**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting**

**Minutes of the Meeting held in Yetholm Youth Hall**

**Tuesday 30th July 2019 at 7:30PM**

**Present:** Susan Stewart (in the chair), Natasha Gray, Angela Walker, Paul Robson, Shane Black, Iain Dougal, Stuart Kelly (SK), Denise Allan, Cllr Robson, Cllr Mountford

**Apologies:** Graeme Wallace, Zoe Keddie, Sandi Keddie

**Members of the Public: 5**

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| 1 | **Apologies for Absence:** as above |  |
|  | Prior to the commencement of the meeting it was noted that the time of the meetings was changed to 7.30pm for the summer months at the request of one of the councillors, however, since the change of time they have not been able to attend any of the meetings. It was, therefore, agreed by those present that the time be changed back to 7pm. |  |
| 2 | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** |  |
|  | Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and signed by the Chair. |  |
| 3 | **Matters Arising/Outstanding** |  |
| 3.1 | Mobile Coverage – **Ongoing but no immediate actions.** |  |
| 3.2 | Concerns re Flooding – No update available as the field behind the property in question needs cut before any action can be taken. The property’s tenant attended the meeting to advise that in recent bad weather the flooding has now undermined her patio area, which is now quite dangerous. SBHA have been made aware but have not yet taken any action or been in touch with the tenant. NG will write a letter to SBHA on behalf of the Community Council to ascertain their position on this issue. **Ongoing.** | PR/NG |
| 3.3 | Notice Board – No update available. **Ongoing.** | ZK/PR |
| 3.4 | School Signs – ER has matters in hand, it would be ideal for any move of the sign to take place during the summer holidays. **Ongoing.** | ER |
| 4 | **Members of the Public – Issues and/or Concerns** |  |
|  | Public Toilets: A group of individuals attended the meeting and advised that they have now cleaned the public toilets, as discussed at the previous meeting. They noted that when in the village, a council worker was asked if they could leave some soap and paper towels at the toilets but this was refused. There was also discussion about access to the cupboard in the gents and provision of hand sanitizer. It was noted that the toilets have been well used over the summer months and SBC need to give these a higher priority. SS advised that the Community Council has still not received the funds we were planning on offering for painting/upgrading the facilities. NG to write a letter to SBC.  It was also noted that two wheelie bins were put out by the bus shelter on the day of the Kelso ride-out which were both full at the end of the day. | NG |
| 5 | **Presentation - Borderlink** |  |
|  | Borderlink attended the meeting to provide information about their latest project, which is being trialled in the village. They provide broadband using their own technologies, therefore, bypassing copper wires and exchanges used by other suppliers. They are currently working to deploy a 100-megabit broadband network in Town Yetholm,which will be serviced by a connection at Gibson’s Garage. There is also potential for further relays at Venchen and Greenlees. Alex talked through the technical aspects of the project and how this will work in practice and accepted questions from those present. It was noted that there is a Government backed scheme for this which will essentially cover the cost of all installations at individual properties. Alex left contact details and leaflets for anyone who wishes to find out more information. |  |
| 6 | **Police Report - Community Beat Officer (PC Suzanne Howgego)** |  |
|  | No Police Officer Present. |  |
| 7 | **Festival Committee Update:** |  |
|  | SS advised that she has recently met with ZK regarding the Chairmanship, and will do so again with the other committee office bearers. It has been agreed that there will be an Honorary President role going forward (initially to be filled by SS). |  |
| 8 | **Portfolio Presentations:** |  |
| 8.1 | **Housing and Planning - Shane Black (Vice Chair)** |  |
|  | A new application has been received for a property at Cliftoncote; this is to be a full demolition and rebuild. It is thought that there has been a previous application for this property ,which had expired before work could begin. It was noted that there had been issues with an application for replacement windows on the Main Street which had been rejected by Scottish Heritage. Discussion took place regarding this, and planning policy in general, as to how these issues may be mitigated in the future. |  |
