

**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held in Yetholm Youth Hall
Tuesday 29th August 2023 at 7pm**

**Present: Shane Black (Chair) (SB), Susan Stewart (SS), Norman Burr (NB), Kevin Lee (KL), Euan Gibson (EG) and Heather Freeland Cook (HFC).
Scottish Borders Councillors – Simon Mountford (SM)
Apologies: Paul Freeland Cook and Euan Robson
Members of the Public: 2
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. 8 – Scam Bulletin SS reported that had been received from SM and had been circulated on Resilience Facebook page. 6 – Community Engagement Officer had circulated pathways grant form to SS as promised. Officer had also asked if young person who was monitoring our defibrillators would be willing to write up a short case study with photo to showcase what Yetholm is doing. KL said he would speak to his son re this. 10 – Warm Hub Monies SS reported that she had received further clarification from Awards for All that remaining monies could be held and spent in community over the coming months. SS was working with Fiona Thompson and others to plan as to how to take this forward.	KL SS ongoing
4	Christmas Trees and Lights Discussion took place around this year’s possible plans and to date nothing had been heard from SBC re supply of trees to village. ER had sent an update to various items and in it he commented that now that the vennel and road up to shop had been resurfaced he hoped that the CC would not now pursue the proposed installation of a lighting switch as it would “more than a pity to open up the road once again” No decision taken as yet as to plan for this year.	All Ongoing
5	Secretarial Honorarium NB intimated that to date no monies had been paid to SS since she had taken up secretarial position. As per discussion at an earlier meeting all present agreed that SS be paid the sum of £280 (7 x £40 per meeting) with immediate effect and £40 per meeting thereafter. The issue of a third signatory was still to be completed and HFC will collect paperwork from NB to ensure this is put in place.	HFC/NB
6	Bowmont Valley Defibrillator SS intimated that she had requested updated price from company for specific defibrillator for Bowmont Valley. The costs quoted had risen slightly to £2500 approx. however unanimous decision taken that this piece of equipment should be purchased for the valley. EG stated that he would investigate the possibility for further funding to offset some of the costs. SS agreed to go ahead and order.	SS
7	Members of the Public – Issues and/or concerns	

	<p>Question asked regarding dispersal of legacy monies – had heard that money had gone to Guiding group in Kelso? HFC said that monies had all been dispersed and minuted as per meeting of June 2023. SS confirmed that the minutes were on the website along with the relevant appendix detailing monies and amounts received. Clarified that no monies had been given to any organisation in Kelso.</p> <p>Question asked re vegetation growth at Lochside – discussed and explained that this was an annual item at CC and Council were aware and it would be dealt with in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Noted that the pavement on way to cemetery was also becoming difficult to walk on due to overgrown vegetation. Also mention of the metal work on bridge between villages was very rusty and there possibly some movement of the pillars.</p> <p>SM agreed to look into these issues and report back.</p>	SM
8	Portfolio Discussions	
	<p>Housing and Planning – Shane Black</p> <p>SB reported that there were no planning applications on SBC site at this time relevant to Yetholm and District. However, concerns were noted that there appeared to be work taking place on Grafton Road and no planning had been seen for this. Mention made that it was possibly a distillery that was being constructed. SM to look into this.</p>	SM
	<p>Finance – Norman Burr</p> <p>NB had circulated most recent report prior to meeting and no comments made or questions asked re this. Noted that there was still £3778 left in Warm Hub monies – this had been discussed in item 3 above. NB also commented that the recreation ground monies were ring fenced awaiting action when new group formed.</p>	
	<p>Village Maintenance – Euan Gibson</p> <p>EG reported that he had started to review list of benches in and around villages. Many required cleaning, painting, some were “lost” and there were some new ones to add to the list. Question asked as to who takes responsibility for memorial benches. SM had looked into this and stated that SBC maintain these benches within the resources available this would include the following - “The amount paid will cover the costs of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the seat • plaque • inscription • installation including any materials required. • an element of future maintenance requirements Maintenance, repairs, and replacement • removal of graffiti and general cleaning will be carried out as and when necessary • repairs will be undertaken throughout the natural life of the seat” SBC also looking to review these terms, and create new terms attached to the purchase of memorial benches around future maintenance belonging to the purchaser, but this hasn’t been pursued as yet. <p>EG queried again the setting up of a working group in the villages that would help with cutting verges and general tidying up. Possible post to be placed on Facebook Resilience page to gauge interest in this proposal.</p> <p>Discussion then took place around equipment that we already have and what would be needed moving forward. Grants are available to help us with this and agreed to look into this in more detail. Contact to be made with member of the community who had undertaken some of this work in the past.</p>	EG
	<p>Education – Heather Freeland Cook</p> <p>HFC reported that school had just returned from holidays and meeting would be set</p>	

