

**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting  
Minutes of the Meeting held in Yetholm Youth Hall  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7pm**

**Present: Shane Black (SB) (Chair), Susan Stewart (SS), Euan Gibson (EG), Kevin Lee (KL), Heather Freeland Cook (HFC), Paul Freeland Cook (PFC)  
Scottish Borders Councillors – Euan Robson (ER)  
Apologies: Simon Mountford (SM), Angela Walker (AW)  
Members of the Public: 2 present.  
The meeting was recorded.**

		<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> <b>Bus Shelter</b> – no update as SM not present. <b>Bus Service</b> – ER will give update later in meeting. <b>New bank signatory</b> – AW has this in hand. <b>F.G.G</b> – notices had gone up asking for new members to express interest. <b>Tree at Catchapenny</b> – Scottish Woodland were waiting on date from S.B.C	
4	<b>Christmas Trees and Lights</b> Unsure whether or not S.B.C would supply us with a tree this year. So, all agreed to go ahead and source trees. HFC agreed to speak with Roxburghe Estate. FT and SS reported that there was a Bingo Night in September planned to help with costs.	<b>HFC</b>
5	<b>Bowmont Valley Defibrillator</b> HFC reported that this had now been installed and was fully functional. Notices to be put up and post on Facebook as well. Thanks, expressed once again to all those who had supported this project either financially or with installation. Richard Mather who owns phone box at Belford was also keen to do the weekly checks for us. This offer was much appreciated by CC. He was also going to paint the box for us.	
6	<b>Festival Week Update</b> FT reported that Festival had been very successful this year and that all the events had been well supported throughout the week. The finances were being updated and would be reported at next Festival Meeting in September. The Principals had been out and about attending Border events as and when they could. Next event they would be riding at was Flodden Ride in Coldstream Week. FT was thanked by SB for giving the welcome speech on the Kelso Laddie Day.	
7	<b>Members of the Public Issues and or Concerns</b> MOP expressed concern about the condition of the War Memorial between the two villages. The whole area around memorial and the memorial itself required cleaning, railings repainted and the possibility of removing the hedge around it was also discussed. MOP stated that she was happy to undertake this work and all present agreed that this was a very generous offer and CC would look into possible sources of funding to help with this project.	<b>All</b>

<b>8</b>	<p><b>Portfolio Discussions</b>  <b>Housing and Planning – Shane Black</b>  SB intimated that only plan that been received was for new house at Venchen. No objections noted.</p>	
	<p><b>Finance – Angela Walker</b>  SS read out short report from AW in her absence - I can now get on to the bank account &amp; have updated everything. Income to date is just £101 of which we owe the school £21. Expenditure is £45 leaving a surplus of £35 (once we've paid rag bag monies. I need to complete an evaluation form for this year's grant, but it can wait until the August meeting by which time I hope to have the accounts signed off. The Border still owe us £34 from last year's web advert.</p>	
	<p><b>Village Maintenance and Utilities – Euan Gibson</b>  EG reported that there were a number of issues in the back road in Town Yetholm with trees encroaching onto the road, large potholes and an area where the road appeared to be sinking due to the electric cables that run underneath the road. The Eildon Housing area also had a large area of overgrown hedge.  To date the meeting with Ranger had not taken place and although the meeting re cemetery gateway had taken place SBC had no money to allocated to this piece of work. ER said that money had been set aside from SBC for this piece of work but there was a small amount of legal process that had to be gone through with the landowner which was in hand.</p>	<b>ER</b>
	<p><b>Education – Heather Freeland Cook</b>  Nil to report as school on Summer Break.</p>	
	<p><b>Bowmont Valley – Paul Freeland Cook</b>  Defibrillator update mentioned above. PFC then went on to say that potholes were starting to reappear in the valley road. Thanks, expressed for the new cattle grid at Cliftoncote. Roxburghe Estate had been and cut down four dead trees at the Woodside Brae.  HFC asked if the cut down part of road when coming from Morebattle to Valley Road could be looked at as a matter of urgency as there was an extremely large pothole which was impossible to avoid.</p>	<b>ER</b>
	<p><b>Resilience – Kevin Lee</b>  KL commented that work continued on the Halterburn Road to try and improve the drainage which had become worse after the exceptional rainfall in the last couple of weeks. Also noted that a new cattle grid was in place on this section of the road. Discussion followed re how to maintain this area of road and KL queried if the ditch had been maintained in the first place this situation would never have happened. ER to look into this.  Further discussion re purchase of grass cutting machine – quotes had been obtained but to date no definite agreement to purchase had taken place. All present agreed to the purchase of this equipment and three new quotes were to be obtained.</p>	<b>ER</b>  <b>KL</b>
	<p><b>Grants and Funding – Fiona Thompson</b>  FT intimated that monies could be available from the Cheviot Neighbourhood support fund for either the War Memorial work or the grass cutting equipment, and she agreed to look at the form in more detail in the coming week.</p>	
	<p><b>Tourism – Vacant</b>  SS reported that monies had been collected from outlets in village selling tea</p>	

	<p>towels etc.  She also intimated that a CCTV camera had been given to CC for use at bottle bank. KL agreed to put in place.</p>	<b>KL</b>
	<p><b>Health and Social Services – Vacant</b>  Defib covered above.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Police Report</b>  No report had been received prior to meeting</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Scottish Borders Councillor’s Update</b>  ER updated meeting re the tree at Catchapenny and said that to date no instruction had come from Scottish Woodland to SBC re any road closure to enable this to happen. ER to check again re this.  Bus Service – there had been a public meeting in Youth Hall re this at which there were 34 in attendance. The two key issues were that the evening bus was leaving Kelso too early and with the new timetable there was a missing bus in the morning. Another concern expressed was would there be enough space on buses going forward.  ER went on to say that initially connection may be an issue, but this was being looked at and the drivers would all have access to an app to see where any specific bus was. Disabled access would also be available. The bus would be in the village before September for people to see and an officer would be on board initially to help and answer any queries re replacement timetable. ER said that adjustments would take place as time goes on to ensure service is working and there was another meeting planned with members of the public in October.</p>	<b>ER</b>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Additional Correspondence</b>  All additional correspondence had been sent out to all by email.</p>	
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Community Council/AOB</b>  Concern expressed about the upsurge in growth of ragwort in area of playing field that was not cut back by SBC. ER to follow this up.  EG informed meeting that there was an issue with dog fouling and the bags being thrown over wall into a resident’s garden in back road.</p>	<b>ER</b>

**The meeting closed at 2020**

**Date of next meeting Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 7pm in Youth Hall.**