

**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held in Yetholm Youth Hall
Tuesday 30th April 2024 at 7pm**

Present: Shane Black (SB) (Chair), Susan Stewart (SS), Euan Gibson (EG), Kevin Lee (KL), Fiona Thompson (FT), Heather Freeland Cook (HFC), Scottish Borders Councillors – Simon Mountford (SM), Euan Robson (ER)
Apologies: Angela Walker (AW), Paul Freeland Cook (PFC)
Members of the Public: 4 present.
The meeting was recorded.

		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. SB indicated that all matters arising would be covered in agenda items and portfolios.	
4	Christmas Trees and Lights Nothing to report this month	
5	Bowmont Valley Defibrillator SS reported that she had been unable to contact suppliers re clarification on points prior to completing the form. She had attempted to complete and submit form earlier today, but form would not send so she would try again during the coming week.	SS
6	Festival Week Update FT intimated that all was in hand for Installation of 2024 Principals this coming Friday (May 3 rd) in Wauchope Hall. Festival Programme would also go on sale at this event. Some of the Miss Deans legacy which had been received was to be spent on two new cups – one for lead rein event and one for children’s fancy dress.	
7	Awards for All Monies Update SS reported that AW and SS had met and there was approx. £1000 left in fund, and this would be used towards Festival Village Lunch and probably one other such event. £100 had also been promised to Children’s Christmas Party and £100 to Playgroup 50 th birthday celebrations. Awards for All contact continued to get regular updates re monies.	
8	Members of the Public – Issues and or Concerns MOP gave update on picnic bench that was being placed on green in memory of Miss Deans. Site had been prepared and kerb dropped for wheelchair access and request was made that SBC receive delivery of the bench to enable them to assemble then safely fasten bench in place on green. This was agreed by SBC councillors in attendance. Question raised by MOP re information circulating about closure of beds and the possible closure of Kelso Hospital. SBC Councillors said that at this time there were no plans to close the hospital or beds. However, a review of the service was taking place as NHS Borders required to make large monetary savings in the coming year. Many of the beds were being used for social care purposes not	

	<p>medical care and this would also be part of the review and help to inform the process going forward. SBC Councillors would keep CC informed of progress and update at future meetings as and when information available.</p> <p>Question raised by MOP if an item re Community Shop could be added to agenda for May meeting. This was agreed and MOP would inform secretary re this agenda item in time for it to be added to CC agenda in May.</p> <p>MOP updated CC on present situation with regard to the Floral Gateway Group (FGG). They were very limited in numbers at this time (only four of them) and needed more members to meet, pool jobs, decide priorities and agree what tasks could be undertaken. CC agreed to publicise this, and MOP agreed to provide poster information. Some discussion also took place re involving school children in any tasks that needed done. FGG agreeable to this but only if children were accompanied by teacher or classroom assistant as they did not wish to have to undertake safeguarding training. Also noted that FGG required some admin support going forward.</p>	
9	Portfolio Discussions	
	<p>Housing and Planning – Shane Black</p> <p>All plans received had been sent out by email to CC. These were in relation to a review of plans for site northeast of Wynstane Cottage as this plan had been refused. Notification of a proposed base station installation upgrade at Linton Hill KY and erection of a garden shed received from Mr K Lee.</p> <p>Discussion then took place regarding permissions that were granted and how these decisions were reached as there appeared to be some flaws in the system. SBC Councillor reported that there were discussions taking place re planning with particular refence to conservation areas – looking to hopefully achieve a more blended approach in the future.</p>	
	<p>Finance –Angela Walker</p> <p>SS reported in AW’s absence that awaiting bank statement and balance needs to be shown in accounts until end of March 24 for this year’s accounts. They then need to be signed along with code of conduct statement and submitted to SBC with grant evaluation form by mid-November 24. All will be reported in full at AGM next month.</p>	
	<p>Village Maintenance and Utilities – Euan Gibson</p> <p>EG reported that the Attonburn to Blakedean road in Bowmont Valley remained in a very dangerous condition. This was also noted in email from PFC along with limited work that had been carried on Valley Road a few weeks ago which was already breaking up. ER and SM to report that this required action.</p> <p>The new gate at cemetery had been discussed with Council officers and it was hoped that this work could be carried out in very near future. There was to be a site meeting re this toward end of May and EG intimated that he would like to attend this meeting. ER agreed to send out detail in coming days.</p>	<p>ER/SM</p> <p>ER</p>
	<p>Education – Heather Freeland – Cook</p> <p>HFC reported there had been some minor damage at school over Easter break which she had attended to.</p> <p>Intimated to meeting that headteacher would be sending request to Pavilion group re use of toilets for various school events in coming weeks. The school had received money from Charity Begins at Home (CBAH) for an intergenerational project.</p> <p>Morebattle and Yetholm were due to celebrate their 50th birthday in May and were having a fundraiser in the coming weeks to support new equipment and staff training. They had also received a £500 award from CBAH towards this fundraising effort.</p>	

