

Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held in Yetholm Youth Hall
Tuesday 28th January 2025

THIS MEETING POSTPONED TO 4/2/25 DUE TO ILL HEALTH

Present: Fiona Thompson (Chair), Susan Stewart (SS), Euan Gibson (EG), Kevin Lee (KL), , Angela Walker (AW), Simon Mountford (SM), Heather Freeland Cook (HFC), and Euan Robson (ER)

Apologies: Paul Freeland Cook (PFC), Heather Freeland Cook (HFC)

Members of the Public: 4 present

		Action
1	Apologies for Absence: As Above	
2	Minutes of previous meeting, approval, and signature The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved with no amendments and signed by the Chair.	
3	Matters Arising from minutes/outstanding issues. SS reported that both bus shelters had been power washed by SBC. No update available on items in container. FT to follow up. New tea towel stock had been received and distributed as needed to outlets and all had been informed in increase of sale price by 25p per tea towel. Pavement between Town and Kirk Yetholm had been cleared by Community Justice team and resident who had written re this had been informed.	FT
4	Christmas Trees and Lights Trees and lights had been well received by community this year. To date no bill had been received from SBC for work that required to be carried out prior to lights being switched on. Also noted that our request had been that PAT testing was included in this price. All present agreed to wait until bill received before we queried any work carried out by SBC in 2018 as identified in November 24 minutes.	
5	Members of the Public Issues and or Concerns MOP expressed concern about the apparent fly tipping of a number of large items adjacent to Allans Cottage which spoiled the site and the view. Discussion took place and this was noted as having been an area of concern for many years. Ownership of the ground queried, and SBC Councillor commented that SBC could not remove items if they were on private ground. However, if vermin were present then this could be a possible route for further investigation. Agreed to look further into ownership and hopefully move this issue forward. Representation by further MOP regarding the proposed Forestry Plantation at Highside Hill. Noted that this was now on public register and comments could be made by submitting online either as a group or an individual. Kalewater CC were going to comment on a variety of issues which included visual impact, habitats for breeding birds and the impact of large timber lorries passing through Morebattle. Final comment from MOP was regarding the twice-yearly Spine Race and the recent impact particularly on Kirk Yetholm. Main issues that were identified were the size and number of vehicles and the parking of these. Comment also made re generators and floodlights on top green in Kirk Yetholm which ran all day and night and caused some distress to surrounding residents. After discussion all agreed to invite Andrew Taylor to our next meeting as he was the local contact with the Montane Spinr Race. SBC Councillors also noted that this had been taken to SBC for discussion. It was also noted that contact had been made locally re the	SM/ER

	use of a nearby field for parking going forward.	ONGOING
6	<p>Portfolio Discussions</p> <p>Housing and Planning – Vacant Only application received had been circulated to CC members and related to Harden Cottage High Street Town Yetholm – no comments noted</p>	
	<p>Finance – Angela Walker AW gave update on income and expenditure since last meeting. £19,584 in account at this time this included monies from legacy for playing field project and all agreed to ring fence monies required to pay SBC for Christmas Lights when the account was received.</p>	
	<p>Village Maintenance and Utilities – Euan Gibson Potholes in and around village continued to be of concern. Work was due to start later this month from Proctors Smiddy to Hoselaw section of road and this had been posted online and on village noticeboards. Street lighting and area in front of Wauchope Hall remained an issue. ER to follow this up with Scottish Power. EG reported that three drains on Dowbrae at the school lane were sinking. ER to follow this up. Discussion took place re the lack of progress with the erection of new gate at cemetery. This continued to be in the hands of SBC legal department. CC members discussed the possibility of going ahead with this project as we had the agreement of the local landowner. SM and ER to check again with SBC re this.</p>	<p>ER</p> <p>ER</p> <p>ER/SM</p>
	<p>Education – Heather Freeland Cook No report due to apologies given by HFC</p>	
	<p>Bowmont Valley – Paul Freeland Cook FT read out comments received from PFC in his absence as follows – Potholes are being addressed on a regular basis. Refuse collection as scheduled. Re-routing of St Cuthberts way, landowners and tenants have agreed in principle but waiting for Cuthbert way committee to decide. After 4months we still don't have any "danger pedestrians on road signs" which SM was asked to arrange. SM said he had reported this and awaited response/action.</p>	SM
	<p>Resilience – Kevin Lee Work had started on the drainage on the Halterburn Road. Also noted that there was a streetlight missing on this road. ER to report this. The recent very high winds had caused various power outages in Town Yetholm and ER said would look at power outage reports as some areas in Town Yetholm had been off for four days. Thanks, expressed to community shop for opening up the upstairs of the shop for people to use for warmth and tea and coffee – free of charge. Card to be sent expressing our thanks. Village pubs had also opened their doors for people to access warmth and food if required.</p>	<p>ER</p> <p>ER</p> <p>SS</p>
	<p>Grants and Funding – Fiona Thompson Nil to report</p>	
	<p>Tourism – Vacant As noted above re tea towels.</p>	
	<p>Health and Social Services – Vacant Defibrillators all maintained regularly it was reported.</p>	

7	<p>Police Report Most recent report had been circulated by email. New report expected in coming days.</p>	
8	<p>Scottish Borders Councillor's Update Annual budget detail now being finalised and although savings had been identified there would be an increase in Council Tax for the new financial year. Main pressure points on Council budget were increase in NI rates, Interest Rate increases and construction costs increasing. New bus service running well and although not as good as it had been previously to date there had been no complaints raised. Noted that the monies that had been available to set up this new service were now no longer available, but our service would continue. Notices had been circulated re work to improve road surface between Proctors Smiddy and Hoselaw later this month. A new handrail had been installed at the bridge onto the Haugh.</p>	
9	<p>Additional Correspondence SS had circulated all by email as received.</p>	
10	<p>Community Council/AOB SS queried if we could look into obtaining a new notice board for Town Yetholm. KL agreed to look at this with SS. The fence that had been erected around property in Kirk Yetholm had been passed onto Enforcement Team and response awaited. Discussion re untaxed and unlicensed vehicles outside garage in Kirk Yetholm. To be checked. Molehills around village becoming an issue especially in public areas. SM agreed to look at this issue.</p>	<p>KL/SS</p> <p>SM</p> <p>SM</p>

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Date of next meeting Tuesday 25th February 2025 at 7pm in Youth Hall.