

Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held in Yetholm Youth Hall
Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 7pm

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

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

Apologies: Heather Freeland- Cook (HFC), Paul Freeland Cook (PFC)

Members of the Public: None present.

The meeting was recorded.

| | | Action |
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| 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. ER updated on the following items – work on the drain on Bowmont Terrace due to start in April when inspection chambers were to be put in situ. Comment also made that this work appeared to have started as there was a digger on site. Cattle grids at Halterburn were due to be replaced along with new drainage system – approx. cost £12.5K Yetholm Bridge work on the stonework and painting of railings to take place – approx. cost £10k. Potholes in Bowmont Valley work had started to repair potholes on this road. ER had received a reply from Northumberland Council re his letter of thanks for road repairs that had been carried out. The fence at Bottle Bank had now been repaired. Meeting still to take place re St Cuthbert’s Way and footpaths – date to be confirmed for this. Letter had been written to Cherrytrees re tree at Catchapenny and was noted that reply had been received saying that this was work in progress. Also reported that the tree on TY Green had been taken down since last meeting. | |
| 4 | Christmas Trees and Lights Nothing to report this month | |
| 5 | Bowmont Valley Defibrillator SS updated meeting and said she had met with PFC and gone through application form which was now ready to complete online and submit. | SS |
| 6 | Festival Week Update FT reported that planning was ongoing. Programme was due to be finalised this week and advertisers had increased which would help offset the costs. Installation night to take place on Friday 3 rd May at 7pm in Hall. | |
| 7 | Awards for All Monies Update SS intimated that the lunch earlier in the month had been a great success and very well attended. Thanks were given to all who had helped in any way. SS said that once remaining monies were ascertained it was to be hoped that at least another two lunches would take place – one of these would be the Festival Week Lunch in June. | |

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| 8 | Members of the Public – Issues and or Concerns None present | |
| 9 | Portfolio Discussions | |
| | Housing and Planning – Shane Black Two applications had been received and circulated to Councillors in the last month. One erection of boundary fence behind existing stone wall at 1 Montgomery Place Town Yetholm and two alteration and extension to dwelling house (Romany House). No comments or objections noted, and these applications were available to view on SBC website. | |
| | Finance –Angela Walker AW reported that she was still working through accounts and identifying funds available prior to year-end on 31 st March. There had been £1000 income in December. All website adverts had been sent out and there were two unpaid at this time. All outstanding invoices had now been paid. AW asked that the managed solution option be chosen for purchase of Bowmont Valley Defibrillator as this would save us the VAT costs – all agreed to this. Also stated that all accounts had to be completed and signed off by 31/3/24. | |
| | Village Maintenance and Utilities – Euan Gibson EG intimated that as previously mentioned work appeared to have started on Bowmont Terrace. | |
| | Education – Heather Freeland – Cook No report due to absence of HFC. SS reported that this year marked the 50 th anniversary of Morebattle and Yetholm Playgroup and plans were in hand for a party to celebrate this event. | |
| | Bowmont Valley – Paul Freeland – Cook No report due to absence of PFC however message received to remind all about lambing and to keep dogs on leads at all times when out and about. | |
| | Resilience – Kevin Lee KL reported that work still to take place on paths on both sides of bridge, He would speak to Steven Rowe this. No decision as yet on grass cutting machine but it was hoped that once finances identified then grant could be applied for. TY noticeboard no progress with that as yet – noted that grant funding could be available from St Cuthbert’s Way towards this. KL to ask Steven Rowe if there was anything he could do to help to try and create a more suitable board. | KL |
| | Grants and Funding – Fiona Thompson FT to follow up above suggestions re-funding for grass cutting machine and notice boards. | FT |
| | Tourism – Vacant Nothing to report on this portfolio. | |
| | Health and Social Services – Vacant Defibrillator already noted above. | |
| 11 | Police Report No report had been received prior to meeting | |
| 12 | Scottish Borders Councillor’s Update SM intimated that the gate at the far end of the cemetery continued to be work in progress and the hope was that funding would be available for this project from the small schemes fund. After discussion EG offered to speak to James Wauchope re this scheme. SM also noted that Cheviot Area Partnership Meeting was due to take place tomorrow (Wed 27/3) in Kelso Town Hall. Noted that there had been an | EG |

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| | application from Yetholm Community Shop towards energy costs. ER intimated that the phone box in TY had now been repaired and he reminded all that if we used them once or twice a month this would help to ensure that they would not be taken out of service. SBC had no veto over boxes anymore, but the criteria looked at re their usage had been reduced. | |
| 13 | Additional Correspondence All had been sent out by email | |
| 14 | Community Council/AOB SS noted that the house adjacent to Dairy Wood was going to be put up for sale and that some issues had been identified re a broken fence and access to the ground which Cheviot Churches were in the process of dealing with. | |

The meeting closed at 2030.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 30th April 2024 at 7pm in the Youth Hall.