	up with head teacher in coming weeks. She then went on to give an update on meeting with Euan Robson at playing field to discuss this area. Various issues were covered – new play equipment, make play area larger, improve access to field for all and the lack of proper pavement at the site. This was to be linked in with new group looking at recreational equipment for the playing field and a meeting was to be set up with ER, HFC and representative from SBC to discuss in more detail.	HFC/ER
	Bowmont Valley – Paul Freeland Cook No report due to absence of PFC. Discussion around road closure notice which had been circulated just prior to the meeting. SM would look into this.	SM
	Resilience – Kevin Lee KL reported he had met with Steven Rowe to look at the steps and access down to Haugh on both sides of the bridge. He intimated that replacement costs would be prohibitive and said that it could be possible to repair the top step, repair and repoint and possibly move the gate and elongate the steps making access easier. This work could possibly be done on a volunteer basis and this level of work could be applied to both sides of the bridge. He also said that there was still no clarity as to whether this work could fall under the remit of Rangers as was part of St Cuthbert's Way. There was still no update as to when work would start on the clearing of Dairy Wood.	KL ongoing
	Grants and Funding – Vacant SB said he asked Denise Allan if she would be interested in talking on grants and funding as co-opted member - unfortunately she could not commit to this at the present time. Query raised as to whether Fiona Thompson would be interested in this. SS to follow this up.	SS
	Tourism – Vacant This position remains vacant. SS updated on items that were for sale in outlets in village and monies would be collected in coming months and given to NB. Discussion took place re electric car charging points being installed in villages as grants were widely available for this – Transport Scotland through Energy Trust mentioned. SB to follow up on behalf of CC as he recently had conversation with someone who could help with this project.	SB
	Health and Social Services – Vacant This position remains vacant with Jack Lee maintaining and checking defibrillators in villages. Discussion had taken place earlier in meeting regarding Bowmont Valley Defibrillator.	
	Chair – Shane Black Email had been received from local resident regarding Bowmont Terrace and drainage. This was for information only.	
9	Police Report No report had been received to date. SS reported that the July report had been posted on CC noticeboard in Town Yetholm.	
10	Scottish Borders Councillors Update SM reminded all of Community Conversation events that were happening around Borders and the Kelso event was on 13 th September in Tait Hall from 4 – 7pm. All encouraged to attend this event. SM also reported that there was a Scottish Government Consultation taking place at this time re proposed changes to Council Tax which would impact on us all. ER was absent but had sent the following report - On roads – Grafton Bank, Woodbank Road and the Green are all repaired, and I hope this work makes a big difference.	

	<p>The diagonal on the Green was in much need of attention as was the vennel. The white GIVE WAY lines are to be restored as a matter of urgency especially given the accident there. The impression after the resurfacing is that there is a right of way in and out of the vennel which is of course not the case. Incidentally I hope the Community Council will not now pursue the installation of a lighting switch as it would be more than a pity to open up the road. The area in front of the shop and beyond and at the end of the Green and a section down towards the garage and on the small diagonal will unfortunately need to wait until next year if resources then allow. I have looked at these areas with one of the Council's engineers in preparation for next year. The potholes in Grafton Road have been reported. The Yewtree Road sign has been replaced with a green and yellow one. Strimming around the benches on the sports ground will be carried out and the spar on the bench on the Mindrum Road is to be replaced. I have nothing further as yet on the B6352 to Mindrum in Northumberland. I am trying to get a date regarding the work at Dairy Wood. I have been in discussion with the roads' officers about the Lochside / Cherrytrees bend vegetation.</p>	
11	<p>Additional Correspondence All had been sent out by email.</p>	
12	<p>Community Council /A.O. B</p> <p>SS intimated poppy wreath had been purchased. Parking around KY green discussed and all reminded that any inappropriate parking should be reported to the Police at the time. Some thought could be given to parking on Green if matting was installed. KL intimated that there was badger set on the corner at Yetholm Mains which was seriously compromising the road. He also reported that the wall at Catchapenny was in a state of disrepair and could also be a cause of accidents. KL agreed to send SM the exact locations. EG queried if any update on Oktoberfest and NB said that there was a provisional plan in place for this to take place on 28th October on KY green. This was dependant on a number of factors – grant monies, insurance being the main items still to be resolved.</p>	KL

The meeting closed at 2035.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 26th September 2023 at 7pm in the Youth Hall.