| 8.2 | **Finance - Angela Walker** |  |
|  | Year to Date: Income £174, Expenditure £93. It was noted that the web invoices will be issued soon and those present were reminded to mention this to any local business they thought may be interested. |  |
| 8.3 | **Yetholm Resilient Group – Stuart Kelly** |  |
|  | SK advised that he will set up a Whatsapp Group for resilience, rather than purchasing a new mobile as discussed previously. He also noted that it would not be possibly (due to data protection constraints) to keep a ‘vulnerable persons list’ therefore will be focusing on having an up to date list of volunteers. SK has spoken to the shop/pubs/church who will display notice regarding provision of free water. It was agreed that NG will look into costings for a storage container, as discussed previously. | NG |
| 8.4 | **Village Maintenance & Utilities – Paul Robson** |  |
|  | It was noted that a lot of the signs in the village are becoming overgrown by vegetation.  A meeting was held with the new SBC contact (replacing Alastair Finnie) and a list of 14 action points/concerns was circulated to all. We will need to keep an eye on this to ensure these items are being attended to in due course. |  |
| 8.5 | **Education - Zoe Keddie-Dixon** |  |
|  | No Update available. |  |
| 8.6 | **Grants- Denise Allan** |  |
|  | NG provided DA with the application form for the Pathways Maintenance Grant which arrived this month. It was noted that there has been an individual who has volunteered to cut back hedges etc on a monthly basis; the grant could be used to cover the cost of this. DA advised that we did not win funding from the localities bid fund for the outdoor gym equipment. |  |
| 8.7 | **Health & Social Services – Sandi Keddie** |  |
|  | SS noted that SAK has now met with Sue Rose regarding handover for the defibs. |  |
| 8.8 | **Tourism – Graeme Wallace** |  |
|  | No Update. |  |
| 8.9 | **Projects, Events & Pavilion – Iain Dougal** |  |
|  | ID noted that work has now started on the Le Boule pitch and they are exploring what funding avenues may be available for some fencing and benches etc. The fun day event will be going ahead on 8th September. We discussed the insurance for the pavilion building and it was agreed that the community council would donate the £132 to cover the cost of this; this will be reviewed on an annual basis. Work is ongoing to sort out the various issues with the electricity account. |  |
| 8.10 | **Chair, Website Liaison & Public Events – Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | SS noted that the website is still receiving a good amount of hits. |  |
| 9 | **Scottish Borders Councillors Update** |  |
|  | Discussion took place regarding grass cutting services provided by SBC and potential areas which may see cutbacks in this service. ER advised that changes maybe put in place by SBC from September 2019 onwards. |  |
| 10 | **Additional Correspondence** |  |
|  | None. |  |
| 11 | **AOB** |  |
| 11.1 | SS noted that the safety bar at the top of the slide in the playpark has been unscrewed and removed. It was also raised as to whether there should be a gate at the top of the steps in the interest of safety. |  |
| 11.2 | SS noted that on a number of occasions there have been children playing at the side of the road at Proctors Smiddy ,which is very dangerous. NG will email Suzanne. | NG |
| 11.3 | A meeting has taken place regarding a potential community buyout of the village shop, this is still in the very early stages and SS will continue to provide updates as things progress. |  |
| 11.4 | SB raised a point regarding wild flowers on the way to the school, SS advised him to get in touch with Kate Moses of the Floral Gateway. |  |
| 11.5 | SK raised concerns about plaquards which have been erected outside the home of a know sex offender in the village and have now been on display for a number of days. NG will email Suzanne. | NG |
| 11.6 | PR passed on concerns raised regarding the footpath by the Edgar’s which is a public right of way as the gate has now been locked and it is frequently blocked by a parked van. NG will write a letter. | NG |
| 11.7 | SS noted that the new minister, Reverend Johnston, will be taking up his post at the end of August. |  |

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 27th August in Yetholm Youth Hall at 7.00pm.**