

Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held in Yetholm Youth Hall
Tuesday 27th February 2024

Present: Shane Black (SB) (Chair), Susan Stewart (SS), Paul Freeland Cook (PFC), Euan Gibson (EG), Kevin Lee (KL), Fiona Thompson (FT)

Scottish Borders Councillors – Not present

Apologies: Heather Freeland- Cook (HFC), Angela Walker (AW), Simon Mountford (SM), Euan Robson (ER)

Members of the Public: 2 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	
	Question asked whether tree that had been planted on TY green would encroach any Christmas tree in the future. SBC to be asked re this. Cheque to pay Stewarts for Christmas lights test had now been signed and SS would hand into them this week. Agreed again that this item would remain on agenda throughout the year.	Ongoing
5	Bowmont Valley Defibrillator SS informed meeting now that cheques could be signed by AW that the defibrillator would be ordered for phone box in Bowmont Valley. PFC asked that he be kept up to date as to when this may happen as area around box would need tidied up.	Ongoing
6	Festival Week Update FT reported that planning was going well and advert requests for programme had been sent out to all. Sponsors had been approached and the Rideout map had been updated in the last month.	
7	Community Council Election Update	
	SS reported that she had heard back from Fiona Henderson at SBC and the next election and call for nominations would be in September 2024. To be followed up nearer the time.	SS
8	Awards for All Update SS reported that the lunch held earlier in month had gone well but not many had attended despite usual publicity. Another lunch scheduled for March 15 th also in Wauchope Hall. Update had been sent to contact at Awards for All re all events to date.	
9	Members of the Public – Issues and or Concerns	
	Question raised re the possibility of new play equipment at playing field. Intimated that there had been a meeting with SBC re this, but no action had been taken as yet. To be followed up for next meeting. Phone box in Town Yetholm not working – to be reported.	SS

10	Portfolio Discussions	
	<p>Housing and Planning – Shane Black No plans had been received this month. Elmbank windows in Town Yetholm which had been noted at last meeting are out with the conservation area so planning consent not required.</p>	
	<p>Finance –Angela Walker AW had sent report as unable to attend meeting. Income to date this month was £565 and of this £545 was to be put toward Seniors Event later this year. Expenditure was £2809 but all outstanding invoices now paid. This leaves a deficit of £2,244 for this month but AW will present the full picture at March meeting in a format that can be easily understood by all. Noted that this would also be the year end. AW also commented that if under new rules presented to CC a secretary who was a Councillor could not be paid an honorarium then office expenses should be paid. This would include printing, postage, paper, and envelopes. This was agreed by all present as the way forward.</p>	
	<p>Village Maintenance and Utilities – Euan Gibson EG commented he had nothing to report at this time. Comments received from ER and SM regarding outstanding issues are as follows – The drain along the main road has been jetted by a specialist firm from Glasgow and a number of intruding roots cut out. There are however two choke points left that will require excavation. That work will be carried out in the new financial year after 31st March. It will involve one of more inspection chambers which will make future jetting and cleaning easier. Cemetery Gate – officers are actively looking at reinstating the gate at the rear of the cemetery to enable it to open out into parking area. ER hopes to arrange site visits in March to Halterburn and the St Cuthbert's Way field that is being eroded. The Council officer dealing with the tree at Catch a Penny is off work just now but contact was apparently made with the landowner who is responsible for it. ER pleased to report that the road in Northumberland through Mindrum has had a lot of work done to resurface the sections that were in a very bad state of repair. ER has sent a thank you to Northumberland County Council. The drainage in Grafton Bank has been reported and work promised as soon as it can be scheduled to deal with the problem. The fence at the Bottle Bank should have been attended to by now but if not, the repair will be imminent.</p>	
	<p>Education – Heather Freeland – Cook No report available due to HFC absence</p>	
	<p>Bowmont Valley – Paul Freeland – Cook PFC commented that he was very disappointed that no SBC councillors present this evening. Despite frequent mention at meetings, emails, video sent by HFC the valley road was in an appalling state and this included the passing places and the ditches. Discussion took place and intimated that the way forward was possibly a formal complaint being lodged with SBC as there were specific timelines for this to be responded to. This was to be looked into by PFC and SS. Subsequent to the meeting an appointment has been arranged to meet with John Lamont MP at his surgery in Kelso on 8/3/24.</p>	PFC/SS
	<p>Resilience – Kevin Lee KL discussed the possible purchase of a lawnmower for use by CC around villages. Border Chainsaws had an appropriate machine in stock at a cost of £4860 inc VAT. This could be supplied with appropriate training, and they had also offered to supply a hedge trimmer as well which would be included in the</p>	

	<p>cost. All present discussed this, and general agreement was reached around this purchase however would wait until March meeting to see full financial situation before any purchase made. Further quotes would also be required to be sought before any purchase made.</p> <p>SS also intimated that she would email round to CC members the letter received from Floral Gateway re their proposal to Allotment Society.</p>	<p>KL</p> <p>SS</p>
	<p>Grants and Funding – Fiona Thompson</p> <p>FT to investigate if any grants available towards purchase of machinery as described above. SS also asked if she could look into grants that could be available towards new noticeboard for Town Yetholm.</p>	<p>FT</p>
	<p>Tourism – Vacant</p> <p>SS reported that outlets had been restocked in last week and monies received from Border Hotel and account sent to Shop for sales made.</p>	
	<p>Health and Social Services – Vacant</p> <p>Reported that the power to the defibrillator at the playing field had been accidentally switched off. No damage sustained.</p>	
11	<p>Police Report</p> <p>No report had been received prior to meeting</p>	
12	<p>Scottish Borders Councillor’s Update</p> <p>All issues covered in portfolio updates.</p>	
13	<p>Additional Correspondence</p> <p>All had been sent out by email</p>	
14	<p>Community Council/AOB</p> <p>KL intimated that the steps at the bridge would be repaired in the coming months as weather improved.</p> <p>PFC said that the tree where the branch had broken off during gales in December needed to be looked at as water was seeping into the area which had been cut away. SS to inform SBC Councillors.</p>	<p>SS</p>

The meeting closed at 2030.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 7pm in the Youth Hall.