**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting**

**Minutes of the Meeting held online by Zoom Call**

**Tuesday 29th September 2020 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Susan Stewart (SS) (in the chair), Shane Black (SB) (joined the meeting at minute 3.3), Graeme Wallace (GW), Angela Walker (AW), Denise Allan (DA) Cllr S Mountford (SM), Cllr E Robson (ER).

**Apologies:** Iain Dougal (ID), Stuart Kelly (SK), Sandi Keddie

**In attendance:** John Stobart (JS) (Secretary)

**Members of the Public**: 2

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|  | **Apologies for Absence:** as above. It was noted that the Community Police Officer would not be attending as the police force have said they do not have access to Zoom but a monthly report had been circulated.  |  |
|  | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** |  |
|  | The Chair drew the attention of the meeting to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th August 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** |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.4 it was reported that the material that had been put into the potholes on Grafton Road was again breaking up.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.5 the Chair invited ER to speak on the current Dairy Wood position. ER reported that a site meeting had taken place with BK. The latter is minded to take down the fir tree that is encroaching a neighbouring property. A proposal had been suggested to create a community picnic area. It would require the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh to agree and the local presbytery would have to out a scheme together. Ecclesiastical bodies can receive community funds in appropriate circumstances. Some dumping has taken place and there is a danger it may become an unofficial tip. The cut wood on the site is now seasoned and will be cleared out the coming winter. BK is happy to have the tree causing the problem removed. AW said that there might be a risk of additional litter and dog waste on the site. ER said part of the scheme would be the installation of a get. DA asked about upkeep and it was noted that the CoS would be responsible for its upkeep. The cost of conversion would be the CoS and the Community Fund grant. It was noted that the funding for the toilets was a separate issue and was a source of frustration locally. Business grants are from the Scottish Government and administered by SBC. It was noted that visitors to the village needed to use the toilets. ER will raise the subject again  | ER.  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.7 the Chair reported that the bottle bank was overflowing and boxes full of bottle shad been eft at the site. The matter had been reported to the contractor Viridor but Viridor had visited and had put the bottles into the two ordinary bins (blue and black topped respectively) rather than taking the bottles away. Viridor have been contacted and have visited and emptied the black topped bin but not the blue topped bin. Cardboard boxes used to take bottle to the bottle bank are being left at the site. Textiles such as wet sleeping bag have been left at the site. The two household bins are not “put out” on collection days and so are not emptied. GW offered to put the two bins out once a fortnight.ER said that Viridor are meant to leave the site tidy and would appear to be in breach of contract. ER will ask SBC to act. | GW ER  |
|  | With regard to minutes 4.7 to 4.10 the Chair asked what progress had been made at the footpath. ER reported that the site had been inspected and as he had a number of Rights of Way issues including this one and the matter would be discussed at the next meeting with the SBC officer. It would be necessary to have the path delineated through the Mill. It was noted that the footpath sign had been moved at some stage and now gave a misleading direction.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 7.4 the Chair said an email had been sent after the last meeting asking that a list of the benches to be prepared. JS confirmed he had started taking photographs of the benches and would circulate it when completed.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 7.8 the Chair asked about the village map. SB said three were two options and the cost would be about £600 or £300 depending on which option was chosen. Proofs would be circulated in due course.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 10.1 the Chair reported that she now has the flags. One or more flags might need replacing in due course. James Bolam has offered to attend to raising and lowering the flags when required. That course was approved by those present.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 10.2 the Chair had raised the Christmas Trees and lights with SBC and now had the form with the information needed. SBC can help with erection of the trees but not the lights. A local company has been emailed about trees. JS has also contacted a number of suppliers and was awaiting quotations. The maximum cost acceptable would be £130 for both trees. AW will ask Ian McFadden for a price.  |  |
|  | **Members of the Public – Issues and/or Concerns** |  |
|  | A member of the public asked about the erratic chiming of the clock. Work was ongoing to align the chimes to the quarter hours.  |  |
|  | A member of the public asked about the change of use of the surgery. It was believed Eildon House housing association had bought the property, but no planning application had been made for a change of use.  |  |
|  | A member of the public asked about the condition of the bottle bank which was an eyesore on entering the village and it was noted that that had been raised and discussed earlier. The phone number is on the bank to call Viridor the operator if there are problems.  |  |
|  | A member of the public asked about the metal work of the earlier bench at the Halterburn. It was believed to have been taken to the depot and SM will investigate.  |  |
|  | A member of the public asked about the toilets and asked if the village could deal with the problem themselves by direct action. It was not known whether the water supply to the toilets was in operation. SB said an offer had been made to the take over the toilets once they were reinstated. AW asked about a check being made on the toilets for Legionnaire disease as they had been out of use for some time. The area around the toilets was very untidy including the area on which the caravan is situated. A request will be made to SBC about the costs of renovation. SM will ask the director of assets and infrastructure about the matter.  | SM  |
