

## UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 17 January, 2022,

Via Zoom

(Please Note – due to Zoom the Meeting was held in 2 Parts, 17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> January)

**Present** Andrew Beveridge (Chairman) Rosalind Birchall (Vice Chairman), Nick Shapowal (Treasurer), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Christopher Lambton, Chris Lewin, Simon Edwards, Councillor Heather Anderson SBC (2<sup>nd</sup> part only), Councillor Eric Small SBC, and one member of the public (Jamie Prady)

**01.01.22 Apologies**

Penny Wedderburn Scott

**02.01.22 Minutes from last Meeting (held 15 Nov 21 via Zoom). Comments by email in advance.**

The Minutes were agreed.

**03.01.22 Actions Register**

The Secretary went through the Actions Register and updated items accordingly; there was a further brief on the Broughton Public Toilets situation from Councillor Eric SBC who informed the meeting that the Toilets were to be kept open until the Summer at least as a decision on the way forward was deferred with further discussion pending.

**04.01.22 Matters Arising – comments via email in advance**

There were no Matters Arising.

**05.01.22 Planning Applications**

There were no Planning Applications for discussion.

**06.01.22 Treasurer's Report**

Nick Shapowal delivered a very comprehensive Report, the main points were as follows:

The current Bank Balance is £5,325.54, this amount is made of the following Funds:

|                                |   |          |
|--------------------------------|---|----------|
| UT Resilient Communities Group | £ | 338.88   |
| SSE Youth Bursaries            | £ | 1,305.00 |
| SSE Micro Grants               | £ | 657.00   |
| Glenkerie Micro Grants         | £ | 513.51   |
| Glenkerie Covid Support Fund   | £ | 1,078.21 |
| UTCC Funds (SBC)               | £ | 1,432.94 |

**07.01.22 UTCC Expenditure History and Way forward**

With such a healthy bank balance the Treasurer commented that the UTCC Funds remain in excess of what SBC allow CCs to hold (no more than twice the annual award where the annual award is £630) and must be reduced, the current plan is to put excess monies towards the proposal for a new

Sunday Bus Service, a pre-Covid-19 project that had to be put to one side but it is hoped will be resurrected in the near future.

Chris enquired as to how we ask, when we need to, for additional monies to top up the Youth Bursary and Micro Grant Fund and after a brief discussion it was explained a simple request to Gareth Shields of SSE and Sam Bramwell, Foundation Scotland, who are responsible for the Clyde and Glenkerrie Wind Farms respectively, would suffice. The Secretary, who also sits as a Panel Member, pointed out that the annual monies available from the Clyde Windfarm for larger projects, Community or otherwise, across the three area CCs, had hardly been touched in the last year and that the current balance stood at £380,000. The plans for surplus monies to be put into an Endowment policy, ensuring funds are still available to the Communities well beyond the end of the fixed 25 year period, are progressing well, Nick being the UTCC representative commented he was to attend a further meeting in three days' time. With a few members being concerned that those who could do with support from a Microgrant or a Youth Bursary were not necessarily aware of how to apply, it was agreed that more information would be put on to the Website but also the Facebook page as this seemed a better way of getting the message out there. It was further agreed, after some discussion, that although there was no upper limit set by SSE for a Youth Bursary, the CC would keep to the limit they impose of £200, with any request in excess of this to go direct to SSE.

**ACTION:** Improve visibility of available funding from Microgrants and Youth Bursaries. Chris to review the content on the CC Website to make the information more immediately visible to folk and Nick to put a similar message on the Facebook page encouraging folk to go and look at the Criteria and how to apply. The Secretary would draw up a poster to put in the Broughton Shop Window.

**08.01.22**

**Microgrants.**

There was one application for a Microgrant and two for Youth Bursaries discussed; a Microgrant request of £250 had been received for Jonte Willins for Cycling Training, a Youth Bursary request of £200 for riding lessons for Lauren Smith and a similar request for Aaron Prady for Dance classes, all were unanimously agreed. The question as to why the CC felt it necessary to limit Youth Bursaries to £200 when no limit was set by SSE themselves was again discussed with the final outcome that the CC would stick to the £200 limit and direct applicants to apply direct to SSE for any further monies they were requesting.

**09.01.22**

**SBC Community Council Scheme.**

The Chair introduced this item explaining that SBC were looking to review the SBC Community Council Scheme, and with papers having been previously circulated comments were invited from members. It was agreed that changes posed by SBC looked in order as there was nothing major of a contentious nature, however, members were asked to further review the content and respond with comment to the Secretary by 14 February, in order for a response to be returned to SBC by 18 February.

**ACTION:** Secretary to receive comments from members and return the UTCC response by 18 Feb 22.

**10.01.22**

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee – UTCC Plans**

The Chairman invited discussion on planned celebratory events that members might be aware of, as to date he had found out that the Primary School have not started with anything yet but potentially had discussed planting a tree on Council land to commemorate the event which would leave a small enduring legacy. He did wonder if plans might take on the same look as the cancelled 'VE Day' event. The Secretary suggested a Community 'Street' Party, in the Park where a number of trestle tables could be erected and bunting put up etc and then invite the Community along to bring with them their own picnic, or contribution to a Community picnic, to gather together to celebrate, advertising through the shop or a leaflet drop. Christopher suggested he mention it at the next Village Shop meeting to see if there would be any volunteers to organise an event.

