**UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL (UTCC)**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 19 February, 2024, in Broughton Primary School**

**Present :** Andrew Beveridge (Chairman), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Steph Stewart, Councillor Viv Thompson, 4 members of the Community, Mark Davey from the Peeblesshire News

**01.02.24** **Apologies :** Rosalind Birchall (Vice-Chair), Susan Brown (Treasurer), Jen McBeth, Justin King, Chelsea Shapiro, Tess Goodwin, Councillor Eric Small and Councillor Drummond Begg

**02.02.24** **Minutes from the last meeting** on 15 January, 2023, were approved with no alterations necessary. Jen McBeth has already put them up in the Shop and Chelsea Shapiro (Responsible for the UTCC Website) has already put them on the UTCC website. This will now be the case each month that the Minutes will be in the Shop and on the Website prior to the meeting with the caveat any changes will be noted and addressed at the meeting when the Minutes are officially approved.

**03.02.24 Matters Arising.**  None

**04.02.24 Actions Register.**

**Sandbags.** The Secretary reported that, as per last month’s actions, Justin King had spoken to the Hall Committee who were not averse to there being a second storage (small) facility in the Hall Car Park. It was then raised that Jemima Elliott was still to be consulted (her family having placed the land in Trust for use as a Car Park only). Councillor Viv commented that as long as the ‘land owners’ permission was in place she was certain the location would be acceptable to SBC but it would need to be clarified. Discussion ensued with residents of the Dreva Road who felt this was too far from the location of need. The Chair explained that permission for the site identified in the Dreva Road itself had not been acceptable to SBC (in a gateway, on a bend, not enough room etc) and hence a second option was being sought by the CC. They further expressed concerns as to the overall support available for placing and also removing sandbags and for that matter, what had happened to the ‘Resilient Communities’ Team. Councillor Viv informed the meeting that any equipment required could be provided by the Council (High Viz Vests etc) but it was the local Community that must support itself with ‘Resilience’ for bad weather etc. The Chair explained that the previous team, being volunteers, were no long operational and to date no-one else had come forward to provide this service. It was agreed that Volunteers were needed for this role and if anyone is interested, they should get in touch with the Secretary (secretary.utcc@gmail.com) who will forward their details to Vanessa McCourt who hopes to form a new group.

**(After Meeting Note: It has been established that due to the Hall Car Park being ‘Land in Trust’, regulations may not allow for a Sandbag shed to be placed in the Car Park. Final clarity on optimal siting of the sandbag shed, taking into account necessary consents is still being worked on).**

**Bottle Bank:** Residents in attendance wished their ‘Thanks’ and ‘Appreciation’ be noted for the prompt action taken in dealing with the issues here.

**Speeding:** The Secretary appraised the meeting of an email response received regards to this Action. Philippa Gilhooley, SBC, had explained that the request for action (introduce a 40 mph limit first prior to entering the 20 mph limit) to support motorists achieve 20mph on entering the village from the North end was not feasible. Discussion followed as to what could be done to stop motorist speeding at this end of the Village particularly in light of information that there was soon to be a new road entrance created near Broughton Place once the forestry works began which would see large timber lorries entering and exiting onto the main road. Councillor Viv took particular note, suggested we could request a speed survey and that we should look at other action such as obtaining a ‘Pop up Bob’, currently having success in Skirling. The Secretary commented that we already had a volunteer to look after ‘Pop Up Bob’ so we could do this.

