**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting**

**Minutes of the Meeting held at the Youth Hall**

**Tuesday 26th April 2022 at 7.00 pm**

**Present:** Shane Black (SB) (in the Chair), Graeme Wallace (GW) (Vice Chair), Norman Burr (NB) (Treasurer), David Green (DG), Heather Freeland-Cook (HFC), Paul Freeland-Cook (PFC) John Stobart (JS) (Secretary), Cllr E Robson (ER) Cllr S Mountford (SM).

**Apologies:** Karon Philips (KP), Sumati Bala (SB), John Palfrey (JP).

**In attendance:** Fiona Thompson(Yetholm Festival Committee Chair)

**Members of the Public**: 3

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Minute** | **Action** |
|  | **Apologies for Absence:** as above. |  |
|  | **Welcome of New Members** |  |
|  | SB welcomed Heather Freeland-Cook and Paul Freeland-Cook as this was their first meeting as new members to the community council following the outcome of the by-election. The new members introduced themselves. |  |
|  | **Minutes of the Previous Meetings** |  |
|  | The Chair drew the attention of the meeting to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th March 2022 and asked for any comments or corrections. There were none except as noted in the matters arising set out below and, subject thereto, the minutes were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chair. |  |
|  | **Matters Arising/Outstanding** |  |
|  | The benches on Cherrytrees remain in SBC workshop undergoing repairs. ER will communicate further with SBC about progress on the matter. | ER |
|  | Communication will be made with Abercorn Estates who are believed to farm the land adjacent to the ditch on the Halterburn road into which stones and debris have fallen. The wall requires repair. | ER |
|  | Neil [Kay] has been requested to attend to the necessary works on the wall roadie. It is believed a grant has been received for the cost of the work. |  |
|  | Discussions are ongoing with the bank about the changes required to the mandate. |  |
|  | ER will report on the Mindrum road matter after discussions with Northumberland County Council. There had been changes in personnel which was delaying matters. | ER |
|  | The addition of the words ‘at the request of the Treasurer’ were agreed to be added to minute 6.2(a) of the previous meeting. |  |
|  | **Members of the Public – Issues and/or Concerns** |  |
|  | A member of the public asked about the Installation of the Principals for the Festival and it was confirmed that the intended venue was the Wauchope Hall. |  |
|  | A member of the public asked about use of a fund held by SBC for Christmas lights. SM will make enquiries. | SM |
|  | A member of the public asked about resurfacing of the High Street in Town Yetholm. The camber makes access difficult. SM confirmed that the work was scheduled for later in this financial year. |  |
|  | The pothole in the High Street will be repaired. |  |
|  | The trailer of the recovery truck is sometimes left without markers which causes a problem. it was suggested that anyone with a concern may wish to speak with the person concerned |  |
|  | **Portfolio Presentations:** |  |
|  | **Housing and Planning - Shane Black** |  |
| a) | SB reported that there was nothing new to report as no applications had been notified to YCC. |  |
|  | **Finance – NB** |  |
|  | NB requested that the list of names and addresses be extended to include other committees and associated groups in the village subject to any necessary GDPR consents being obtained. This would be useful to the Treasurer. SB will speak with the Festival Committee. | SB |
|  | **Village Maintenance & Utilities – NB** |  |
|  | On the matter of the collapsed fence at the far end of the recreation ground it was agreed NB would contact the landholder about the position. It was noted that SBC could not maintain property it does not own. | NB. |
|  | **Education** |  |
|  | HFC will assume the Education portfolio. It involves liaising with the school for any involvement in village activities. |  |
|  | **Grants and Funding** |  |
| a) | It was noted that KP had asked members to come up with plans and she would look into available funding sources. |  |
| b) | NB asked if funding could be available for improving the website as the current system is difficult to edit. It was note that JP had skills in the matter and it was agreed his opinion would be sought as to the route to a solution. Contact will be made with the supplier used by another business in the village. | JP |
|  | **Tourism – GW** |  |
|  | GW will reorder more tea towels. |  |
|  | The Floral Gateway has received funding for the Platinum Jubilee celebration. it is proposed that a silver birch will be planted on each village green subject to obtaining agreement from the relevant landowner, SBC and YCC. |  |
|  | SB raised the issue of electric charging points. SM said that here were no current plans as funding came from the Scottish Government. The position with other community councils will be investigated. It was noted that earlier installations were now obsolete. |  |
|  | **Health & Social Services – JS** |  |
|  | JS confirmed he had inspected both defibrillators and that they appeared to be in working order and the pads were within date. |  |
|  | **Projects, Events & Pavilion – SB** |  |
|  | The container and the resilience sheds will be moved. |  |
|  | The ownership of the pavilion was discussed. Enquires will be made as to ownership of the pavilion for insurance purposes. NB will discuss the insurance position with JP. | NB/ JP |
|  | Plans are in hand for continuing maintenance and repair works. |  |
|  | **Festival Committee** |  |
|  | At the invitation of the Chair, Fiona Thompson gave a presentation on the upcoming Festival Week events and the financial position of the Festival Committee. Support from sponsors had been good. |  |
|  | There is at least one event taking place each day during the festival week. Due consideration will be made for Covid obligations. |  |
|  | A tea party event will be held on 4th June at Wauchope Hall. An ‘army of bakers’ has been organised for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Ingredients will be sourced from the village shop. |  |
|  | Congratulations were expressed to FT for restoring the festival as a major event after an enforced gap of two years. |  |
|  | **Police Report** |  |
|  | The police will be circulated when it is received. |  |
|  | It was noted that the Community Police Officer would not be attending as the Police Force do not have sufficient resources to attend all community council meetings. They will attend YCC meetings however if there are known issues to be addressed. |  |
|  | **Scottish Borders Councillors Update** |  |
|  | ER reported that little new business was taking place pending the elections on 6th May. |  |
|  | SM reported that the chestnut tree on the lower green in Town Yetholm was diseased and would need to be taken down. The drain on the green would be investigated at the same time. |  |
|  | The public toilets are locked up at night because of the risk of vandalism. |  |
|  | **Additional Correspondence** |  |
|  | JS confirmed that all incoming appropriate correspondence would be forwarded to the relevant members for consideration in continuation of his earlier practice. | JS |
|  | **AOB** |  |
|  | The History Society will have a grand opening of the Heritage Centre. The signpost to the Heritage Centre has now been erected. |  |
|  | PFC will assume the portfolio for matters connected with the Bowmont Valley including the proposed defibrillator. | PFC |

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm .

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 31st May 2022 at 19.00 hrs at Yetholm Kirk.**