**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting**

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

**Tuesday 24th September 2019 at 7:00PM**

**Present:** Susan Stewart (in the chair), Natasha Gray, Shane Black, Stuart Kelly (SK), Denise Allan, Graeme Wallace, Zoe Keddie, Angela Walker, Paul Robson, Cllr Robson

**Apologies:** Iain Dougal, Sandi Keddie, Cllr Mountford

**Members of the Public: 1**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Before the meeting commenced, SS remind those present that whilst all meetings are open to the public, these are not public meetings and any issues should be raised through the chair.** |  |
| 1 | **Apologies for Absence:** as above |  |
| 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 – Awaiting update from SM. **Ongoing.** | SM |
| 3.3 | Notice Board – GW has been in contact with Kelso Men’s Shed who have quoted £200 for a new wooden notice board – it was agreed by those present that we should go ahead with this. **Ongoing.** | GW |
| 3.4 | School Signs – No update from SBC regarding the sign to be moved. Those present noted that the new lights are very effective and more may not be necessary. **Ongoing.** | ER |
| 3.5 | Public Toilets – Still awaiting a response from SBC regarding upgrading/maintenance works. |  |
| 3.6 | Speeding/Safety Concerns – NG still to send letter to SBC re speed sign position. Concerns were also raised regarding use of mobile phones whilst driving, particularly by tractor drivers and more ‘no footpath’ signs being required (NG to contact SBC). SM provided an update that a footpath from Yewtree Road to the Bus stop has been costed and is being progressed. | NG |
| 3.7 | Shop Buyout – SS noted that this process is moving on rapidly and currently surveys are being circulated round residents of the village, before progressing with a business plan. |  |
| 3.8 | Incident involving a fall by a member of the public – this is being taken forward by the family of the person concerned in terms of insurance/compensation from SBC. **No Further Action**. |  |
| 4 | **Members of the Public – Issues and/or Concerns** |  |
|  | Public Toilets: it as noted that the SBC staff responsible for the routine cleaning are in contact with the group of volunteers aiding with the upkeep of the toilets and the group are in contact with their equivalents in Morebattle.  Bus Shelter: it was noted that a large volume of litter is being left in the bus shelter and it was agreed that we will ask SBC if another bin could be provided. There is another member of the public in the village who has regularly been maintaining the bus shelter recently. | NG |
|  | **Secretary Post**  SS advised members prior to the meeting that NG had indicated that she wishes to resign the post of secretary due to personal circumstances. It was agreed that the vacant post would be advertised and members should approach anyone they feel would be interested. |  |
| 5 | **Police Report - Community Beat Officer (PC Suzanne Howgego)** |  |
|  | Suzanne noted that in the previous month there have been incidents with damage to cars and targeting of a specific individual in the community being ongoing. She also noted that there was a complaint relating to a speeding agricultural vehicle on the primside road with collided with and caused damage to a tree. SB asked whether there have been any reported incidents at Proctors Smiddy as issues with a large number of vehicles being parked on the road or restricting visibility have been ongoing; Suzanne advised that she would keep a close eye on the area over the next week. Suzanne retires from the force next month – those present thanked her for all her help and hard work over the last few years. |  |
| 6 | **Festival Committee Update:** |  |
|  | It was noted that we now have a Bari Gadgi in place for 2020 and are awaiting a positive response from a potential Manushi. |  |
| 7 | **Portfolio Presentations:** |  |
| 7.1 | **Housing and Planning - Shane Black (Vice Chair)** |  |
|  | No new plans have been received since the last meeting and SB advised that he has submitted comments as agreed on the plans for Lochside. SB noted that a new sign has been erected at Grafton Bank to ‘Keep turning head clear’ however this has been erected on someone’s private land – councillors to take forward. A query was also raised regarding stables without planning permission, it was agreed that if these cannot be considered ‘moveable’ then retrospective planning should be obtained. |  |
| 7.2 | **Finance - Angela Walker** |  |
