

## UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 15 November, 2021,

Via Zoom

- Present** Rosalind Birchall (Vice Chairman) (Chaired the meeting), Nick Shapowal (Treasurer), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Chris Lewin, Simon Edwards, Fiona Pagett, Councillor Heather Anderson SBC, Councillor Eric Small SBC, and one member of the public (Dominic Ashmole)
- Introduction** The Vice Chair opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and explained that the Chairman was currently working overseas and therefore she would be chairing the meeting.
- 01.11.21 Apologies**  
Andrew Beveridge (Chairman), Christopher Lambton, Penny Wedderburn Scott
- 02.11.21 Minutes from last Meeting (held 17 Oct 21 in Broughton Village Hall). Comments by email in advance.**  
The Minutes were agreed.
- 03.11.21 Actions Register**  
The Secretary went through the Actions Register and updated items accordingly, an up to date version is attached to these Minutes (@22 Nov 21) and are included as part of the Minutes.
- 04.11.21 Matters Arising – comments via email in advance**  
There were no Matters Arising, however, Fiona Pagett, making reference to the discussion had last month on Defibrillators, informed the meeting that the First Responder Co-Ordinator, Jamie French from Biggar, would be happy to attend one of the CC meetings to deliver a brief on the Defibrillator scheme. It was suggested that either the January or March meeting would be best as currently we are holding bi-monthly Zoom meetings and it would be good to see him in person. **Action:** Fiona to invite Jamie French to the next in-person CC meeting (January or March 2022).
- 05.11.21 Planning Applications**  
There were three initial applications discussed:  
1. Holmswaterhead, Glenholm, Broughton Scottish Borders ML12 6JF – *Alterations and Extension to Dwelling house*. No issues were identified with this application.  
2. & 3. Broughton Village Store Broughton Scottish Borders ML12 6HQ *Alterations and Extension*, in one Application, plus *Demolition of existing outbuildings and alterations and extension to village store*, in a second Application, were discussed together. It was explained by Simon Edwards that there were some dangerous steps to the rear of the current property plus an inadequate concrete store and log cabin, and as part of a duty of care to the Staff as well as to increase capacity for storage, the rear of the shop would be demolished, excavations works would be undertaken, the build of a retaining wall plus a new Store room and Staff toilet and office, making more efficient use of the space and providing a safer working environment for the Staff. The CC were informed that the extension would not impact on neighbouring properties and that agreement has already been

sought for the works to be done on the understanding the area would be put right afterwards. The meeting agreed the works would result in significant improvements with the value felt across the wider community.

A further application was discussed for Edradour, Old Kirk Brae, Broughton, which was added on 12 Nov and therefore not viewed in advance. No objections had been received and no issues identified at by the CC.

An update was provided on Hartree House Planning Application; it is understood that solar panels will now be installed into the grounds, dug in as a neighbour had complained.

#### **06.11.21**

##### **UTCC Calendar Proposal (Chairman)**

The Vice-Chair informed the meeting of an idea that had been brought to the attention of the Chairman by Tweedsmuir CC with regards to their 2022 Calendar. It was explained that Tweedsmuir had held a photographic competition for the best photographs of their area, twelve of which would be developed into a Community Calendar that would be given free to each householder. Tweedsmuir were asking if the UTCC would wish to join in with them purchasing the Calendar for the UT Community at £2.25 a copy, costs coming down if the whole order was over 300. The Chair considered this a good idea and a nice gesture of good will for householders. The issue of distribution would need to be resolved as it was understood the Kirk Matters distribution was already on going so we had missed out on joining forces with them, additionally spares of the calendar would be placed in the shop for people to buy. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that we would not look to join in with Tweedsmuir on this occasion, as it was felt the photographs would not be local enough and potentially the money could be used in a more productive way. Councillor Heather suggested we look to do something jointly this time next year and include useful local information as well as the CC details.

#### **07.11.21**

##### **Microgrants.**

There were two applications for Microgrants discussed; one from Rosalind Hume, the co-ordinator for Broughton Spinning Group who wishes to take the members to visit the Scottish Tapestry in its new permanent location in Galashiels, total cost, including entrance fees and minibus hire, is £198. This was agreed. The second application was for a Youth Bursary but it transpired the applicant lived outwith the area and so is ineligible and the Treasurer had already suggested she made the same application to Biggar.

#### **08.11.21**

##### **Police Report – emailed 9 Nov 21**

No Comments.

#### **09.11.21**

##### **Treasurer's Report**

Nick Shapowal informed the meeting the balance of the UTCC account reported on the 18th October was £6648.94 and since then there has been the following activity on the account:

Receipt of SBC grant of £630.00, giving a new balance of £7278.94;  
Expenditure this last month has included, £37.40 for the Remembrance Wreath, and the purchase of a Defibrillator to be located at the School at a cost of £1075.00.

