

**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held in Yetholm Youth Hall**  
**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

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

**Apologies: Euan Robson**

**Members of the Public: 3 present.**

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence:</b> As Above	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Election Update and Election of Office Bearers – Simon Mountford in Chair</b>  Simon Mountford (SM) welcomed all to the first meeting of the newly appointed Council and congratulated all on their appointment.  He asked if all agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct and this was agreed by all the members present.  He then went on to ask for nominations for <b>Chair of Council</b>. Paul Freeland Cook (PFC) nominated Fiona Thompson (FT), and this was seconded by Angela Walker (AW). There being no other nominations Fiona Thompson (FT) accepted the post and was duly appointed to serve as Chair.  Simon Mountford (SM) then handed the Chair over to Fiona Thompson (FT) for rest of appointments and the following meeting.  <b>Appointment of Vice Chair</b> – Euan Gibson (EG) nominated Paul Freeland Cook (PFC), and this was seconded by Kevin Lee. (KL) There being no other nominations Paul Freeland Cook (PFC) accepted the post and was duly appointed to serve as Vice Chair.  <b>Appointment of Secretary</b> – Euan Gibson (EG) nominated Susan Stewart (SS), and this was seconded by Angela Walker (AW). There being no other nominations Susan Stewart (SS) accepted the post and was duly appointed to serve as Secretary.  Her only comment was Council could perhaps look to appointing an ex officio person to be the secretary over this term of office if at all possible.  <b>Appointment of Treasurer</b> – Heather Freeland Cook (HFC) nominated Angela Walker (AW), and this was seconded by Susan Stewart (SS). There being no other nominations Angela Walker (AW) accepted the post and was duly appointed to serve as Treasurer.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting, approval and signature – August 2024</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.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising from Minutes/Outstanding Issues</b>  CPR training had been advertised and delivered to a few residents of the village by Kelso Heartbeat in Kelso. This training had much appreciated by those who had attended.  The overhanging shrubs had been removed from the roadside at the Old Brewery.  Meeting informed that cost of new tea towels would be £2.53 plus VAT and carriage of £8.00 plus VAT would also be charged. After discussion all agreed that a further order for 100 tea towels should be placed as they sold well.  SS went on to inform and ask the meeting if the remaining aprons (60 in total purchased in 2020) could be given in Senior’s gift bags at supper at end of</p>	

	<p>November as they had not sold well. After discussion all agreed to this course of action and only items that would now be sold would be Tea towels and notelets in various outlets.</p> <p>Bus shelter in KY still required to be cleaned. SM to follow this up</p>	<b>SM</b>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Christmas Trees and Lights</b></p> <p>HFC reported that trees were in hand and a date would be arranged for the erection of the trees in both villages.</p> <p>EG said that he had had a meeting on site with SBC and both fittings appeared to have been tampered with and were not suitable for use this year. EG in process of contacting Stewarts to arrange for electrician to come out and check and ensure everything in place to comply with SBC terms and conditions of use. This would also involve another site meeting with SBC. As time was now of the essence, and the cost of this until estimate given for any work required unknown, all agreed that EG go ahead, and any costs could be verified and agreed on CC What's App group prior to next meeting.</p>	<b>EG</b>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Remembrance Sunday</b></p> <p>SS intimated that Poppy Wreath purchased and Principals aware of their attendance at this ceremony on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov at 0940. SS had also asked that flags be flown in both villages over this weekend. SM said he would also lay a wreath on behalf of SBC.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Members of the Public Issues and or Concerns</b></p> <p>MOP updated meeting on a number of issues. Picnic bench now in situ. Work had started on cleaning area around War Memorial in TY. They were looking for some help with this and needed use of a small JCB. James Wauchope was happy to supply a small trailer for waste material to be taken away in. HFC said she would speak to her husband re digger. They had plants ready to put in situ when area cleared along with new daffodil bulbs.</p> <p>KY War Memorial had been cleaned and new chips had been purchased by MOP to spread at site. Painting of fence was to be arranged, and paint would be provided by local business.</p> <p>Thanks, expressed for all of this work that was being done at these two sites.</p>	<b>HFC</b>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Portfolio Discussions</b></p> <p><b>Housing and Planning - Vacant</b></p> <p>None received since last meeting</p>	
	<p><b>Finance – Angela Walker</b></p> <p>AW gave an overview of monies in hand at this time. Income had been £308 and expenditure, not including grass cutting machine and defibrillator, was £487. There was money in reserve to cover this small deficit. The annual grant application was ready to be submitted along with evaluation form and subjects covered in this were the defibrillators and the community Zoom account which was for use by all in the villages as and when required,</p> <p>Unspent funds which were noted were money in hand towards Seniors Christmas Supper, CC Helen Deans money and a small amount remained of Warm Hub Money.</p>	
	<p><b>Village Maintenance and Utilities – Euan Gibson</b></p> <p>EG reported that new grass cutter had now been purchased and was stored securely in container at Pavilion – new lock had been purchased. Drivers were needed for this machine and discussion took place as to how we instruct anyone who was interested in its use. Strimmer's were still required for around bench sites and a hedge trimmer was also now available for use.</p> <p>Anyone who showed an interest in helping would receive instruction and induction and insurance would be covered under CC/Resilience Group.</p>	

