

Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held at Yetholm Kirk
Tuesday May 31st 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present: Shane Black (SAB) (in the Chair), Norman Burr (NB) (Treasurer), Cllr E Robson (ER).
Karon Phillips (KP), Sumati Bala SB), John Palfrey (JP), Susan Rands (SUR)

Apologies: Heather Freeland-Cook, Paul Freeland Cook, Graeme Wallace, David Green, Cllr
Simon Mountford

In attendance: Fiona Thompson (Yetholm Festival Committee Treasurer), Susan Stewart, Euan
Gibson, Stephen Jackson

Members of the Public: 4

	Minute	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence: as above.	
2.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
2.1.	SB welcomed Susan Rands (SUR) as secretary, to replace John Stobart, who resigned at the meeting of April 26 th , 2022 The Chair drew the attention of the meeting to the minutes of the previous meeting held on April 26, 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.	
3.	Matters Arising/Outstanding	
3.1.	Benches on Cherrytrees: ER reported that he had been assured that the benches would be installed and bolted down by the end of the week (June3) and will follow up and confirm by email with SAB.	ER, SAB
3.2.	HFC reported by email that she had ordered the deeds to the Pavilion land from James Wauchope to establish ownership and will forward to NB as soon as they arrive. Neil will replace Wallroadie gate.	HFC
3.3.	Wall repair: ongoing.	ER
3.4.	Discussions are ongoing with the bank about the changes required to the mandate. NB will report below (5.2)	NB
3.5.	ER has had further discussions with Northumberland County Council about the Mindrum Road matter and has asked for a written response to his request to keep the matter on their agenda.	ER
3.6.	Christmas lights – Discussion took place re plans for this year and a number of options were to be explored throughout the coming months. JP volunteered to head group to liaise with ER/SBC.	JP
4.	Members of the Public – Issues and/or Concerns	
	No further issues were brought forward.	
5.	Portfolio Presentations:	
5.1.	Housing and Planning; Shane Black	
	SAB reported that council housing will be refurbished by SBC, special permission having been granted to install PVC windows instead of wood.	
5.2.	Finance: Norman Burr	
a	NB reported that the issue with the bank has not yet been resolved in spite of repeated attempts to change the mandate. He hopes that this will be resolved in order to report favourably to the meeting on June 28 th .	
b	NB will present YCC accounts to meeting of June 28 th .	
5.3.	Village Maintenance & Utilities: Norman Burr	
	On the matter of the collapsed fence at the far end of the recreation ground, HFC has sent for the title deeds to establish ownership and will forward to NB as soon as they arrive.	HFC

	HFC and PFC offered to remove the fence and dispose of stabs and wire.	HFC, PFC
5.4.	Education: Heather Freeland-Cook	
	HFC has contacted the school and will liaise as and when required.	HFC
5.5.	Grants and Funding: Karon Phillips	
a)	It was established that funding is needed to repair and maintain pathways. JP suggested that applying to the Community Pathways fund from SBC up to £500 might be appropriate. ER suggested that KP contact funding consultant Heather Batsch of the Bridge at Jedburgh.	KP
b)	There was lengthy discussion of development of the website with contributions from Susan Stewart, who established and currently maintains the website, NB and JP. SS reported on the use of the website in the past month and JP maintained that usage would be significantly increased if the website were to be developed to be more in line with contemporary practice. He emphasised the importance, as he sees it, to be connected to other village websites. It was agreed to form a steering group to investigate funding of website design and development, with JP heading the group. SAB emphasised that it is crucial that exact needs are identified before approaching any funding sources.	JP, NB, SS
5.6.	Tourism – Graeme Wallace	
a)	There is some uncertainty as to whether GW wishes to resign and JP indicated that he would be willing to take over, with GW's agreement, until such time as GW is able to decide.	GW, JP
b)	Further to the announcement that the Floral Gateway had obtained funding for two trees to mark the Platinum Jubilee, Shane Black confirmed that two silver birch trees will be planted in November, that being the optimum time to do so, according to arboreal specialists.	SAB
c)	With reference to charging points, ER reported that a major SBC survey is under way to assess the current situation. He will report back when result has been published.	ER
5.7.	Health & Social Services – John Stobart	
a)	Following the resignation of John Stobart, Sumati Bala said that she might be willing to take this over, pending further investigation of what it entails other than maintenance of village defibrillators. PFC has volunteered to take responsibility for the proposed Bowmont Valley defibrillator.	SB, PFC
b)	Questions were asked about responsibility for checking 'vulnerable' list following the disbanding of the resilience group. SB to check.	SB
5.8.	Projects, Events & Pavilion – Shane Black	
a)	Discussion about re-siting of container and removal of sheds. No agreement was reached as to whether sheds should be sold or otherwise disposed of—possibly offered to allotment.	
b)	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
c)	Plans are in hand for continuing maintenance and repair works.	SAB/ER
6.	Festival Committee: Fiona Thomson	
6.1.	Fiona Thomson reported Installation had been very successful and had been well supported and attended by the local Community. Great re launch of Festival	
6.2.	School visit by Principals would take place on 10/6 /22 with the Kirkin' on Sunday 12 th . There was to be planned activity each day throughout the week and all the necessary paperwork and applications had been submitted	
6.3.	Platinum Jubilee Tea Party all arrangements were in place for this event and the grant application to SBC had been approved. All Welcome at this community event which would run throughout the day on June 4 th . Thanks, expressed to all who had offered help for the event. A delivery service was also organised for those in the community who were unable to attend.	

7	Police Report	
6.4.	The Police Report was circulated to all members prior to the meeting of May 31, 2022. No specific issues were identified or discussed at the meeting.	
7.	Scottish Borders Councillors Update	
7.1.	ER began by saying that cuts to the SBC budget ordered by Westminster are likely to have a negative impact on public services, though every effort would be made by SBC to mitigate the situation.	
7.2.	Back Lane: overhanging trees etc.: a team will arrive in the near future to deal with weedkilling and overhanging trees. Volunteers will undertake weeding.	
7.3.	Potholes/Resurfacing of High Street: this will be dealt with later in the year, but no date specified as yet.	
7.4.	ER said that reports of theft of farm machinery in the Borders area had been increasing recently and all were urged to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to police immediately.	
7.5.	SBC to act on possible lorry re-routing and a visit to the Catchpenny site had been arranged to research vision lines and possible alternative routes. This might involve extensive road works if SCB determines that such is necessary. SB asked about the possibility of extending the speed limit outwards. ER said that there might be a possibility for a dedicated cycle lane to be put in place, but the village would need to put forward a case for change.	
8.	Additional Correspondence	
	None.	
9.	AOB	
9.1.	The History Society will have a grand opening of the Heritage Centre. The signpost to the Heritage Centre has now been erected.	
9.2.	PFC will assume the portfolio for matters connected with the Bowmont Valley including the proposed defibrillator.	PFC

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday June 28th 2022 at 19.00 hrs at Yetholm Kirk.