**UPPER TWEED COMMIUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 15 January, 2024, in Broughton Primary School**

**Present :**  Rosalind Birchall (Vice-Chair) (Chaired the meeting), Susan Brown (Treasurer), Jen McBeth, Justin King, Steph Stewart, Tess Goodwin (Minute taker), Councillor Eric Small, 3 members of the Community, Mark Davey from the Peeblesshire News

**01.01.24** **Apologies :** Andrew Beveridge (Chairman), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Chelsea Shapiro, Councillor Viv Thompson and Councillor Drummond Begg

**02.01.24** Minutes from the last meeting on 20 November 23 were approved and Chelsea will be asked to put them on the UTCC website.

**Action:** Chelsea to update the Website adding the Nov 23 Minutes (Vice Chair)

**03.01.24 Matters Arising.**  None

**04.01.24 Actions Register.**

**Sandbags.** Ongoing communications with SBC re second storage facility.

**Action:** Justin to speak to the Village Hall Committee regarding the potential of siting a sandbag shed in the Village Hall car park.

**Action:** The sandbags store at the Primary School must be kept topped up by regular contact with SBC (Secretary) It was suggested there should be someone in the village to take on the responsibility of checking. .

**Post Office Sorting Office.** Andrew Beveridge has drafted a letter re the closure of the Sorting Office in Biggar. Councillor Eric Small was asked to find out who he is advised to send this to.

**05.01.24 Planning.** Nothing to note for our area this time.

There was a discussion regarding the extension of the life of the Glenkerie Windfarm (application agreed in 2023),

**Action**: Andrew to be asked communicate the views of this meeting to Glenkerie windfarm, regarding an increase in Community Benefit.

**(After Meeting Note: this had been an Action on the Chair( see Action Register, now cleared) when the Planning application was first made in 2023. The group representing all the CCs that benefit from this Windfarm are in negotiation.)**

**06.01.24 Treasurers Report** circulated prior to the meeting

It was reported that the only **Income** since the last meeting was £572.71 from the Bonfire event plus a reimbursement from Broughton Village Hall of a Micro-grant that they no longer require for sanding the floor. **Expenditure** for the monthincluded additional costs for the Bonfire event for First Aid cover at £48, Hall Hire at £44 and the Insurance £78. There was also the Newcomer’s Party costs at £70. Two Youth Bursaries were awarded and paid as well as a Micro-Grant awarded and paid for the New Year’s Party. The Treasurer reminded members that the balance of funds for the Bonfire event, now standing at £504.80 (inclusive of a Micro-grant award) is ring fenced. She continued to report that as agreed, £310 of unallocated TNL (Lottery) funds had been spent on providing Decembers Community News to every household. This will happen quarterly for a year.

Balances currently stand as follows:UTCC account - £8,176.25. TNL Fund - £2,820 (To be allocated to Community News £930, a contribution towards The Broughton Village Day and £400 for a new Notice Board).Finally the Treasurer reported that an application has been made to the Wind Farm for a new Defibrillator for Rachan at a cost of £2000. The application was successful.

**07.01.24 Youth Bursaries (YB)/Micro-grants(MG):** 1 YB application for dancing lessons, was approved. A MG application from some members of Broughton Choral Society had been received to contribute towards the costs of an excursion to a concert at Glasgow Concert Hall. This was rejected as it was considered to set a precedent for members of other Clubs/Societies to apply for outings.

**08.01.24 Feedback from the Newcomer’s Party 25 Nov, 23:** All agreed it was a successful event with good attendance by Newcomer’s and Representatives from local clubs/societies. As a result, following discussion, it was agreed that a Sunday afternoon in the Autumn (October/November) worked well and that it should be a bi-annual event. It was discussed that a record of attendees should be kept. **(After Meeting Note: the Secretary had kept a note of attendees and numbers which totalled 54 Newcomers).**

**09.01.24 Broughton Village Day:** This will be a low cost, fun, community event to be held on 18May, 24, in the King George V Playing Fields commencing at 12 noon. Following an enthusiastic discussion**,** Jen and Susan suggested ideas for the structure of the day ie. children’s and adults race/challenge, treasure hunt type events plus music playing throughout the afternoon. Christopher Lambton to be asked if he would kindly like to run a bar from Broughton Brewery.Susan to approach the schools parent council about it being a joint event. Tess suggested there was an opportunity to conduct a Litter Pick.

