

**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held in Yetholm Youth Hall**  
**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 at 7pm**

**Present: Shane Black (SAB) (Chair), Susan Stewart (SS), Paul Freeland Cook (PFC), Kevin Lee (KL) Euan Gibson (EG)**

**Scottish Borders Councillors –Euan Robson (ER)**

**Apologies: Heather Freeland Cook (HFC)**

**Members of the Public: 5 in attendance**

**The meeting was recorded.**

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence: As Above</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting, Approval and Signature</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.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Matters Arising from Minutes/Outstanding Issues.</b> SS reported that to date 35 names had been received for Seniors Christmas Supper on 24 <sup>th</sup> November. MOP queried at this point that statement read out by NB had not been included in minutes. SS intimated that advice had been taken from SBC regarding this and had been informed that a CC did not normally publish verbatim statements neither did SBC. The statement would be available on request, and this would be added to online minutes and the hard copy in shop file.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Christmas Trees and Lights</b> No word had been received as yet as to whether SBC would supply and erect trees in Town and Kirk Yetholm this year. It was hoped that we have a decision in next week. Forms had to be completed and returned to SBC re lights and electrical connection and EG had this in hand. The lights would require to PAT tested this year, not required last year as had been new purchase.	<b>Ongoing</b> <b>EG</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Bowmont Valley Defibrillator</b> SS reported that this was still work in progress. Thanks were expressed to HFC in her absence for obtaining monies towards this project from Roxburghe Estates (£750) and Eskdale Shooting Services (£500). SS would write and thank them for their generosity.	<b>SS</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b> All in hand for this service on 12/11 at 9.45 at War Memorial. EG would lay wreath on behalf of CC and also as 25-year Bari Gadgi. Geoffrey Emerson had agreed to play the bugle as in previous years. Trimming of vegetation around Memorial was in hand.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Co-option of Portfolio Vacancies – Grants and Funding Fiona Thompson and Finance Angela Walker</b>  SB intimated that Fiona Thompson had agreed to take on Grants and Funding Portfolio – this was proposed by EG and seconded by PFC. SB intimated that Angela Walker had agreed to take on Finance Portfolio – this was proposed by KL and seconded by PFC. Both were thanked for taking on these roles.	

<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Members of Public- Issues and/or concerns</b>  MOP asked if a note could be put on noticeboard re allocation of legacy monies. SS will do this.  Comment made that two benches purchased for the millennium are inaccessible due to overgrown walkway and the gate is also unusable. Discussion followed around this as was hoped to set up a community group in conjunction with Floral Gateway to look at how to maintain and improve these issues in the coming year. EG commented that this was in progress as a list of 53 benches had been received and he and KL were working there way through this list and identifying what required to be done.  An Elder Tree had fallen over in recent storm in the vicinity of path from Sixpenny Jacks to the Haugh. SM agreed to look at this as unclear whose land tree was actually on.</p>	<p><b>SS</b></p> <p><b>EG/KL</b></p> <p><b>SM</b></p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Portfolio Discussions</b></p>	
	<p><b>Housing and Planning – Shane Black</b>  SB reported that all plans received in last month had been sent on by Secretary as had not been sent to him as in previous months. The plans seen had all been for solar panels and an extension to a property in Kirk Yetholm – no objections noted to any of these plans.</p>	
	<p><b>Finance – Vacant (now to be filled by Angela Walker from November meeting)</b>  SB intimated that signatories required to be changed on account and he would follow up with Bank in the coming week.  Fiona Thompson commented that if monies required to be spent in coming month and signatories were not complete then Festival Week Account could be used, and monies repaid.</p>	<p><b>SB</b></p>
	<p><b>Village Maintenance and Utilities – Euan Gibson</b>  EG reported that a meeting had taken SBC re the possibility of setting up a working group along with Floral Gateway to maintain areas in and around the village. Emma Husband from SBC was to be approached re possible grants available to help with purchase of equipment.  EG also said that the gate at top end of cemetery had been removed which made it difficult for undertakers to carry coffins the full length of the cemetery.  Landowner to approached re gate being reinstated.</p>	<p><b>EG</b></p>
	<p><b>Education – Heather Freeland Cook</b>  SBC have had a meeting with Headteacher re replacement windows for dining room and also new tar in playground area.</p>	
	<p><b>Bowmont Valley – Paul Freeland Cook</b>  PFC intimated that the river had been very low when first storm hit, however possibly more damage could be anticipated in the next forecasted storm as river levels were much higher. He also said that the new bridge that was being put in at Sourhope Road end was work that was being undertaken by Roxburghe Estates and not SBC.</p>	
	<p><b>Resilience – Kevin Lee</b>  KL said that SBC were keen for the community to help and assist with any maintenance as reported in EG update. They were also willing to help where they could with equipment and grants. Dairy Wood, work was still being followed up with Criminal Justice Team however was emphasised that this was very much weather and manpower dependant. Any work carried out would be on a goodwill basis as this continue to ultimately be the responsibility of 121 George Street (Church of Scotland).</p>	

