

Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held in Yetholm Youth Hall
Tuesday 26th September 2023 at 7pm

Present: Shane Black (SAB) (Chair), Norman Burr (NB), Susan Stewart (SS), Paul Freeland Cook (PFC), Kevin Lee (KL) and Heather Freeland Cook (HFC)

Scottish Borders Councillors –Euan Robson (ER)

Apologies: Simon Mountford (SM), Euan Gibson (EG)

Members of the Public: 8 in attendance

The meeting was recorded.

		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 and signed by the Chair.	
3	Matters Arising from Minutes/Outstanding Issues. KL had spoken to his son re writing short piece, re defibrillator upkeep for Community Engagement Officer at SBC. Secretarial monies had now been paid. Overgrown vegetation at Cemetery had been cut back. Grants and Funding vacancy – Fiona Thompson had agreed to take this on as co-opted member.	
4	Christmas Trees and Lights Reported that tree officer at SBC had changed. It was hoped that we would know by 25/10 if we were to be supplied trees by SBC.	
5	Bowmont Valley Defibrillator SS reported that the priced had increased by approx. £500 from original quote. There was still the possibility of funding being available from two local organisations which would be investigated before next meeting. All agreed that we should go ahead with the purchase of this piece of equipment as monies were available in the account for this. Two people in the villages had shown an interest in helping with oversight of Valley defibrillator when installed.	Ongoing
6	A.G.M date 2024 SS asked for clarification on next year’s AGM date due to it being moved in 2023 because of CC being in abeyance. All agreed that date would be May 28 th , 2024, in Youth Hall prior to the usual monthly meeting.	
7	Festival Committee Update Fiona Thompson (FT) reported that the committee had met at the beginning of September to look at finances for this year. At this time accounts were showing a profit of £1551 with donations to Search and Rescue and Pipe Band still outstanding. Committee still awaited bill for horses so this would ultimately mean that there would be a slight deficit in takings for the year. However, the money held in bank was in a healthy position at this time. Thanks were expressed to all who had helped this year at Festival and special thanks was proposed to FT for all her hard work over the last year. The committee would not meet again until January 2024 to start planning for next year’s Festival.	
8	Members of the Public – Issues and/or concerns MOP queried comment in last minutes regarding work taking place on Grafton	

	<p>Road and no planning had been seen for this. They said that an application would go in in due course but at this time there was nothing untoward happening and no planning application was required.</p> <p>Question raised again regarding woodland plantation which straddled both Kalewater and Yetholm CC areas. Petitions were ongoing regarding this along with a further petition on Linton Loch site as it could be considered as an area of special scientific interest. CC asked if they had received any information or update re this and meeting was informed that nothing had been received.</p> <p>Representative from Floral Gateway queried whether some sort of ramp could be installed to area on green where it was hoped to put picnic bench in memory of Miss Deans. ER agreed to meet with group on 28th Sept to look at what was required. The wall at the allotment also required some work and agreed in the first place to approach James Wauchope re this.</p> <p>Discussion again around setting up of group to tidy up around village along with Floral Gateway. Equipment could be available for this.</p> <p>The Rotary had offered to plant trees (50) on various sites in villages in recognition of Gordon McNally being the International President. Areas discussed were between two villages and the playing field.</p> <p>Village phone boxes were discussed, and ER intimated that at this time there no plans to remove the boxes in TY or KY. However, he emphasised that ultimately it would come down to a use it or lose it scenario.</p>	Ongoing
9	Portfolio Discussions	
	<p>Housing and Planning – Shane Black No planning applications had been received this month</p>	
	<p>Finance – Norman Burr NB reported that accounts had been circulated just prior to the meeting. They continued to show a healthy balance with £6K ring fenced for the Playing Field subgroup to access in due course. He also intimated that a grant had been received by Stretch Tent group helping them to move forward as a separate group.</p>	
	<p>Village Maintenance and Utilities – Euan Gibson No report due to absence of EG</p>	
	<p>Education – Heather Freeland Cook No update this month</p>	
	<p>Bowmont Valley – Paul Freeland Cook PFC reported that resurfacing continued in the valley. Phone box where new defibrillator to be sited would be cleaned up. Signage came with package purchased.</p>	
	<p>Resilience – Kevin Lee Reported that steps down to Haugh on both sides still required repair. Lengthy discussion took place regarding this and whose responsibility it was. Agreed that KL and Steven Rowe would investigate further and report back at the next meeting as to the best way forward with this ongoing issue.</p>	KL
	<p>Grants and Funding - Vacant SS intimated that she would forward the information to FT regarding pathways grant. There were two machines in container which required to be checked over. Confirmed that this had been done earlier today.</p>	SS
	<p>Tourism – Vacant SS queried resuming charges for website adverts as this had been on hold since the onset of Covid. Agreed to write out to all advertisers advising that charges would be resuming in the coming months. Charge agreed at £24 for the year or</p>	

	part thereof and a further £10 charge if there was link to their website in advert	SS
	Health and Social Services – Vacant This had already been discussed under defibrillator.	
10	Police Report No report had been received to date. SS intimated that report when received would go on CC noticeboard in TY.	
11	Scottish Borders Councillors’ Update Reported that the weeds around the villages on paths and pavements would be sprayed in the coming month. Catch-a Penny and reversing lorries still continued to be a problem. No date forth coming as yet for work to start on Dairy Wood by Criminal Justice Team. This is also a project that could be undertaken by volunteer group if we can get that up and running. Live Borders and its ongoing viability were being discussed and decisions would be made in November regarding how this goes forward. £6 million savings had been made to date by SBC and Council Tax had increased in line with inflation it was reported. Issues also occurring in Social Work and Social Services due to lack of carers and low pay was also mentioned as being a factor in this. Hedges and verges at Lochside/Lochtower continue to cause concern and require cutting back. Borders National Park was also being looked at but this to date was not commanding a high level of support. The proposal for Dumfries and Galloway was a much more developed proposal it was intimated.	
12	Additional Correspondence All had been sent out by email	
13	Community Council/A.O. B NB intimated that he was resigning from CC with immediate effect and read out a lengthy statement to the meeting. This statement is available on request from secretary. SS intimated that the bottle banks and the emptying of them at regular intervals continued to cause issues in the village. ER said this was due to a lack of drivers. Discussion also took place re erection of a camera at the site. SS said that plans were being made for a Seniors Christmas Supper to take place in Hall which would use some of the allocated Warm Hub monies.	SS/FT Ongoing

The meeting closed at 2035.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 31st October at 7pm in the Youth Hall.