

Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held at the Yetholm Kirk
Tuesday August 30th 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present: Shane Black (SAB) (in the Chair), Norman Burr (NB) (Treasurer), David Green (DG), Karon Phillips (KP), John Palfrey (JP), Sumati Bala (SB), Cllr S Mountford (SM).
Apologies: Cllr E Robson (ER), Heather Freeland Cook (HFC), Susan Stewart (SS), Paul Freeland Cook (PFC)
In attendance: Fiona Thompson (FT) (Yetholm Festival Committee Treasurer)
Members of the Public: 3

	Minute	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence: as above.	
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
2.1.	The Chair drew the attention of the meeting to the minutes of the previous meeting held on July 26 2022 and asked for any comments or corrections. JP indicated that there was an inaccuracy in Item 7 which should read: 'Methods of communication to villagers were discussed and it was agreed that notice should be put on the website and noticeboards and the possibility of flyers to every house to be investigated. SS, as Editor of the Cheviot magazine, thought that an announcement in the Cheviot October issue would be as effective.' There were no further corrections except as noted in the matters arising set out below and, subject thereto, the minutes were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chair as a correct record.	SS
3.	Matters Arising or Outstanding from Previous minutes	
3.1.	Cheviot magazine: it has been decided that the entire back page of the October issue of the Cheviot will be devoted to the announcement of the legacy. It was emphasised that Facebook applications are not acceptable. Defibrillators: these have been purchased with CC funds.	
4.	Members of the Public: Issues or concerns	
4.1.	Status of defibrillator training was questioned as member of the public said that he had a contact who was willing to undertake evening training sessions. SB and NB to follow up.	SB, NB
4.2.	It was reported that the cemetery is running out of space. SM agreed to check status of land situation.	SM
4.3.	Energy crisis: concerns were raised in the context of local residents, businesses and community groups. SM assured the meeting that SBC was leaning heavily on Holyrood and Westminster for help and would pass on any available funds. He reported that SBC was in the process of designating certain council properties as 'warm rooms' for use when necessary during winter months and community councils would be notified accordingly. He pointed out that all Council Tax revenue is already accounted for. A member of the public pointed out the existence of a village group oil consortium and it was agreed to put notice of this on the website and noticeboards. SAB suggested that the reinstatement of the Resilience Group should be accomplished asap. Residents should be encouraged to ask for help.	SM SS SB
4.4.	Legacy: it was generally felt that a long-term view should be taken in how the legacy of Miss Deans should be undertaken and the purchase of Premium Savings Bonds was put forward. NB was doubtful that this would prove to be a good investment, but all suggestions will be considered.	ALL
4.5.	Public Transport: Concern expressed at diminishing public transport which SM said is due partly to scarcity of drivers, partly increasing fuel prices and partly to reluctance of passengers willing to return after the pandemic, making some services unviable. Situation is being monitored by SBC.	SM, ER

4.6.	Concern about the state of the village pathways and verges was expressed by several members of the public, convinced that there are willing volunteers ready to undertake much of the maintenance if given the go-ahead by the YCC. Issue of insurance was brought up and SAB thinks that, if each volunteer is 'signed in' then they are covered by current insurance. SAB to check SM will talk to grass cutting dept of SBC. SAB to talk to ER about extending the work from Lochside. It was also pointed out that the Pack Horse Bridge is about to collapse.	SAB, NB SAB, ER
4.7.	Bus shelters need attention and SM will follow up on action to be taken by SBC.	SM
4.8.	Village Marquee: it was suggested that a large marquee be purchased in time for the Oktoberfest in case of inclement weather. There was discussion of some already existing tents/marquees and that Jedburgh has one/some available to rent or purchase. JP volunteered to investigate sizes and prices of new marquees, to assess viability of those already in use and to report back to next meeting.	JP
5.	Festival Committee Report (FT)	
5.1.	No Festival activity until September 5 th when the "picking" team will be chosen. Following a successful outcome of having next year's Principals lined up, the next meeting would be January 2023 when the process of Festival 2023 planning starts.	FT
6.	Community Council's Constitution	
	KP asked that this be kept on agenda as further meetings are to take place.	KP, NB
7.	Portfolio Discussions	
7.1.	Housing and Planning: Shane Black One new build is proposed at Lochside: Plot no. 4. Not thought to have any impact on village. KP asked SM about holiday homes in the village. SM explained the current Council Tax situation re holiday homes and said that all premises for rent must now be licensed.	
7.2	Finance: Norman Burr NB asked for approval to transfer the YCC accounts to the Co-operative Bank, due to poor and slow responses to various issues, though this somewhat alleviated by the £125 he had received from TSB in apology. Transfer was agreed by all. Stipend for Secretary: it was proposed that this be formalised for the current and future secretary position. Proposed by NB, seconded by JP. Details to be arranged.	NB NB
7.3	Village Maintenance and Utilities: Norman Burr SAB reported that the Youth Hall is interested in installing solar panels. NB is researching cost and obtaining quotes to include a thermal scan.	NB
7.4	Education: Heather Freeland Cook Apologies received from HFC, but she says that there is nothing to report at present apart from the fence behind the school being repaired and that the mess has been cleared.	
7.5	Bowmont Valley: Paul Freeland Cook PFC sent apologies. Nothing to report at present.	
7.6	Grants and Funding: Karon Phillips SB asked if part of the Pathways Grant could be used to instal a handrail on the very steep steps on the bridge and possibly a ramp for wheelchairs. There is currently a handrail on only one side of the steps. Also, could the farmer on the opposite side, entrance to the Haugh, be asked for permission to instal a self-closing gate rather than the padlock currently in use. KP responded that the grant for this year has been spent, so a further application would need to be made. SAB will pursue with help of ER.	SAB, ER

7.7	Tourism: John Palfrey Website: work ongoing. Christmas trees and lights: application to SBC has been completed and ER to arrange site visit to discuss lighting possibilities. Purchase of two 16'6" trees at \$250 each agreed prior to meeting. Susan Stewart joined the meeting at this point.	SS, JP JP
7.8	Health and Social Services: Sumati Bala SS has purchased 3 defibrillators, as per agreement at meeting of July 26 2022. One to go to Border Hotel, one to Garage and the third to the Pavilion. Possibility that either of models removed from Border Hotel or Garage might go to Church. The cost of installing electricity to the phone box in Bowmont Valley is approximately £1,500 for a commercial connection, £2,000 for a thermal bag. It was proposed that the Roxburghe Estates might be asked if they may be interested in contributing and a letter to be sent to ascertain interest.	
7.9	Projects and Events/Pavilion: Shane Black No current projects though SAB is following up on the proposed motorcycle event. Oktoberfest: date TBC	
8.	Police Report	
8.1.	Report received and circulated prior to meeting.	
9.	Scottish Borders Councillors Update	
9.1.	Missing bench has been located. Bench at Kirk Yetholm is broken. It is hoped that ER might have a look when he makes the site visit to discuss Christmas lights.	
9.2.		
10.	Additional Correspondence	
	All incoming correspondence is circulated to members as it is received.	SUR
11.	AOB	
11.1.	Dog fouling: more notices needed in village. SS reported that she had topped up the bag dispenser and had already put up more notices, but would welcome some additional help in this area.	
11.2.	Shop: no date for return to shop premises yet.	

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm .

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 27 September 2022 at 19.00 hrs at Yetholm Kirk.