

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Yetholm and District Community Council, held at the Youth Hall, at 7.00pm, on 26 October 2021.**

**Present:** Simon Mountford (SBC; Returning Officer and Chair until Minute 6), Shane Black (Vice-Chair and Chair from Minute 6), Norman Burr, Hywel James, Graeme Wallace, John Stobart (Secretary).

Ex officio: Euan Robson (SBC). In attendance: Susan Stewart (Outgoing Chair).

**Apologies:** Sumati Bala; Angela Walker (the outgoing Treasurer, who was unable to attend the meeting).

### **1 Welcome and Introduction**

1.1 Susan introduced new members to the meeting and drew attention to the formal (safety) requirements of the Hall's Conditions of Hire and to the record for the Trace and Protect Register. This was the first meeting to be held in person since the beginning of "lockdown" in March 2020. Although she had stepped down as Chair when the request for nominations was made at the last meeting, at the present meeting she wished to express her sincere thanks and appreciation to members of the former Community Council, some of whom would continue to serve, while others had completed their terms. She stated that over the more than seven years she had held the Chair she had received great support from members for which she was extremely grateful.

1.2 As the outgoing Chair, Susan reminded members that the following matters would need to be borne in mind at forthcoming meetings: a third defibrillator (the costs of which could be more than covered by a recent generous bequest); Poppy Wreath laying; a member of the staff at The Border Hotel had volunteered to fly flags in future for St Andrew's Day and Yetholm Festival Week 2022; the CC's bank account signatures would need to be formally changed; when the CC met the Youth Hall key would continue to need to be collected and returned to Margaret Westwood, at "Rubislaw", Yew Tree Road, Town Yetholm; annual insurance needed to be attended to; and a possible continuation of the payment of the fee for Zoom meetings in case of a re-imposition of pandemic restrictions.

**2 Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2021** Simon, as Returning Officer and as Acting Chair, said the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2021 would be made available at the next following meeting of the Community Council.

**3 Declaration of Interests** There were none.

**4 Membership of the Community Council** (see under the list of those present).

### **5 Appointment of Chair**

Before inviting nominations for Office Bearers, Simon paid warm thanks to Susan for her tenure leading Yetholm's Community Council. His words were fully supported by members. Simon then invited nominations for a new Chair. Graeme Wallace proposed Shane Black, a

nomination seconded by Hywel James. There being no further nominations, Shane was duly elected Chair and took over the remainder of the meeting.

## **6 Appointment of Vice-Chair**

Shane invited nominations and proposed Graeme Wallace, a proposal seconded by Hywel James.

## **7 Appointment of Secretary**

John Stobart proposed Hywel, seconded by Norman Burr. Hywel observed that with his limited mobility it would be necessary to have support for some physical tasks understood to be occasionally undertaken by the Council's Secretary. John agreed to help with such jobs, with Hywel dealing largely with the Council's paperwork.

## **8 Appointment of Treasurer**

Graeme Wallace proposed Norman Burr, a suggestion seconded by John. The Chair extended cordial thanks on behalf of the Community Council to Angela Walker for her work over the years.

## **9 Distribution of Council "portfolios" and Other Business**

9.1 Following some discussion of the extent to which of these posts were still necessary, the following allocations were made: Housing and Planning, Shane; Grants and Funding, Norman, who would speak with Karon Philips, who had substantial fund-raising experience; Health and Social Services, John; Tourism, Graeme; Education, Hywel; Projects and the Website - a member (tba) to liaise with Susan. It was agreed that as and when necessary individuals could be co-opted to undertake various tasks to support the work of the Council.

9.2 In this last connection it was noted that the new roof for the pavilion had been completed in the previous week, and it was suggested that Iain Dougal might be willing to be co-opted to continue to help with maintenance and repair of the pavilion.

9.3 John drew attention to the need shortly for Christmas trees and lights to be placed in both Town and Kirk Yetholm. After consideration of the practicalities of this job, it was agreed John should contact the power supplier, possible suppliers of trees, establish costs, and seek out people to help with erecting the trees.

9.4 Susan, now a member of the public, requested that the area around the War Memorial be trimmed and made tidy in good time for Remembrance Sunday.

9.5 Hywel drew attention to a website ([citypopulation.de](http://citypopulation.de)) which offered statistics about Yetholm, its population structure, ethnicity, gender balance, and the age range of its inhabitants.

## **10 Reports from members of Scottish Borders Council**

10.1 Simon stated that the closure date of the public lavatories in Town Yetholm, which had recently reopened following closure necessitated by the Covid outbreak, had been put back by SBC to 31 December 2021, and that consideration was being given to reopening thereafter. He explained that so far no conclusion had been reached over the maintenance or indeed future provision of public lavatories by the local authority.

10.2 Euan said there would shortly be a consideration by SBC of the matter of speed limits and invited informal views from members of the Council. After some discussion it was suggested by the Chair that a possible way forward might be to maintain 20mph in all residential areas, and 30mph for some through roads in towns and villages where there were adequate pavements.

10.3 Euan added that construction of new benches, discussed at a previous meeting, was in hand but none was yet ready.

**11 Date of Next Meeting** to be held at the Youth Hall at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 30 November 2021.

**HJ/7/11/21(amended by JS).**