UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held 15th July 2019

In Broughton Village Hall

**Present** Simon Edwards (Chairman), Andrew Weston (Treasurer), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Kirsty Hughes, Chris Lewin, Christopher Lambton, Emma Reid, Nick Shapowal, Penny Wedderburn Scott, Councillor Kris Chapman (SBC), Councillor Eric Small (SBC) plus two Members of the public ~~.~~

**01.07.19 Apologies:**David Campbell, Sally Walker, Councillor Heather Anderson (SBC)

**02.07.19 Minutes from last Meeting (held 17th June 2019)**The minutes were agreed.

**03.07.19 Matters Arising from previous minutes**There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**04.07.19 Community Plan**- 5’x 3’ Notice Board: Nick advised that this was still a Work in Progress but he hoped to have quotes for the board by August. Following a discussion about the mounting and measurements the question arose if this was to be a replacement for the gable end Tea Room Notice Board. This is plannedto hold Tourist information, it is not particularly big and was not the same as a Shop Notice Board. A detailed discussion ensued regarding the purpose and use of all notice Boards in the village including the Notice Board at the School with the OS Map and was there a need for two so close. Chris Lewin commented that the Visit Scotland Tourist Notice Boards directed tourists to Food establishments as well as attractions and for main attractions the Brown signs are used which Chris Lambton pointed out we already had situated in the area. Andrew suggested we could attain as much information as we asked for from Tourist Information. It was agreed we should explore Visit Scotland especially now Peebles office was closed; that the Laurel Bank Board should be our Tourist Information Board and Nick would be speaking to Charlie Gray regarding the additional Board at the Tea Room.

 Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging points: Nick reported that he is monitoring, via the Energy Saving Trust Scotland, the EV points to be used by the Public. Businesses are seeing the opportunities but not contributing towards public use. £18m has already been spent on chargers but justification is required to attain monies, “electrification” of the A9 as part of the Scottish Government’s mission to rid the nation of petrol- and diesel-fuelled vehicles is an example of how to attain funding for chargers. Penny felt a Community Bus or Van should be valid reason and Nick further commented that monies from the Wind farms should support installation for the Village Hall but the Committee there have advised they do not want one. He further mentioned the land in front of Hawdene as a location, a business case would be needed. Councillor Kris and Councillor Eric both advised that additional Chargers are coming, grant funded, with sites yet to be identified. The Committee were advised the Garage was not interested and with the negative feedback from the Village Hall Committee perhaps the Chair should put a plan to them advising of the revenue they would get back. It was understood they are not keen due to the loss of two or three parking spaces and a general view was we should encourage more parking at the Hall than on the street as parking overall is not good. Nick’s idea of purchasing a plot of land for the purpose was tabled and the Chair asked if he had a area in mind to which he advised he had two potential sites he thought would be suitable but would rather not divulge where at this stage. Further discussion ensued directed at the Councillors present to establish whether SBC would be supportive of this idea; additionally with the new houses planned for Broughton should it not be mandated that developers install public EV Charging points. Councillor Kris took an action to find out about future planning stipulations that apply to EV charging points and explore the options with regard to the purchase of land for this purpose. Further comments in relation to Tourism were made in particular tourists travelling looking for reasons to visit specific locations and EV Charging points could well be one which communities could maximise on. Nick explained there were two types of charges termed as Destination Chargers and Enroute chargers. The first taking longer to charge the vehicle so one commits to visit that location, the other is a quick charge, perhaps someone passing through.

 Community Website: Chris Lewin reported there are a few teething problems with the site which Emma kindly said she would look at and was confident she could solve.

 Drop In Club: Not necessarily to be discussed at this meeting, the establishment of our own Drop in Club was raised by the Chair with thoughts of it being centred round the Laurel Bank. Examples are those at Eddleston and Stobo who are having success with theirs, held 3 times so far and it was suggested we should tap into their experience to date to attract folk. Other ideas are ‘Bite and Blether’. Skirling have a Lunch Club they hold every month and is well attended, one for Gentlemen and another for Ladies, which is recommended is the best way to do it but must be promoted. Chair commented there was plenty of ‘Food for thought’.

**05.07.19 SBC Transport Conference**

Chris Lewin, Kirsty Hughes and the Chair reported on the Transport Conference that they attended on 28 June 2019. This was the first rural conference of its kind and Kirsty briefed the programme included the following speakers: John Taylor, leading community transport practitioner from the TAS Partnership, spoke on how to create flexible and innovative solutions for community transport, mentioning the variations in localities and the difficulties of running schemes – attractive to the young but also useful to older folk who no longer have car licences; Sharon Morrison, Commercial Manager at Borders Buses, spoke of the challenges of running a rural bus network and their use of the latest technology. She mentioned trial services ie once/month and gave an open invitation to SBC/Bus Users Scotland appreciating that 18% of people in Scotland live in rural parts. Rab Jeffrey spoke on the successful Bo’ness Community Bus project; the West Linton Community Council on its taxi card scheme; Kathy Cremin, BAVS/Berwickshire Wheels Community Transport on the role played by community transport and finally Officers from Scottish Borders Council on transport planning, the new ECar Club scheme and the role of the new South of Scotland Economic Partnership.