**05.02.24** PRESENTATION: Oliver Wind Farm Update (Ruth Semple & Rebecca Todd). An excellent presentation was given regarding the progress being made on the proposed new Windfarm 12.5km south of Broughton. Currently reviewing Key community feedback and undertaking studies regarding visual effects, noise effect and on the Peat in the area. Now proposing a maximum of up to 7 turbines, 200m to blade tip with an installed capacity of c. 50.4MW. Following Community presentations, studies will complete and responses returned. In the late Summer the project will be submitted to Scot Gov Energy Consents Unit when there will be a Statutory Consultation and opportunity to make any further representations; it will be subject to Local Authority Planning committee estimated for Winter 2024 with a determination by the Energy Consents Unit within 12 months if there is no public inquiry. Construction likely to start in 2029. As with our other Wind farms in the area the benefits will include a Community Benefit Fund. There was a short discussion following the meeting where it was interesting to learn that there would be visual effects plus that the landowner resided in England and wished this to be a longer term family investment. Ruth and Rebecca were thanked for their time. They left an information pack which will be available to see in the Village Hall.

**06.02.24 Planning.** The Chair brought three applications he had been made aware of to the attention of the meeting (the first two on the Agenda being out of area). First the formation of ancillary accommodation, Chapelgill Cottage was deemed not contentious; secondly a large Communications Mast being erected behind Kindledores (Glenkerie Windfarm) was also of no particular concern. The third was the formation of a bell mouth access on land north of Broughton Place Farmhouse, this would see significant increase of traffic (particularly timber lorries) on an area of road that was already of concern to the Community. Following some discussion on the dangers this would impose it was agreed we would comment but also encouraged others to do the same.

 **Community Stakeholders Meeting - Planning, 29 Feb, 24:** Unfortunately it was understood no-one would be able to attend this meeting due to the time and location; the Chair agreed he would attend in the place of any other CC member being able to do so although it had been organised for CC members to understand SBC Planning matters.

**07.02.24 Treasurers Report** wascirculated with the Agendaprior to the meeting.It was reported the **Income** since the last meeting was £2,000 from SSE for a Defibrillator and **Expenditure** for the month included £1908 for the purchase of the said Defibrillator, an upgrade to the one currently in place at Rachan, plus £310 for the Community News (CN) which was enabling all residents to receive the CN free of charge. The bank balance to date was £7,682.31.

**08.02.24 Youth Bursaries (YB)/Micro-grants(MG):** 3 YBs applications for swimming lessons (2 to the same household), were approved. A MG application from the Broughton Choral Society (BCS) had to be declined as it was still within the 12 month period since they were successful with a previous application.

**09.02.24 Broughton Village Day.** It was agreed to leave this item until the next meeting, and there were more members of the CC present.

**10.02.24 Councillors Report:** Councillor Viv was pleased to report that the previously developed list of Road Repairs required had now had funding allocated and works had commenced. It was a considerable list so would take some time; if other repairs to pot holes etc were necessary we should continue to report these on the App ‘Fix My Street’. In addition, Councillor Viv was meeting regularly with James Harrison Police Sgt, so if anyone has any issues pass them on to her and she will raise them with him. There is to be a full Council meeting this week as well as a Budget meeting and a full Planning session. Councillor Viv also informed the meeting that the three councillors who support us (Councillors Eric, Drummond and Viv) had not been able to get together recently but they would be doing so very soon to compare notes and catch up.

**11.02.24 AOB:**

**Sandbags**. It was reported by a member of the public that during the last major flooding in the Village the Council put down sandbags at the front and back of Gavington, Dreva Road and subsequently removed them from the front but although stating they would return for those at the rear, did not do so. Councillor Viv made a note of this and will action

**Drain blockage, Dreva Road**. It was reported that the drain on the corner of Dreva Road has a blockage. Councillor Viv noted.

**Announcement by Chairman, Mr Andrew Beveridge:** The Chair announced to the meeting that he would be standing down at the next AGM and would not be returning as Chair. He made it clear that it was for a variety of reasons but mainly because his work took him overseas so much he was struggling to attend meetings. The Chair thanked the CC for their support and suggested advertising early to ensure a new Chair and CC members were found for the new session (AGM / Elections May 24). Anyone interested in standing should email the Secretary (secretary.utcc@gmail.com).

Next meeting is on **Monday, 18 March, 2024 at 7pm, in Broughton Primary School.**

SLELL 29/02/24