Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held in Yetholm Youth Hall
Tuesday 29th September 2026 at 7pm

Present: Paul Freeland- Cook (PFC), Susan Stewart (SS), Euan Gibson (EG), Kevin Lee (KL), Sarah Elliot (SE)
Community Police Officer: PC Paul Owenson
Scottish Borders Councillors – Euan Robson (ER)
Apologies: Fiona Thomson (FT), Angela Walker (AW), Simon Mountford (SM)
Members of the Public: 9 present

		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.	
3	**Matters Arising from minutes/outstanding issues.** **Bench Update**- In FT's absence PFC reported that size of benches was required to enable to be costed. EG commented that benches were a standard size. Update and thanks also to be given to the family who had offered to pay for one of these benches. **Noticeboard** – SS commented that a digital frame was possible and cost ranged from £90 - £250. KL commented that UPVC were not practical after discussion with various people. Comment made that History Society were also looking into a new noticeboard and could be worth liaising with them. MOP intimated that knew of two people in village who were willing to repair board we had. **Cemetery Path** – FT's report intimated that confirmation had been received from SBC that new gate was to run parallel to the existing fence. This caused minimum disruption to new trees planted and does not impact the memorial bench which was in situ. **Kelso Laddies Association** – contact had been made with them regarding damage to flowers in Town Yetholm around War Memorial and this was acknowledged and would be noted in their planning for next year.	
4	**Members of the Public – Issues and or Concerns** MOP thanked SBC for replacement Perspex in KY bis shelter. Query raised re paint used round Perspex and MOP assured this paint would last. Comment also made about bus shelter at Sainsbury's being dirty with no seat. Hedges also needed trimmed back – noted that this is Sainsburys responsibility. Query raised re a new bin being sited at KY bus shelter. SS commented that this had been requested in the past to no avail and ER verified this. Comment also made at this point about nitrous oxide containers having been dropped in shelter – no evidence available as to who had done this. Lane down to Allans Cottage continued to be work in progress. MOP queried land in back lane which had been cleared and possible uses going forward. ER said this was surplus to SBC requirements and would be sold (although noted there was one outstanding issue which required resolution first). MOP asked if playpark and electric charging points could be put in place there. ER said these things could be developed locally if we had monies available and	**ER**

	community members to monitor and maintain going forward. Query re finances unable to answered due to absence of Treasurer. MOP queried if CC could purchase a bench in memory of the late Barbara Maltby – CC commented that the bench that was mentioned above was being paid for by the family. Footpath down to Haugh – extremely dangerous and slippy with loose stones and gravel. SM to be asked if he can get this looked at again. Query raised at this point by EG re pallets of bottles that remained in situ in back road. ER said he would check with SBC if they could assist with removal. MOP queried the size of bus that was being sent to the village particularly in the summer months when could become full very quickly with tourists and their luggage. Discussion followed re this and ER to check again if could be resolved.	**SM** **ER** **ER**
5	**Noticeboard- Town Yetholm** Discussed in Matters Arising.	
6	**Christmas Trees and Lights** Trees – PFC to arrange on our behalf. EG has the relevant paperwork to complete for SBC regarding lights and power supply.	**PFC** **EG**
7	**Remembrance Sunday 8th November** SS reported that Poppy Wreath had been purchased for this event. Service would be taken by the Rev Una Stewart at War Memorial at 9.45 am	
8	**Portfolio Discussions (Maximum 5 mins per item)**	
	Housing and Planning – Vacant All applications received had been circulated to Councillors by SS. Amended comment had also been submitted to SBC re Maple House appeal it was noted.	
	Finance – Angela Walker No report available	
	Village Maintenance and Utilities – Euan Gibson EG queried the forthcoming closure of Back Lane by Scottish Power – ER unable to give any further information than what had been circulated to Council and posted on Facebook.	
	Education – Sarah Elliot SE reported that recent inspection had taken place at the school and as yet there had been no feedback re this, although noted that the feedback from parents involved had been positive. Nursery enrolment for November intake was about to take place. The good news was that as numbers in the school had increased, they would revert to two classes again and the school was in process of advertising for a new teacher. Yetholm Show this weekend the Parent Council would have a presence at this event in the Children's tent.	
	Bowmont Valley – Paul Freeland Cook Nil to report	
	Resilience – Kevin Lee KL commented that he had been asked re the possibility of purchasing lightweight wheelchairs for use in and around village by anyone who may require them. Discussion took place and agreed that maintenance and storage of these items may be difficult to achieve. Halterburn Road required to be looked at again as wall was collapsing and drain	

	was being compromised. ER agreed to review this. KL commented further on nitrous oxide as mentioned above and said this was illegal to sell and use and he would look into this for us.	**ER** **KL**
	Grants and Funding – Fiona Thompson Nil to report	
	Pavilion/Tourism – Vacant FT's report stated the following – Pavilion had been spring cleaned and various items were either discarded or put up for sale on online sites. Chairs from heritage Society would be returned to them in next few days and the rental payment of £300 would be received. Plumbing work in Pavilion awas now complete and the new windows were due to be installed in the coming week. This would be followed by roof insulation being fitted. Also noted that Spine Race had confirmed their booking for January 2027. FT had requested that we discuss a formal opening of the Pavilion on Friday 6th November at which there would be a short firework display, refreshments and a chance for the villagers to view the updated facilities. Noted there would be NO BONFIRE. Members of the CC and one member of the public would be on site to set the fireworks off, and the event would be covered by the SBC insurance that is in situ. Only clarification was ensuring that those who had agreed to set off the fireworks were also covered. After discussion all agreed to this proposal subject to clarification re personal insurance.	**FT**
	Health and Social Services – Vacant Nil to report	
9	**Police Report** No report received. PC Owenson was in attendance but had to leave the meeting at 1950.	
10	**Scottish Borders Councillors Update** ER intimated that papers would be sent out re review of CC's and financial support that would be made available in the coming week. He also commented that Scottish Government were in process of reviewing Councils across the country and looking at possibly consolidating into 8 regional authorities and 160 community areas. No decisions had been taken about this at this time and noted was work in progress.	
11	**Additional Correspondence** All had been sent out by email.	
12	**Community Council/AOB** FT noted in her report that the Senior Citizens Supper was about to be advertised and would take place on Friday 27th November. Monies had been received from CBAH and various other fundraisers to help pay for this annual event. Anyone who attended would also be asked for a payment of £6 per person. SE intimated that a complaint had been made to Public Services Ombudsman against SBC about the recent nursery consultation process. This complaint had been upheld, and an apology had been issued. The report was in the public domain it was noted.	

The meeting closed at 2020

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 27th October 2026 at 7pm.