	<b>Grants and Funding – Vacant (now to be filled by Fiona Thompson from November Meeting)</b>	
	<p><b>Tourism – Vacant</b>  SS reported that stock levels at all outlets had been checked and monies had been received for sales made from all.  E mails had been sent out to all re adverts on website and all had replied saying they wished to continue, and accounts would be sent out in mid-December for the New Year.</p>	
	<p><b>Health and Social Services – Vacant</b>  Noted that three people had intimated they would help with checking new defibrillator in Bowmont Valley when it arrived. Thanks, expressed for these offers.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Police Report</b>  SS intimated no September report had been received to CC email. SM forwarded report to SS for circulation.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Scottish Borders Councillors’ Update</b>  ER reported that the road markings near the shop had now been reinstated. He had met with members of Floral Gateway re dropped kerb for wheelchair access to area on green where new picnic table was to be placed, this was all in hand. The drain from Wauchope Hall down Bowmont Terrace appeared to have obstruction in it and would require that a camera was put down to see if problem could be seen and rectified.  Susan Gray from St Cuthbert’s Way was to come on a site visit and check what could/should be done re walkway and river. Dates to be arranged and circulated. Next year was the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pennine Way National Trail and various events would be organised – further detail to follow. Could be an opportunity to highlight walks in and around the village.  Some lights were reported as not working in Yewtree Lane. Also noted that many of the streetlights were hidden by the trees in both villages.  Noted that grants could be applied for any work required on allotment wall and Floral Gateway have spoken with James Wauchope re possibility of replacing wall and having a fence on the top of it. Steven Rowe to be approached re estimate for any work that would be required here.  SM said that CC and Festival funding was being reviewed at this time and a report would go to Council Executive next month. Possibility of increasing grants to cover insurance payments and Public Protection insurance also being reviewed. Rotary were arranging a site visit with SM to look at tree planting as noted in previous minutes. Also noted that Borders Forest Trust was an agency that could supply trees for planting if required.  NHS Borders are having a public consultation re future of services in Borders.  Kelso Date was in Abbey Row on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov at 6.30pm</p>	<b>KL</b>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Additional Correspondence</b>  All had been sent out by email</p>	
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Community Council/A.O. B</b>  EG said that drain at top of Dow Brae continued to fill up and gravel and debris ran down onto road.  Scottish Woodland were carrying out a tree survey checking trees and bushes under power lines and one that was particularly dangerous was a tree near the Pavilion.  KL intimated that the drains past Pennine Cottage on Halterburn Road had large amounts of water gathering in and around them.  PFC noted that the beech tree at Catchpenny bend was very dangerous. He agreed</p>	

	<p>to speak landowner re this issue. Concern also expressed by Councillors re exposed manhole cover on the corner at entrance to village from Kelso. A barrier was in situ, but this required to be looked at by SBC. SB noted once again that the overgrown trees and vegetation at Thirlestane was the responsibility of the landowner.</p>	
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**The meeting closed at 2035.**

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm in the Youth Hall.**