

**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held in Yetholm Youth Hall**  
**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7pm**

**Present: Fiona Thompson (Chair) (FT), Susan Stewart (SS), Heather Freeland Cook (HFC), Paul Freeland Cook (PFC), Euan Gibson (EG), Kevin Lee (KL), Angela Walker (AW) Scottish Borders Councillors – Simon Mountford (SM), Euan Robson (ER)**

**Apologies: None**

**Members of the Public: 2 present and Roddy Martin Community Engagement Officer from SBC**

		<b>Action</b>
1	<b>Apologies for Absence: As Above</b>	
2	<b>Minutes of previous meeting, approval, and signature</b> 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	<b>Matters Arising from minutes/outstanding issues.</b> FT reported that she had spoken with Pavilion Committee re items in container. They thought that many of the items were for Resilience use and required access to go through what was there. Items still questioned were large sections of wood. Land adjacent to Allans Cottage – further update was noted that caravan was locked and there were bicycles seen inside. The question of ownership discussed again, and SM said that car registration had been sent to Community Police Officer who would investigate as soon as possible. Further investigation to be carried out in coming month to try to help resolve this issue. Street Lighting – work now completed at Wauchope Hall site. Reported that Dow Brae light still out. ER to investigate this. Cemetery Gates – ER reported that this was still an issue between legal and estates department of SBC. Bowmont Valley Signs – this had been reported again by SM. Resilience – work on Halterburn road had been completed. All advised to keep monitoring this site for any future issues that may arise. Power Outage – ER intimated that he was still awaiting feedback from Scottish Power re this. Card had been given to shop thanking them for use of upstairs facility during power outage. Noticeboard in Town Yetholm – this was work in progress and discussion had taken place between SS and KL re how to progress this piece of work. No update available on untaxed and unlicensed vehicles at garage in KY. Molehills – SM had given AW number of someone to contact re this issue.	<b>Ongoing</b>     <b>FT</b>  <b>ER</b>  <b>Ongoing</b>   <b>All</b>  <b>ER</b>   <b>SS/KL</b>
4	<b>Christmas Trees and Lights</b> To date no invoice received for work carried out from SBC.	
5	<b>Members of the Public – Issues and or Concerns</b> MOP commented on cars parking on pavements at various places in village. After discussion agreed that this was a police issue and was emphasised that should be reported at the time of the incident to the police.	
6	<b>Roddy Martin – Community Engagement Officer SBC</b> Roddy Martin introduced himself to the meeting and went on to give a brief overview of his role at SBC. There were five officers in post to cover each	

	<p>locality. They were available to give advice and support to community groups on funding and could signpost where to go for advice on setting up a variety of services in communities. They worked with all agencies across the Borders this included NHS, Education and Housing. They administered the Neighbourhood Support Fund (although the future of this fund unsure at this time), also involved with Community Welfare Trust and Community Enhancement Trust. Roddy thanked for his attendance at the meeting.</p>	
7	<p><b>Festival Week Update</b>  FT reported planning well in hand. Next meeting on Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Programme was almost ready to be proofread.</p>	
9	<p><b>Portfolio Discussions</b></p>	
	<p><b>Housing and Planning – Vacant</b>  One application had been received and had been circulated to CC by email. Plans for work on house in Yewtree Lane. No comments made by CC.</p>	
	<p><b>Finance –Angela Walker</b>  AW reported no income received this month. Expenditure had been offset by donations received for Seniors events and Burns Supper. £17,700 held in CC fund at this time and there was £800 in hand towards next years Christmas supper.</p>	
	<p><b>Village Maintenance and Utilities – Euan Gibson</b>  EG reported that although work completed at Wauchope Hall the barriers used were still lying at side of road. ER commented that this was due to the multiple companies that could be involved in this work but would follow up on our behalf. Discussion then took place re steps into Haugh from TY side and how dangerous they continued to be. Agreed that HFC would speak to Walkers Groundworks to get an idea of cost purely to improve the access and safety. This could be then progressed by speaking with landowners although was felt that they would not have any issue with this.  SS queried the fence in KY and had any progress been made. SM commented that this was still with planning and enforcement at SBC.</p>	<p><b>ER</b> <b>HFC</b></p>
	<p><b>Education – Heather Freeland – Cook</b>  HFC had sent earlier message to all to say that Mr Wilson Headteacher was leaving his post from 5<sup>th</sup> May to take up new post in East Lothian. She went onto say that there were numerous issues she had to speak to Mr Wilson about and one of them was the erection of the new play equipment in school playground which at this time did not appear to have safety matting in situ. However, this had only been installed in recent school break and could be work in progress. HFC to report back at next meeting. Only other item of note was that next week was World Book Day and school would be involved in this.</p>	<p><b>HFC</b></p>
	<p><b>Bowmont Valley – Paul Freeland – Cook</b>  PFC reported that the recent wet weather had caused the potholes to open up again. Noted that the worst one was at Woodside and needed urgent attention. No further report back from St Cuthberts Way Group had been received re slight change to route. Signs still required on roadside for walkers as noted above.</p>	<p><b>SM</b></p>
	<p><b>Resilience – Kevin Lee</b>  Halterburn Road commented on in matters arising. Batteries in defibrillators had been changed as required. Glazing in bus shelter needed to be replaced – costs discussed and as is SBC shelter ER said he would look into this.  Discussion re recent dumping of goods at bottle bank. SS commented that she had reported as fly tipping and had been dealt with. No real solution identified to this issue – monitoring and reporting as and when occurred would continue.  Hogweed had been noted again in areas of park. ER commented that Tweed Forum had carried out a lot of work around this issue and he would follow up with</p>	<p><b>ER</b></p>

	them and also report any further concerns re this to him.	<b>ER</b>
	<b>Grants and Funding – Fiona Thompson</b> Nil to report	
	<b>Tourism – Vacant</b> Nil to report	
	<b>Health and Social Services – Vacant</b> Nil to report	
<b>11</b>	<b>Police Report</b> Most recent report had been circulated by email. New one expected in coming days.	
<b>12</b>	<b>Scottish Borders Councillor’s Update</b> SM reported that at recent council meeting it had been agreed that Council Tax would rise by 10% in the coming year. This would help to fund some services as a result of this increase. He also commented on a meeting he had attended about a Teviot Wind Farm and the size and number of structures that were being proposed. He noted that this was unlikely to happen in our area. ER said that SBC had saved £92 million in recurrent savings since 2013/14 and another £9 million to be found in the coming year. Increase in NI contributions had made the present financial situation even more challenging. “Easy” savings were becoming harder and harder to find. He also informed CC that SBC were undergoing a transformation programme which would ultimately result in a smaller council in our area. The drains that required repair on Dowbrae would be undertaken in the new financial year. Also noted that the work being carried out at this time on Yetholm to Kelso Road looked to be more in depth than had been previously planned for.	
<b>13</b>	<b>Additional Correspondence</b> SS had circulated all by email as received	
<b>14</b>	<b>Community Council/AOB</b> AW intimated that she had been approached re a dog that had been wandering round the village unsupervised which had led to excess dog excrement in village. Comment had also been made about the large amount of rubbish outside house on street behind Youth Hall. Query also raised re possible work that had been undertaken at this site. SM agreed to look into this. FT intimated that she had attended a successful meeting with organisers of Spine Race and local representative – all information re this had been sent out to Councillors. They had been very responsive and apologetic re recent issues raised, and an action plan was now in place. A further meeting would take place before June race SS intimated she would be absent from March meeting and that AW had agreed to take the minutes in her absence.	<b>SM</b>

**The meeting closed at 2015**

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm.**