**11.01.22**

**Scottish Borders CC Network (SBCCN) (email Peter Maudsley)**

The Chair explain that Peter Maudsley from Peebles CC, as a core group member of SBCCN, had been in touch trying to revitalise the SBCCN to better represent the 69 community councils across the Scottish Borders and in doing so, to strengthen its negotiating position with SBC. He had been asked to reach out to all areas and if possible, create a focus group that can feedback a consensus to SBCCN and receive SBCCN news in return, he also hoped to be replaced as Core Group Member having done it for some time. This matter was discussed, and it was agreed that the Secretary should obtain further information on the other local area CCs prior to making any final decision.

**ACTION:** Secretary to obtain member information from Peter Maudsley of the other local CCs.

**12.01.22**

**EV Charging Points Broughton – Progress**

The Vice Chair gave an update on the research she had been doing since the last meeting in November explaining she had been trying to find out the landowners of areas tentatively identified for an EV Charger and that it had been surprisingly difficult. Rosalind was still of the opinion that the best place was the area by the Recycling and her engagement with the 'Lighting Department' of SBC had concluded that this was a complicated matter, and she was struggling to find a way forward. It was evident that there was a significant 'gap' in our area, particularly being on the Tourist route to Edinburgh and that she believed the next step was to write to SBC to request that we be considered for a Rapid Charger, the Chair agreed to write. Councillor Eric informed the meeting that EV Chargers were very much at the top of the Council's Agenda, but that funding appeared to be the issue.

**Second Meeting held on Wednesday, 19 January, 2022 via Zoom**

**12.01.22**

**EV Charging Points Broughton – Part 2**

The meeting commenced with a recap on the above item from Monday's meeting. Councillor Eric agreed to put the question to Councillor Alex Young SBC to gain a better understanding for the CC on maintenance and on-going running costs. A discussion ensued regarding the need for a joined up strategic approach particularly with SBC's plans for tourism in the area, Destination Tweed and Broughton's position in it. It was agreed that the Chair's letter to the Council should include an invitation for Councillor Alex Young to attend the next UTCC meeting.

**ACTION:** Chair to write to SBC, Alex Young, requesting Broughton be considered for a Rapid EV Charger and an invitation to the next UTCC meeting.

**13.01.22      Police Report – emailed 10 Jan 22**

No Comments.

The Secretary advised the meeting that having sent a number of invitations to Police Sergeant Stephen Granger to attend one of our Meetings and having received no response, we would now wait till he got back in touch requesting a visit.

**14.01.22      SBC Councillors' Report**

Councillor Eric SBC informed the CC that the next round of Budget planning was underway and there was much discussion about Council Tax with numerous meetings being held and several decisions still to be made. He also confirmed there was nothing particular on the planning front for Broughton. Councillor Heather SBC commented that the Budget Meeting planned for 22 Feb 22 was questionable as it had been asked for it to be delayed; provisional budget figures were available but nothing more and the Council had just appointed a new Chief Executive. It appeared that any of the big decisions would be pushed to the new administration with only 71 days to submission for nomination of Councillors. Councillor Heather further commented that the Capital programme of some 30 - 40 million annually over the next few years would see up to 120 million spent with the building of the Peebles High School, Flood protection defences, Galashiels Primary School and new Care Homes all in demand.

**15.01.22      Any Other Business**

**Community Development Officer.** Chris informed the meeting that Hannah Lacon was now on board as our Community Development Officer, he would ask her to join us at one of our meetings to give an update.

**Stobo & Youth Bursaries.** Rosalind, having been asked to find out some information, advised that Stobo Hall do have access to Glenkerie Windfarm monies but do not routinely have access to Youth Bursaries, these would be applied for directly to Glenkerie. The Vice Chair also took the opportunity to advise that the Drumelzier Village Hall wall had been mended and that she now required new signage to warn of the narrow approach in that area.

**Absent SBC Councillor.** Nick commented that our third Councillor, Kris had not been seen for some time, Councillor Heather stated that he was standing down at the next election.

**Honorarium.** The Secretary raised the matter of payment of an Honorarium to the Treasurer and the Secretary in respect of the responsibilities, duties and work that they performed for the CC. She suggested £250 per annum for the Treasurer and £300 for the Secretary. It was agreed that this should be discussed at a separate meeting where the Treasurer and Secretary were not present. The Chair agreed to organise this.

**ACTION:** Chair to write to organise an Out of Committee Meeting to discuss the payment of an Honorarium for the Treasurer and Secretary.

**SSE Endowment Meeting.** Nick informed the meeting that there was to be an SSE Endowment meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January which had been due to be Face to Face but was now on Zoom. He would report back.

**Covid-19.** Councillor Heather wished the CC to be aware that although current Covid restrictions were relaxing, we should all remain vigilant as

Omicron was not over yet, we might be heading in the right direction but it was only the start of the end, not the end itself.

**A701/Stobo-Drumelzier Junction.** The Chair raised the matter of progress being made to improve the A701/Stobe-Drumelzier Junction, in particular the lack of visibility when turning right onto the A701 towards Broughton. He had received very favourable comments from the CCs to his well-crafted letter, setting out the situation and dangers of this junction, to Phillipa Gilhooly at SBC; he anticipated a response soon which he would share with members. Discussion was had regarding the removal of the hedge and the need to get in touch with the landowner to seek his view/permission. This matter would continue to progress over the coming weeks, and he hoped Philippa would accept his invitation to visit the site very soon.

**16.01.22**

**Date of next Meeting – 7.30pm, Monday, 21 February, 2022, in Broughton Village Hall**