**Action:** Christopher Lambton to be asked to run a bar (Secretary)

**Action:**  Susan to speak to the Primary School Parent Council regarding joining forces for the event.

**Action:**  Tess to locate litter picking up equipment

**10.01.24 Councillors Report:** It was reported thatLive Borders, the Culture, Sport and Leisure Trust for SBC, is in financial difficulty to the tune £1.5 million; that the new Library van is now in full operation; that Pot Holes are a continuing problem and will be addressed again after the Winter when the weather improves.

**11.01.24 AOB:**

**Bottle Bank**. Three members of the public had attended the meeting feeling very concerned and frustrated with regards to issues with the bottle bank facility and the untidy and potentially dangerous state that it gets into. Following a detailed discussion, 4 main issues need to be noted and addressed:

1. The random dumping of bottles leaving them at the foot of the bottle bank even if room in the containers. Members of the Community had taken it upon themselves to clear this up, including broken glass.  
2. The bottle bank is full

3. Any colour bottle can go in any bin.

4. Enquiry as to the potential for re-siting of the bottle banks to the King George V Playing Fields in front of the public toilets.

The Vice-Chair having already been in contact with SBC will now follow this up in particular with regard to the urgency to empty the containers, clearing the area and removal of hoarding. Justin offered to remove the hoarding. Steph and Tess offered to help if required. Further discussion included potential for CCTV, whether other communities experienced the same and it was felt a large sticker for each bottle bank stating ‘Any Colour in any bin’ would be useful, Justin offered to look at this. The potential for re-siting would be reviewed. There was concern if moved the issue of broken glass would be nearer the play park area

. The council were grateful for the members of the public raising this issue and for the hours and energy that have been spent so far to keep on top of this problem. There was much enthusiasm to rectify this issue.  
**Action:** The Vice Chair to urgently communicate with the SBC..

**Bus Shelter** It was also raised by one of the community members that they are keeping the bus shelter by Smithy Croft tidy ie sweeping up cigarette butts and the like. It was also mentioned that the bus timetable sign is no longer fixed to the bus shelter.

**Action:**  Eric Small to ask if the council employee who empties the bins could also sweep out the bus shelter.

**Notice Board at the School**. It had previously been agreed we buy a new Notice Board with £400 allocated from TNL fund, to replace the one at the school which has been there since the 1980’s, is very difficult to open and is in some state of disrepair. Tess asked that we see if it is repairable. It was felt that maybe it should have shatter proof glass.

**Action:**  Tess will organise for someone to take it down hopefully in time to get it to the next Repair Cafe which is in Broughton on 27 Jan, 24.

**Plaque for Jubilee Tree:** It was suggested that we must order the plaque for the Platinum Jubilee Tree and that it would be good to have a Notice for the Children’s Wood. Tess would look into the possibility of this for the wood.   
**Action:** The Vice Chair will action the plaque for the tree**.**

**40 MPH sign at North of Village:**  It was agreed, in order to assist with motorists adhering to the speed limit we should have a 40 mph sign at an appropriate distance before the 20 mph sign at the north end of the Village. It is felt this could have a significant impact on speeding through the village.

**Action:**  Philippa Gilhooly from SBC must be contacted to discuss (Secretary).

The meeting concluded with Rosalind giving thanks to all who attended, to Barbara Whitten for opening and being in the school so we can meet there and to Tess for taking the minutes.

Next meeting is on Monday, 19 February, 2024 at 7pm, in Broughton Primary School.

TG 28/01/24

(slelj030224 / rb060224)