	<p>Bowmont Valley – Paul Freeland – Cook Valley issues discussed above in village maintenance. SS intimated that PFC had queried if there had been any action on tree on Cherrytrees Estate. SB reported that he had received an email from landowner to say that this work was due to be carried out soon. SBC also required to be involved as traffic lights would be required. This was noted by ER and SM.</p>	
	<p>Resilience – Kevin Lee KL updated meeting on works that required to be carried out in coming months. Access to be improved to both sides of Yetholm bridge. Costs and materials were discussed, and FT asked for a breakdown of materials cost for her to use in Pathways Grant application. Work also required on the wall roadie from Youth Hostel to the Haugh. Meeting to take place with St Cuthbert’s Way Ranger and date to be confirmed for this by ER. Also noted that if any of the paths were on the Promoted Paths List then SBC had a responsibility to look after them. Halterburn Road was needing repair again and was in the designated scheme of works to be carried out. Discussion re state of road around KY green took place. Unfortunately, this is not an adopted road so any work that required to be done would have to be privately funded by residences around site. Other schemes that could be investigated included developing a place plan and citing within plan conservation enhancement. Noted that bus shelter at bottom of Braeside Road was not being used anymore as shelter but appeared to be being used as a “drug den”. After discussion all agreed that the best way forward for this was to ask that the shelter was removed.</p>	<p>ER</p> <p>SM/ER</p>
	<p>Grants and Funding – Fiona Thompson FT gave report on funding that was available for small projects. This included Neighbourhood Support Fund and Pathways Grant. Discussion again re purchase of lawnmower which could be used on pathways and rough ground. Noted that eight would be given to any application where we were able to give any help in carrying out or supporting with these tasks. FT had also spoken with Susan Gray (Ranger) who had intimated that fingerpost signposts could be something that they could offer support with. Noted that one on Haugh pointing way to village and local amenities would be beneficial. A new Community Engagement Office had been appointed (Roddy Martin) and he was hoping to visit all CCs over the coming months.</p>	<p>FT</p>
	<p>Tourism – Vacant Nothing to report on this portfolio.</p>	
	<p>Health and Social Services – Vacant Defibrillator already noted above.</p>	
11	<p>Police Report No report had been received prior to meeting</p>	
12	<p>Scottish Borders Councillor’s Update ER intimated that the chevron sign on TY road still required to be repositioned after recent accident. He asked if drain on Grafton Bank had been repaired – SB intimate that this work had been carried out. Suggestions given for use of Dairy Wood – through Community Gardens and Abundant Borders Scheme. SS intimated that this land remained responsibility of Church of Scotland and at a recent Session Meeting they had all agreed that the site should be sold as soon as possible. ER said that bus services to villages were being discussed after the handing back</p>	

	<p>of these contracts by Peter Hogg. Three months' notice had been given re this and a new system was being looked at.</p> <p>SM reported that grate in drain at end of Woodbank Road was in a poor state of repair and work was scheduled to take place to repair this.</p> <p>Fly tipping had been reported and dealt with on the SBC ground next to the footpath on the way to Eildon Housing Scheme.</p> <p>Update given on garage in KY and Health and Safety and SEPA were now involved. Another avenue that was being explored was if there had been a period when garage was not used as this would constitute a break in the planning consent that had been granted. Previous user to be contacted re the exact dates.</p>	
13	<p>Additional Correspondence</p> <p>SS had sent all out by email and brought the email re membership of Cheviot Area Assessment Panel to attention of all present as had only been received earlier in the afternoon of the 30th.</p>	
14	<p>Community Council/AOB</p> <p>SB queried whether there was anything that could be done to stop the pigeons sitting on streetlamps.</p> <p>The number of potholes on the Yetholm to Kelso Road was noted and SBC Councillors agreed to look at this.</p> <p>SB commented on SBC use and purchase of electric vehicles which were based at St Boswells. General discussion re these vehicles and charging points that were required.</p> <p>EG queried when the next survey of trees on TY would take place as many had been noted at last survey to be in a potentially dangerous situation. This was to be checked and reported back on.</p>	ER/SM

The meeting closed at 2030.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 28th May at 7pm. The meeting will start with the AGM followed by normal Council Meeting.