|  | **Police Report** |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed the police report had been circulated. Members had found the format difficult to follow.  |  |
|  | **Festival Committee Update:** |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed there was nothing to report on the Festival Committee as the festival had not taken place because of the Covid 19 situation.  |  |
|  | **Portfolio Presentations:** |  |
|  | **Housing and Planning - Shane Black (Vice Chair)** |  |
|  | SB reported that there were no further developments or proposals to report. SM confirmed that a site visit was needed in KY and could not take place until a risk assessment had been conducted.  |  |
|  | **Finance – Angela Walker**  |  |
|  | AW said invoices had been issued for the web advert. A cheque for £200 had been issued to the school. A financial reconciliation would be made when the amount of moneys from the rag bag collection were known. There was £11,936 of income to date and expenditure of £10,927 leaving a surplus of £1,009. With the brought forward balance the amount now stood at £6,500. It is necessary to minute that everyone agreed to observe the Councillor Code of Conduct. That was therefore put to the meeting as a resolution and all those present voted in favour and so agreed. **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: the members of the Yetholm Community Council will observe the Councillor Code of Conduct.** AW said there was a grant for lights but there was a surplus that could be used. AW said the resilience monies were being spent on the three mobile phones and the Zoom subscription. Consideration was given to charging other groups in the village which made use of the Zoom subscription, but it was agree that the administrative burden would outweigh the income to be so raised. The Zoom subscription of £14.50 per month would be continued but not recharged to other groups.  |  |
|  | **Yetholm Resilient Group – Susan Stewart**  |  |
|  | The Chair said there was an email about storing logs for use in the village.  |  |
|  | **Village Maintenance & Utilities – Vacant** |  |
|  | ER said that the streetlight issue had been raised with the department at SBC and would be dealt with when resources so permitted.  |  |
|  | **Education - Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed that the school was back and everything appeared to be going well.  |  |
|  | **Grants- Denise Allen**  |  |
|  | DA said that the Pathways Grant application need to be completed. In past years it had been to buy machinery. AW asked if there was any planting needed. SB said there were gates that needed replacing at the Yetholm bridge. Costing s would be required. The Pathways grant was £500. SM said that the Access Officers at SBC may have spare gates for use in the case of access to public footpaths but the village would have to install these. SM will look into the availability of gates.DA raised Discovery Grants for volunteer training. The Chair said this had been raised at the Shop Committee but it had been concluded that the Village Shop Project was not eligible. DA said she had other emails about a number of other grants to be considered. Because of workload and time constraints DA had limited availability. AW offered to pick up the work in connection with these matters. DA will pass these over.  | SM DA / AW  |
|  | **Health & Social Services – Sandi Keddie** |  |
|  | There was no report.  |  |
|  | **Tourism – Graeme Wallace** |  |
|  | GW reported that with the reopening of the caravan park and the return of tourism sales were picking up. GW will retain the funds until these are of a size to require banking.  |  |
|  | **Projects, Events & Pavilion – Iain Dougal** |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed that ID had said there was nothing to report. SB confirmed no meetings were taking place.  |  |
|  | **Chair, Website Liaison & Public Events – Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed the website was in use and receiving hits. There are very few public events. The Wauchope Hall had reopened for a limited number of events. The Youth Hall is being refurbished.  |  |
|  | **Scottish Borders Councillors Update** |  |
|  | SM reported that the Local Development Plan had been approved including the business land next to Yetholm Hall. This meant that there was now officially a policy of having some additional employment on Yetholm. Access was discussed and a pavement may be required. The Local Development Plan is with the Secretary of State for approval. 20 mph signs will be erected in the coming month. SB suggested that cutting back the hedges might be a better strategy. SM said it was a trial scheme and all feedback would be welcome. The safety implications were discussed.  |  |
|  | **Additional Correspondence** |  |
|  | JS confirmed that all incoming appropriate correspondence had been forwarded to the relevant members for consideration.  |  |
|  | **AOB** |  |
|  | The Chair said that the matting in the children’s playpark was breaking up. SM agreed it would be investigated by ER.The Chair reported that all over-65’s had had letters about receiving a flu jab. There is a special number rather than the Health Centre. Other age groups would be dealt with if they were at risk. The Chair asked who the point of contact was for repainting the village telephone boxes as these were in a poor condition. SM said both had been painted at the same time last time and he would look into it again. AW asked about getting the new benches cemented in. They do need fixing in. AW will investigate what hep is available.GW said the Mission Hall was being renovated to create a “*Heritage Centre”*. There would be some external groundwork. SM asked when it would be ready. GW said it should be by Christmas and SM thought signage supplied by SBC should be considered for increased visibility.GW said the village shop has been awarded Phase 2 monies and the pubic fund raising was the next stage with a view to concluding the sale by the end of the year. SS said a competition had been run at the school for the village shop and the winner has been sent to the printer for review. A member of the public asked about the access to the Business Park. There would be pedestrian access from the back lane but the main access would be the Kelso Road. SB will contact ACC about the type 2 surfacing material. The path needs a membrane before any roadstone aggregates are applied.  | ER SMAW |
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The meeting closed at 20:16 hrs

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 27th October at 7.00 pm by Zoom call.**