was following the Southern Upland Way and there were a number of concerns regarding this especially from the perspective of the Fishing in the area, Salmon fishing particularly. Chris commented that it was a great opportunity to get Broughton known as it was included in the Pathway for Destination Tweed and the Tea Room was to be advertised within the information, he drew attention to the Website, directing people to look at places of interest along the route. The Chair commented that he had had a chat with Marina Fisher and that the proposed detail of the route was still in discussion with local landowners, hence the sensitivity surrounding it, and would not become public knowledge till agreed. He further advised that there were two possible routes and the intention was to include a spur to Broughton. The old

Railway line was commonly agreed to be the easiest but possibly not the most scenic. More will follow on this.

11.07.21

Any Other Business

Broughton Public Toilets: Simon informed the meeting that he had seen the Paper on Public Toilets and would circulate to all. It was based on the Public Toilets in Biggar, used as a case study.

Code of Conduct: All members must confirm their compliance with the Code of Conduct which is to be sent to Clare Molster SBC; on completion the CCs funds will be released – **ACTION:** Secretary

Upper Tweed Community Drivers: This revised Scheme is now well up and running and recruiting new drivers, the Chair informed the meeting that Anne Welsh had written to thank for the Microgrants received. Details of the new UTCD scheme to be put on to the Website – **ACTION:** Chris Lewin

12.07.21

Date of next Meeting – 7pm, Monday, 16 August, 2021, in Broughton Village Hall (unless informed otherwise)