

## UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 16 January, 2023, in Broughton Primary School

### **Present**

Andrew Beveridge (Chairman), Rosalind Birchall (Vice-Chair/Treasurer), Nick Shapowal, Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Tess Goodwin, Jen McBeth, Christopher Lambton, Jayne Cook, Councillor Eric Small plus 9 members of the public and Reporter, Mark Davey from The Peebleshire News

### **01.01.23 Apologies.**

Chris Lewin, Simon Newstead, Councillor Viv Thomson SBC, Councillor Drummond Begg SBC

### **02.02.23 Minutes of Meeting held on 21 November, 22**

The Minutes were agreed.

### **03.01.23 Matters Arising from Minutes**

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

### **04.01.23 Actions Register**

The Secretary went through the Actions Register; an adjustment was made from an Action completed that should have been assigned to the Chairman and incorrectly annotated to Councillor Drummond SBC. Only one Action remaining (Secretary to write to SBC Planners).

### **05.01.23 Planning Applications (3)**

- a) Modification of condition No1 of planning permission 15/01355/FUL to allow the holiday chalet to be occupied as dwellinghouse  
Land at Disused Railway Line Rachan Broughton Scottish Borders  
Ref. No: 22/01811/FUL | Received: 21 Nov 22 | Validated 23 Nov 22

Discussion was divided regarding this application. It was agreed no particular comments would be submitted as the application already has 15 comments and 11 objections, this will result in it having to go before the Planning Committee of which Councillor Eric SBC is a member.

Councillor Eric assured that it would only be agreed if it complied with all policy regulations.

- b) Variation of condition 1 to extend operational life of wind farm by additional 10 years  
Land East of Kingledores Farm IGlenkerie  
Ref. No: 22/01887/FUL | Received 2 Dec 22 | Validated 8 Dec 22

All were in agreement this could only be a good thing for the Community, but it was pointed out that there should potentially be an increase in the % of contribution to the Community as costs would have been calculated and spread across the original 25 year lifespan of the Windfarm and an increase in life would assume pure profit after this.

**ACTION: Enquiries to be made regarding an increase in contributions to the Community for the period of the extension if granted. (Chair)**

- c) Erection of dwellinghouse with outbuilding and formation of new access (approval of all matters specified in conditions of planning permission 21/00030/PPP)  
Land at Rachan Woodlands

Ref. No: 22/01973/AMC | Received: 19 Dec 22 | Validated: 22 Dec 22

Following discussion, it was agreed this was a much improved application and no comments would be submitted. The access and the position of the house has been altered.

**06.01.23 Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report had been circulated with the Agenda; points highlighted included the bank balance which currently stands at £5560.83; that we have finally received a top up to our Wind Farm funds for Microgrants and Youth Bursaries and the SBC payment has finally been received. The Treasurer also commented that there had been a surplus of £588 from monies collected for the Bonfire, it was agreed £338 would be carried forward and ring fenced for this year's Bonfire Event, the remainder being added to the general pot.

**07.01.23 Microgrants.**

No Microgrants had been received this time although Tess commented she had submitted a late one which the Secretary agreed to circulate for 'Out-of-Committee' consultation.

**08.01.23 Police Report – emailed in advance.**

No report received.

**09.10.22 Community Defibrillators**

The Chair commenced this item by explaining that prior to the meeting there had been considerable communication between the CC members regarding the status of the Defibrillators in our area. A recent new installation at the Gillespie Centre in Biggar, that was in a heated box and was on constant charge, had prompted a suggestion that Scottish Ambulance First Responders should be responsible for bringing ours up to date and for the overall continued maintenance of them, in addition as to whether more should be obtained as the ruling was that no-one should be more than 500m from a defibrillator. Understandably not achievable in a rural area. A discussion ensued regarding current locations and potential locations, there was one objection to the management being passed to Scottish Ambulance, in the event that the resource was then taken away, but it was generally agreed that there was too much to gain from the Defibrillators being nationally monitored. A further query regarding Manufacturers not being keen on responsibility being passed to First Responders resulted in the Chair taking an Action to review the situation.

**ACTION: Review the current Defibrillator situation with regards to a route to funding and management. (Chair)**

**10.01.23 King George Park Path plus Upgrade Project**

Jayne Cook updated the meeting on progress on this project to date stating that she had confirmation we do require planning permission and that she was still waiting to hear back from Neil Pringle, SBC.

**11.01.23 Broughton Fayre 2023**

There was nothing particular to brief the meeting on except that it was considered the timing of the event would coincide with the Coronation and that all CC members should give this matter consideration for a purposeful discussion next month.

**12.01.23 SBC Councillors' Report**

Councillor Eric Small SBC reported that SBC were very busy with the Budgets at the moment; that 4 companies had tendered for the 101/102 Bus route, for all or part of the route but to date none were suitable, more talks were taking place as all routes across the whole of the Borders area was being looked at; finally that there was still debate going on regarding the new Peebles High School due to concerns regarding lack of space and it being 'not fit for purpose', the continue 'quibbling' could result in Peebles losing out as currently Galashiels and Hawick Schools were now under construction.

**13.01.23 Any Other Business**

**Ministers Bridge.** The Chair informed the meeting that the Ministers Bridge had suffered some damage during the recent floods, the concrete had slipped and hence the bridge has too. It is particularly important as it features on the route for Destination Tweed and being a single-track pedestrian bridge, it is used considerably by walkers, cyclist, and riders. The ownership of the bridge is unknown, possibly owned by the Church but in any event, SBC have been contacted to get it surveyed and ensure it is safe for use or if repairs required.

**Dreva Bridge.** A member of the public raised the matter of flood damage in and around the Dreva Bridge, the significant danger to properties in the immediate area, that there was now a 'hole' in the bridge and that the drains required clearing as they had caused a significant issue with being blocked at the time of the flooding. The matter had been raised at a previous meeting where the need for the storage of sandbags in the area plus a high-water gauge were discussed. Lengthy discourse ensued regarding cause and effect from flooding, availability of sandbags, and the longer-term issues surrounding flood management with Tess Goodwin making reference to a letter (Hugh Martin, Tweed Forum) discussing this very matter. Discussion continued

with the general state of the roads with encouraged use of the 'Fix My Street' App.

**ACTION:** Follow up with SBC regarding management of road drains. (Councillor Eric SBC).

**ACTION:** Broughton Resilient Group (who hold responsibility for sandbag availability and distribution). (UTCC Nomination required) (Councillor Eric – possible new sandbag Shed).

**ACTION:** The Chair to raise the matter of the carriageway with SBC (Councillor Eric SBC).

**Road Closures.** The Vice Chair reported that the recent closure of the B712 from Broughton, through Drumelzier and on, had been handled particularly badly with all less the CC being advised of the closure where the CC should have been one of the first to have been notified. Her engagement with the roads department, SBC, will hopefully have addressed this issue for the future.

**14.01.23      Date of next Meeting – 7.00pm, Monday, 20 February, 2023, in Broughton Primary School**

Slelj 16/02/2023