

Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held in Yetholm Youth Hall
Tuesday 30th January 2024

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

Scottish Borders Councillors – Simon Mountford (SM) and Euan Robson (ER)

Apologies: None

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	
	Thanks were given to all who had helped in any way to supply and erect trees in both villages especially with regard to extra work due to strong winds. SBC were reviewing their supply of trees to towns and villages in light of issues which had occurred last year. Reported that the damaged electrical cable had been repaired and that two sets of lights had been damaged when tree had blown over. Noted that we had a large number of lights in stock so this should not cause a problem going forward. FT reported that there was a bingo night planned in the coming year which would help with tree funding. All agreed to keep this item on the agenda throughout the year.	Ongoing
5	Bowmont Valley Defibrillator SS reported that no progress had been made with this application as the issues around signatories at the bank still needed to be resolved before any purchase could be made.	Ongoing
6	Festival Week Update FT reported that Principals were now in place for Festival in June. However, was stressed that this had been a huge challenge this year. Planning meetings had resumed, and the festival would run from Friday 7 th – Saturday 15 th June inc. Installation would be on 3 rd May in Wauchope Hall.	
7	Awards for All Monies Update	
	SS reported that the recent Burns Supper in a box had been extremely well received by the 47 recipients. HFC asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Cornhill Village Shop from the Council. Member of the public said that someone had said to him that they hadn't been aware of this event. SS intimated that notices had been put up in both villages, along with flyers in shop as well as usual Facebook posts. Two community lunches were also planned for February and March and work was in hand to promote these events. Awards for All had also been informed about all of these events and the use of the monies received to date.	SS

8	Members of the Public – Issues and/or concerns	
	<p>MOP circulated further information on recent discussions re forestry proposals. They intimated that this information had also been shared with Barbara Bell Chair of Kalewater CC. PFC asked how many signatures had been on the first petition and it was reported that there had been 179.</p> <p>Query also raised around the large hole in the tarmac in the region of the shop. SS intimated that she had also received an email complaint about this issue and that SBC were aware.</p>	
9	Portfolio Discussions	
	<p>Housing and Planning – Shane Black</p> <p>SB reported that comments had been submitted re proposed house on allotment site in Kirk Yetholm.</p> <p>Discussion then took place re garage and shed in Kirk Yetholm which was intimated at last meeting. Reported that the inner wall of the shed in Kirk Yetholm had now fallen down. If the entrance to the garage was to be changed then planning permission would be required,</p> <p>SM said that he had looked at the original planning permission for this site from 20 years ago which was only registered as temporary for eighteen months. However, as no complaints had been received in the above time frame it was now out with the time limit and they could carry on with work on the site. However, Environmental Health had been asked to look at the site – no update available as yet. Also noted that subletting also appeared to be an issue with these premises. The premises were in the conservation area, but this did not necessarily mean that they were listed buildings.</p> <p>Also noted that council tax fees were to be increased in the new financial year for empty properties and that grants were available to bring empty properties back into use.</p>	SM
	<p>Finance –Angela Walker</p> <p>AW reported as noted above that access to account still limited but hope was that this would be resolved soon. All the website adverts had been invoiced and to date £230 had been received into the account.</p> <p>AW still working on presentation of accounts going forward and she also reported that due to lack of access to account that monies were due to individuals and SBC for various bills and services received.</p>	
	<p>Village Maintenance and Utilities – Euan Gibson</p> <p>EG commented again on large potholes around Green in Kirk Yetholm. Halterburn Road resurfacing had been completed but unsure how effective it would be in the long term. Ditch and gully clearing had also been done at this time.</p> <p>Comments made that a lot of the damage that was occurring on this road and in the Bowmont Valley was due to the many timber lorries that were on these roads. Comment made that the Halterburn Road also appeared to have been well gritted when Spine Race was on – this was noted as unusual occurrence.</p> <p>SB commented that although Grafton Bank had ben resurfaced this had caused flooding to take place with all the recent bad weather, we had experienced.</p> <p>ER said no date had been arranged as yet with representative of St Cuthbert’s Way.</p> <p>Also reported that Scottish Power had resited one of the telegraph poles on the Haugh once again, but this would require to be done again in the not too distant future as the river continually changed its course.</p>	ER
	<p>Education – Heather Freeland – Cook</p> <p>No update from school at this meeting. Comments made re the continued</p>	

	<p>movement of children from Yetholm to Morebattle School. This was being investigated internally and HFC said she was happy to meet with SM outside the meeting to discuss in more detail if required.</p>	
	<p>Bowmont Valley – Paul Freeland – Cook PFC commented that issues in Valley remained as discussed previously – with potholes and drainage continuing to be the main issues.</p>	
	<p>Resilience – Kevin Lee KL queried re new windows in Elmbank in Town Yetholm. No planning permission had been seen for this – they had been white and were now black UPVC. Question raised as to whether this building was in conservation area – SM to check. KL also intimated that the new house at entrance to village had very strong floodlights which could be very distracting to motorists entering village in the dark. Agreed to speak with the owners.</p>	<p>SM SB</p>
	<p>Grants and Funding – Fiona Thompson FT reported that the grant of £450 was still available for any maintenance of machinery or equipment that was needed. No cut-off date noted but the sooner we got application in the better. Benches were to be looked at in first instance by SBC before any outlay on our part. SM agreed to look again at gate at far end of the cemetery as previously discussed. FT said she would continue to look for other relevant grant funding and noted that Charity Begins at Home application process was imminent.</p>	<p>SM</p>
	<p>Tourism – Vacant SS reported website continued to receive a large amount of traffic on a weekly and monthly basis.</p>	
	<p>Health and Social Services – Vacant SS said nil to report.</p>	
10	<p>Police Report No report had been received prior to meeting</p>	
11	<p>Scottish Borders Councillor’s Update ER reported that Dairy Wood had now been cleared by Criminal Justice Team and all that was left to do was the “chipping” of wood which was in hand. He emphasised that thought needed to be given to the future of this piece of land and its use/maintenance. SS said she would bring to Session Meeting later this week. The telecom manhole cover at entrance to the village had now been repaired and cones removed. Catchapenny tree issue discussed at previous meeting was being taken forward by SBC who were going to speak to the estate. ER gave a brief overview of SBC budget process for the coming year and the difficulties which were in the main caused by the gap in what they could raise as opposed to what they could spend. The Council Tax freeze alone meant there a deficit of £6 - £7 million.</p>	
12	<p>Additional Correspondence All had been sent out by email</p>	
13	<p>Community Council/AOB SS intimated that the Rotary were going to be planting trees in the playing field tomorrow (31/1) as minuted at previous meetings last year. SS also commented on the poor parking and consideration given to Kirk Yetholm residents by those who had taken place in the recent Spine Race. Agreed that we would contact organisers to discuss in the coming months. SS also informed meeting that she had sent an enquiry to Fiona Henderson at</p>	

	<p>SBC asking for clarification on when next election should take place for Yetholm and District CC. To date no response had been received.</p> <p>Question raised about drop kerb and access to green in Town Yetholm. ER reported that this was exactly what had been asked for and the new picnic bench in memory of Miss Deans was to be put on flagstones on the site.</p> <p>EG queried the confusion around bin collection over New Year and ER agreed to look into this.</p>	<p>ER</p>
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The meeting closed at 2030.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 27th February 2024 at 7pm in the Youth Hall.