	<p>Discussion then took place re areas of concern that needed attention and these included Dairy Wood, Back Lane from Garage to road end.</p> <p>Meeting had taken place with Susan Gray Ranger re steps on both sides of bridge between villages. The steps on TY side were responsibility of CC or landowner however Susan Gray did say that if we purchased materials then bill could be submitted to her department. Steps at KY side also required repairing and this appeared to be a “grey” area as to who was responsible for repair.</p> <p>Potholes around Green in KY had been filled by SBC although this was a very temporary measure.</p> <p>The footpath which runs adjacent to Border Cottage was blocked and the wall was subsiding. This was not maintained by SBC and SM agreed to get some guidance for CC on how to progress this matter.</p> <p>As stated above new mower was now in container at Pavilion and unfortunately there was a large amount of equipment in container which did not belong to CC. FT agreed to contact Pavilion Group to discuss removal and storage of this equipment possibly in the Pavilion.</p>	<p><b>SM</b></p> <p><b>FT</b></p>
	<p><b>Education – Heather Freeland Cook</b> Nil to report.</p>	
	<p><b>Bowmont Valley – Paul Freeland Cook</b> PFC intimated that three parties were meeting to discuss the part of St Cuthberts Way on Valley Road as many stretches were extremely dangerous to walk on. The plan being discussed was to get the walkers off the tarmac into the field and make this safer for all. PFC asked that danger pedestrians signs be put up and SM agreed to request this.</p> <p>A lorry had gone off the road again today and PFC intimated that the area where this had happened previously this year had only been filled by six traffic cones which were now completely covered over by grass – this required to be rectified and repaired.</p>	<p><b>SM</b></p>
	<p><b>Resilience – Kevin Lee</b> KL reported that a meeting was due to take place this Friday (1/11) at 9am on Halterburn Road to look at the road and ditch work that had been carried out as was totally unsatisfactory and had made the road situation worse especially after any heavy rainfall.</p> <p>KL also intimated that the CC had been offered a gift parcel of land where the toilets used to be in KY. All agreed it would be important that we see any plans of this land before any agreement reached as it could potentially be something that we did not wish to take on. KL to keep us informed.</p>	<p><b>KL</b></p>
	<p><b>Grants and Funding – Fiona Thompson</b> Nil to report</p>	
	<p><b>Tourism and Health and Social Services – Vacant</b> Both discussed under Matters Arising</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Police Report</b> Had been circulated when received to all Councillors. No report received as yet for the present month.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Scottish Borders Councillor’s Update</b> SM intimated that due to lorry going off the road in Bowmont Valley today the refuse lorry had been unable to empty any of the bins. He also went onto say that due to severe staffing issues in refuse collection department there may be interruptions to collections in the coming weeks. SM to send information to SS for her to post on Resilience page.</p> <p>Council budget setting process about to take place however monies available would only be known when the Budgets both UK and Scottish had taken place.</p>	

	However a large increase in Council Tax was to be expected	
<b>11</b>	<b>Additional Correspondence</b> Letter had been received from Bowling Club thanking for legacy monies and informing CC what monies had been spent on to date.	
<b>12</b>	<b>Community Council/AOB</b> FT said that Festival planning meeting would resume again in January 2025, and she was pleased to advise CC that we had Principals in waiting for the coming year. The Festival had purchased new trophies for children's activities this year with money from legacy. EG queried issue around motor homes parking on common land in Hawick and how was the funding of their refuse collections for example paid for.	

**The meeting closed at 2030**

**Date of next meeting Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7pm in Youth Hall.**