 The Committee were briefed that Timothy Stevenson, SBC, said there was to be a saving of £165k in 2020 from underperforming bus routes and that the September 19 Transport Plan was focused on Community lead Transport projects, ideas to be submitted to him. Kirsty advised that the Bo’ness Community project was not relevant to us as it does not meet our criteria. The Bridge and Tweed Wheels was mentioned, drivers volunteers, taxi type service, need to pay but only for the transport you require. It is currently under used. There is a lot of pressure on Peebles Bridge which does work and SBC may well make more resources available via Locality Bid Fund. The Committee were made aware of the electric cars for SBC staff which are not used evenings and weekends and could be made available to the public, there would be a need to book, approx. £45/day and Chris’ thoughts were that it might be ‘stored’ in Broughton.

 Discussion ensued regarding the type of service we might wish to have. Kirsty’s survey shows Sunday transport appreciated but much more important were weekday services despite it being felt Sunday services were more in need. Chris explained that the issues with the Weekday service is that it is difficult to fill in the gaps in the SBC Services, not to be ruled out but difficult; with a Sunday service a minibus and driver could be hired for the day for approximately £200. Clearly there would be a need for marketing to ensure it was used and with fares around £5. More work to be done but perhaps a pilot scheme might see it get off the ground.

 The Chair expressed there were clearly many issues to discuss, not least how would a minibus scheme work – Emma mentioned the Hospital Driver Scheme a charity scheme reliant on finding volunteer drivers which is not always easy. Then the Chair went on to outlined the next steps:

Kirsty look to Survey Monkey for more answers

Chris to write a draft survey for Kirsty as well as speak to Timothy Stevenson regarding Pilot Projects, Late Bus Back etc. exploring the art of the possible and take forward with Borders Buses and SBC. South of Scotland Enterprise partnership has money for Pilot projects.

The Chairs also informed the meeting that the West Linton late evening service had stopped, a funding issue in the main but also disparity between those who wanted it and those who used it. Penny made comment regarding the Sunday service issue in that more should be done to target employers as people were not applying for positions due to transport issues. Councillor Kris agreed to direct to the Chambers of Commerce. It was generally agreed that a lack of transport in rural areas had a significant affect on those seeking wider education and those seeking employment. It was suggested the Community Website must be maximised to garner community support and that the very least all transport information such as bus timetables must be available on it.

**06.07.19** **Community Speed Watch**.

 The Chair briefed the Committee on the Community Speed Watch Scheme having gleaned a considerable amount of information from Police Scotland. It is self-funded by Community Council organisations holding Public Liability insurance (the Chair will write to SBC). Standard Disclosure Forms to be completed by volunteers with costs falling where they lie. Volunteers once cleared will need to attend formal training. Three volunteers are required per site, the ‘mandatory’ equipment must be procured by the Group and all signs are portable. The equipment will capture the vehicle registration number (VRN) taking a picture where relevant. If the car driver stops volunteers will have a letter to hand across. The gauge is 10% +2. So far we have had quotes back, all + VAT + delivery, £2225, £1500 both reconditioned and £4095 for new. It is recommended to have 2 units and they will require annual recalibration. The Chair exclaimed that this was not an insignificant cost. 6 out of the 8 Community Councils have so far expressed an interest and the Chair will following up the other two and send out the information to them all.

 The Chair continued with the ground rules, in that 12 volunteers are required, doing one hour per day, in daylight and not in bad weather. The Group Scheme would require good coordination with a Round Robin being done in a day. The Chair confirmed that he had written to the Divisional Commander (Dalkeith) that we were all interested but we are still on a fact finding exercise and had a number of questions. This is a community based project and funding not available to all. The Chair asked that the Committee take this away and have a think about it. Councillor Kris would look into funding on a ‘Tweedale’ basis particularly if areas of concern covered, ie outside of schools and with an increase in size and number of lorries on local roads going too fast.

**07.07.19 Planning Applications**.

 Ref. No: 19/00931/FUL, Received: Tue 25 Jun 2019

The Chair informed the Committee that he had challenged the detail of the application as there appeared to be an error in the location. A correction has been entered. It is confirmed it is for the new Emergency Services System. There were no objections.

Chris Lewin informed the meeting of a Footpath application that had been missed by the Chair not surprisingly as it went through the entire process in 18 days.