The balance now stands at £6166.54

#### 10.11.21

##### **SBC Councillors' Report**

Councillor Eric (SBC) informed the CC that the next round of Budget planning was underway which was followed by Councillor Heather's (SBC) report with six main points:

1. Edinburgh Declaration. Councillor Heather was proud to have seconded the motion supporting SBC signing the Edinburgh Declaration on protecting and promoting biodiversity. There was a sub-national state/local authorities and cities pledge of support to work on this agenda. Sub-national states (like Scotland) and local government are very important particularly if the leader of the national state should go AWOL ie in the way Trump pulled out of the Paris Agreement. During that time states like California kept working on mitigating climate change. Many local authorities and cities (but not SBC yet) have also signed the Glasgow Declaration on promoting sustainable food systems.
2. Tweeddale Area Partnership. At the Partnership meeting on 2 November there was a very clear and useful presentation on the roads maintenance programme with half the network in need of repair, plus the council's plans to take forward "place-making" was discussed. This is a straightforward proposal to work 'bottom up', working with local areas to produce local plans which then inform the larger scale, more strategic plans. A Tweeddale specific meeting will consider how best we do this is and is being organised for week commencing 10 January 2022.
3. Living Wage event. Councillor Heather attended the meeting to celebrate the large number of employers in the Borders now paying the Living Wage, increasing to £9.90 per hour on 17 November.
4. Reduction of Violence against Women. It was reported that there is to be a joint, cross party motion, supporting work to reduce Violence against Women and Girls, to be presented at the Council meeting on 25 November; the start of 16 days of action being supported by Borders Rape Crisis and the Police.
5. Councillor Shona Haslam will be standing down as Council Leader at the meeting on 25 November, and a new Leader will be appointed.
6. Still awaiting reports on public toilet provision and the future of the 20 mph zones, it is unclear at this point whether they will come to the council at the November Meeting.

Rosalind commented that there had been the Local Housing Strategy Survey circulated and it would be worth all members completing this individually, she encouraged all to have a look at it and respond before the end of November.

#### 11.11.21

##### **Any Other Business**

**Electric Vehicle Chargers (EVC):** The Chair opened this topic by explaining that she would like to have an exploratory discussion to set our thinking out and to see how we can take the installation of EVC in Broughton forward, with a view to reporting back to our next meeting in January (no meeting in December). Rosalind elaborated that Broughton is a substantial area on the tourist route to Edinburgh with no EV charging facility between Moffat and Straiton; it was a main topic that featured in the CC Plan some 3 years ago and with the emphasis on the National move to EVs we now need to get moving on a proposed plan with some urgency. Setting out what we need to consider she included researching of suitable sites, Council land or Private land, requirements for planning permission and costs; what type of EVC we should have, Rapid or slow charge, number; understand what the running costs are, what the payment methods are and to whom; whether this is for private enterprise, suggesting that we come back in January for a fuller discussion

and plan.

There was general agreement, the Secretary outlining the Government's plan that all new cars from 2030 would be EVs and that diesel and petrol vehicles would be phased out by 2050. Councillor Heather then pointed out that this issue was very much a National issue and especially in light of COP26, EVC were very much on the Government's main Agenda, there would need to be considerable main stream infrastructure to support the plan and that considerable strategic thinking and planning was currently underway. There would be money available to support local infrastructure planning and developing of EVC sites and that our priority might be to find suitable sites; in addition the Council were looking to appoint Climate Change Officers to tackle a number of issues, EVC being but one. Considerable discussion ensued, Dominic Ashmole being able to give first hand experience of what it was like to have an EV and the issues with lack of charging sites, he spoke of the need for Residential Street sites as well as public access sites and also that it might be worth us seeing how our neighbours in Newlands went about installing EVCs as they have recently installed some. In terms of where, a number of potential sites were discussed along the main road, although Councillor Heather also suggested pavement installation should not be forgotten. It was agreed that when we came back in January we would have done some research and have more information to hand.

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee:** Rosalind asked if we could all have think about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year (2 – 5 June 2022) with a view to seeing what we might wish to do in celebration or plant commemorative trees as part of the Green Canopy Campaign. Simon agreed to see if the School would be doing anything.

**Neighbourhood Small Schemes Application:** It was agreed that Chris Lewin on behalf of the CC should apply for a Neighbourhood Small Schemes allocation for the reinstatement of a 100m stretch of pavement running alongside the A701, south of Thirlestane. The pavement has subsided in places, resulting in an uneven surface, there is no pavement on the other side of the road, so this is the only route for pedestrians.

**12.11.21**

**Date of next Meeting – 7.30pm, Monday, 17 January, 2022, in Broughton Village Hall (change on review of Minutes Jan 22 – next meeting will be via Zoom).**