|  | Income YTD £2287.70, Expenditure YTD £546.32; we are currently carrying forward £8199. AW noted that we have now received the monies from the Gymkhana which have been earmarked for upgrading the public toilets provided that this can be matched by SBC – ER will look in to this. It was agreed that we can look into having another fundraiser after the new year if required. | ER |
| 7.3 | **Yetholm Resilient Group – Stuart Kelly** |  |
|  | SK noted that there was an issue recently with a housebound resident who was unable to get her prescription delivered; a notice will be put in ‘The Cheviot’ with details of those who would be willing to help in these kind of situations. It was noted that this may become more of an issue as Boots Pharmacy will soon be charging for deliveries. There was also an incident of a fire in a local field, which was dealt with by the fire brigade. |  |
| 7.4 | **Village Maintenance & Utilities – Paul Robson** |  |
|  | SS noted that this is likely to be PR’s last meeting as he will be moving for a new job and will no longer live in the constituency area – those present thanked him for all of his hard work over the years. PR noted that he has a few things which he will follow up, mainly trimming foliage around the street lights at the manse and around road signs and will hand all maintenance equipment over to Shane for the meantime. |  |
| 7.5 | **Education - Zoe Keddie** |  |
|  | ZK advised that there was an incident of vandalism over the weekend at the school. They are also looking for donation towards playground markings – it was agreed that we would give them £100 as their half share of the rag bag monies. |  |
| 7.6 | **Grants- Denise Allan** |  |
|  | DA has received the invoice for the machinery for the pathways grant (£270) and it was agreed that we would make up the claim to the full amount to include maintenance of the existing equipment. PR will arrange. | PR |
| 7.7 | **Health & Social Services – Sandi Keddie** |  |
|  | No Update. |  |
| 7.8 | **Tourism – Graeme Wallace** |  |
|  | Monies totalling £114 passed to AW. GW noted that a lot of the gutters on the main street (conservation area) are overgrown – ER will ask SBC to have these sprayed. | ER |
| 7.9 | **Projects, Events & Pavilion – Iain Dougal** |  |
|  | SB provided an update in ID’s absence and noted that they have upgraded all fire equipment in the building and have carried out the fire risk assessment, as well as painting the exterior of the building. The fun day was very successful and made £540 profit. |  |
| 7.10 | **Chair, Website Liaison & Public Events – Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | The website is still going well and more advertisers are to be added. |  |
| 8 | **Scottish Borders Councillors Update** |  |
|  | ER provided a questionnaire on the area partnership review to be completed on behalf of the CC. ER also noted that he is part of the working group for the community council review and will ensure that the concerns we have raised previously will be raised. ER advised that he is tracking progress on the list of maintenance jobs in the village circulated previously. |  |
| 9 | **Additional Correspondence** |  |
|  | Letter/emails regarding the surgery closure – the NHS have conceded they there should be been more notice given but it looking highly unlikely that the decision will be overturned.  Letter received from Mrs Hirst reading the Romany Marsh Nature Walk asking whether maintenance could be undertaken, after which she will update the information board. PR will speak to James Wauchope. | PR |
| 10 | **AOB** |  |
| 10.1 | SS noted that remembrance Sunday is on the 10th November and she will arrange the wreath as usual. It was suggested that it may be nice to see if there are any local members of the armed forces who would like to lay the wreath this year. |  |
| 10.2 | SS noted that there are no speed signs at Blunty’s Mill since the new houses have been built and also asked whether it would be possible to have a cul de sac sign for The Yett – ER to progress. | ER |
| 10.3 | DA noted that there have been significant changes in fire legislation recently, particularly in relation to smoke alarms in homes. Her husband works in this industry and would be willing to provide a presentation to ensure locals are aware of the changes and compliant – to be discussed as an October agenda item. |  |
| 10.4 | SB noted that the hedges between Lochside and Lochtower are causing road issues again – this is on the maintenance list with ER is following up. |  |
| 10.5 | PR advised of various issues which have arisen with contractors who are working on insulating the SBHA house on Woodbank Road which he has followed up with the contractor company directly. |  |

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 29th October in Yetholm Youth Hall at 7.00pm.**