The Committee was also informed that there is training available on A Community Council’s Role in Planning Applications as advertised on the SBC Website. It was agreed this would be a good idea and Councilor Kris suggested we might like to organise the event in terms of date and venue and then invite the other Community Councils in our area to join us. Action on the Chair to research a date.

**08.07.19 Microgrants**
There were no Microgrant applications to consider.

**09.07.19 Shop Report**Chris Lambton briefed the meeting that, as most will have realised, the shop is now well and truly open. Share certificates have been printed and will be sent out. The first Monthly Meeting was held on 16 July and the feedback so far is good It is hoped to have the Newspapers by August. It is to be minuted that there is real appreciation for making the Shop look so nice.

**10.06.19 Police Report**
None received.
It was reported that a Police officer responded on Saturday evening (13 July) to an accident at Cardrona Junction, an Italian car, with adults and children, our thoughts are with them all. There was a general feeling that the Police reports should be chased up and the Chair took an action to do this. It was made known to all that the 8 other Community Councils do not receive reports either. Councillor Eric has queried and the Inspector is aware, apparently a staff issue is the main reason for a lack of reports. Penny commented that there were issues with tourists and driving on local roads.

**11.06.19 SBC Report**Councillor Kris commenced his report by confirming he had taken an action regarding the Car Charger points. He then asked about the Scout Hut at the School aware that it is in a state of disrepair but explained if the Community Council wrote expressing a wish to use the Hut potentially SBC would bring it up to a state of repair ready for use. Possibilities for establishing a Scout Unit, set up on own or become a satellite for West Linton Scouts as the asset is now being reviewed following a positive line of enquiry. The Chair commented that of course the hut was only accessible outside of School times and it may be the school want to use. Kris moved on to brief on road works, first that the Merlindale Bridge was to close for 2 weeks (0800-1700) from 2 September; second works are to be carried out at Whitslade Junction, Broughton, starting November through to December and there is also the Dreva Road closure, 29 July to 7 August. Notice of works/dates will all be posted up in the shop. Moving on to planting, SBC will not be planting annual flowers next year, but perennials instead (come out through Broughton in Bloom). The Council are also now looking at Grassed areas with regard to maintenance and there are some in Broughton the Council is unaware who owns. Moving on to BT Phone Boxes, both have been inspected by BT and there is a 42 day notice of closure on them. Community Councils can opt to purchase (£1) to adopt. Councillor Kris suggested the Box by the School might be one we might wishing to adopt but the second one up the Dreva Road was not so desirable. It was agreed we would adopt them both. Rosalind asked if they might do similar with the Box in Drumelzier. With that Kris had nothing further to report.

**12.06.19 AOB**

Christopher Lambton took this opportunity to brief the Committee on the future of the Laurel Bank Tea Room as he owns the property. He referred to his email dated 14 Jul1 19 in which he outlined the history of the Tea Room as he is now looking for new tenants with the current tenants vacating at the end of September. Chris was asking for ‘bright ideas’ as the Tea Room would certainly be a loss to the village. He explained that planning permission which was sought for a complete overhaul is still in place. The idea is to have the Café and Bar at the bottom end to let in more light with a new kitchen out the back. There would be a Garden Room and a 30 cover Restaurant with separation from the front. The Beer Cellar would be in doors. Chris further explained that although it would all work well he was not sure that he really wanted to do it himself. He was thinking that any tenant would work with him and it would be conducted in phases whilst still trading. He is looking for someone who really wants to give it a go. Chris informed the meeting that costs for the refurbishment would be in the region of £50k - £70k but that if no tenant was found the Tea Room would be going up for sale circa £200k. Chris suggested that the Village might like to save the Tea Room and do the same as the village have done for the shop and consider Community Ownership. It could be bought as a going concern and it might be worth looking at options. Possible funding from the Scottish Land Fund and of course it would need to remain as a separate entity and the only issues would be staffing.

The Secretary informed the meeting of the Scottish Power works on 20 July, a letter has been sent to all local residents and that she was having a meeting with Byron Braithwaite from Tilhill regarding the planting programme at the bottom of the Glenholm valley.

Andrew Beveridge raised the matter of the appalling state of the pavement from Rachan Mill to Broughton. Councillor Kris said he would take this back to SBC (Neil Pringle) to review.

 The Chair thanked Jamie, Craig and Amanda for their help with the First Responders CPR & AED Training on 4 July 19, a total of 10 people were trained that evening.

 The Chair made everyone aware of the Tour of the Borders Cycle Ride Out taking place on 1 September. They are asking for volunteers to help Marshall (6 – 10).

 The Chair thanked everyone for attending and advised that the Date of the Next Meeting would be on 19 August, 2019 in Drumelzier Village Hall.