

Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held in Yetholm Youth Hall
Tuesday 28th May 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 – Simon Mountford (SM)

Apologies: Euan Robson (ER), Fiona Thompson (FT)

Members of the Public: 3 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. Town Yetholm Bus Shelter – Braeside Road – no update available. SM to follow up. Bus Contractor will continue to provide service to villages at this time. They are working with SBC to deliver an alternative plan.	SM Ongoing
4	Christmas Trees and Lights EG reported that lights had been borrowed by Mr and Mrs Playfair Hannay for a recent event. Mrs Wilson at Cowbog had asked if could use the lights to put round ASSET stretch tent. This use to be confirmed. EG also asked that we begin to think about sourcing Christmas Trees for this year.	All
5	Bowmont Valley Defibrillator SS reported that this was now ordered, and PFC was the contact person. PFC said they had been in touch just to check detail of site etc. The cheque for payment had been signed and delivery should be two – three weeks thereafter. PFC also commented that free paint was supplied to paint phone box and the supplier for this was in Hawick.	Ongoing
6	Festival Week Update In absence of FT SB reported that the Installation had taken place, and all had gone well. Final preparations and meetings were due to take place for the start of Festival in the coming week.	
7	Awards for All Monies Update SS reported that to date monies left would be spent on Festival Lunch, donation to Playgroup birthday celebration for cake and a donation had also been promised to the Children’s Christmas Party. Awards for All had been in touch and were happy with progress re money expenditure.	
8	Kelso Laddie Day 2024 SS intimated that an email had been received from Kelso Laddie Association asking if parking could be reserved for them on TY green opposite the Plough. Discussion took place and SS to contact to say we had no issues with them doing this, but we could not guarantee that any marked space would remain unclaimed prior to their arrival.	
9	Yetholm Community Shop Mr Alastair Hirst Chair of Yetholm Community Shop gave a brief overview of the shop to date. They were in the process of undertaking a major initiative to improve	

	<p>the ratio of volunteers to paid staff in the shop. A detailed bulletin had been circulated to all in the community and this had had a good measure of success in that a new number of new volunteers for the shop floor had come forward. However, the main area of concern was the lack of response to recruiting and retaining new members of the Management Committee and this going forward was serious threat to the shop and its sustainability. Mr Hirst stated that at least 8 members were needed to fulfil the various tasks involved and this would include succession planning.</p> <p>Discussion followed and the three main points CC asked to consider and push through verbal communication with the community and in the minutes were as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CC put some weight behind community membership of the Management Committee 2. Active consideration of an alternative structure 3. Prepare community for the possibility of life without a shop. 	
10	<p>Members of the Public Issues and or Concerns No issues raised.</p>	
11	<p>Portfolio Discussions Housing and Planning – Shane Black No plans had been received this month and any that were received would be on the SBC Planning site. There was no update on the garage site in Kirk Yetholm available.</p>	
	<p>Finance – Angela Walker AW reported that cheque now signed for defibrillator for Bowmont Valley. Rag Bag monies would be paid to school prior to them breaking up for the summer holidays. Discussion took place re obtaining a third signatory for the Council account and SS agreed to take this on. Paperwork to be obtained to progress this.</p>	AW
	<p>Village Maintenance and Utilities – Euan Gibson EG asked that Ranger Meeting planned for 31/5 be postponed as it would clash with funeral of Tom Tokely. SM agreed to speak to ER re this matter. Meeting at cemetery re new access due to take place on Wednesday 29th May – anyone who was available invited to attend.</p>	SM
	<p>Education – Heather Freeland Cook HFC reported that work had been undertaken to install a pond at Yetholm Nursery. Thanks to Jack Sibbald who had helped with this work. Banking at side of playground which was subsiding had also been fixed. On Monday 10th June a mural was to be painted in playground at school and anyone who was free on that date welcome to come along and help. Morebattle and Yetholm Playgroup had celebrated their 50th birthday at the weekend and the leaders and some of the children had walked on St Cuthberts Way from Morebattle to Yetholm and had left hand painted stones on the route (76 in total). The celebration ended with a very successful party at the Plough and the total of £1150 had been raised from this event. A P5 child from Yetholm was in the final of an engineering challenge competition and this was highly commended by the CC and agreed to acknowledge her achievement by sending her a congratulations card.</p>	SS
	<p>Bowmont Valley – Paul Freeland Cook The potholes that had been repaired were breaking up again PFC reported. However, the Attonburn stretch and been patched and repaired. A new cattle grid at Cliftoncote farm was also being installed.</p>	

	<p>Resilience – Kevin Lee Discussion again re-joining forces with remaining members of Floral Gateway to carry out work in and around sites in villages. Agreed that we look to find and ascertain if machinery that we have (strimmers etc) are usable and if so, can we sell to raise some funds to purchase new equipment for use. This purchase would include high viz equipment and safety wear. This work to be carried out in the coming months.</p>	KL/EG
	<p>Grants and Funding – Fiona Thompson No report due to FT's absence</p>	
	<p>Tourism – Vacant Nil to report.</p>	
	<p>Health and Social Services – Vacant Defib covered above.</p>	
12	<p>Police Report No report had been received prior to meeting</p>	
13	<p>Scottish Borders Councillor's Update SM reported that Council now preparing for General Election on July 4th. All Council meetings until after election had been cancelled unless they required decisions to be made. ER had sent a report and, in his absence, the following noted – Potholes on B6352 have all been reported and an assurance had been given that work would take place to repair them. The chevron north of Catchpenny is due to be replaced in near future. Repair had been undertaken to the line to phone box was due to be undertaken by BT Openreach. Meetings arranged as noted in village maintenance section.</p>	
14	<p>Additional Correspondence All additional correspondence had been sent out to all by email.</p>	
15	<p>Community Council/AOB SS had received an email from resident re bench at entrance to village needing grass cut round it and bench possibly required some repair. This was to be looked at by CC and remaining members of Floral Gateway. PFC enquired again about tree at Catchpenny that required work. SB to contact Cherrytrees again for and update.</p>	SB

The meeting closed at 2030.

Date of next meeting TBC but no meeting in June as per minuted decision at earlier AGM.