**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting**

**Minutes of the Meeting held in Yetholm Youth Hall**

**Tuesday 29th October 2019 at 7:00PM**

**Present:** Shane Black (in the chair), Natasha Gray, Stuart Kelly (SK), Graeme Wallace, Angela Walker, Iain Dougal, Sandi Keddie, Cllr Mountford, Cllr Robson

**Apologies:** Susan Stewart, Denise Allan, Zoe Keddie

**Members of the Public: 4**

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| 1 | **Apologies for Absence:** as above |  |
| 2 | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** |  |
|  | Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and signed by the Chair. |  |
| 3 | **Matters Arising/Outstanding** |  |
| 3.1 | Mobile Coverage – **Ongoing but no immediate actions.** |  |
| 3.2 | Concerns re Flooding – A site meeting was held with the flood officer who will take the matter forward with SBHA directly. **Ongoing.** | SM |
| 3.3 | Notice Board – The new notice board has now been installed but some water has been gathering during heavy rain, new seals will be added. The map is still to update and there will be some repair works carried out to the notice board in Kirk Yetholm. **Ongoing.** | GW |
| 3.4 | School Signs – ER still to check whether a reply has been received from Scottish Power. **Ongoing.** | ER |
| 3.5 | Public Toilets – Still awaiting a response from SBC regarding upgrading/maintenance works. ER noted that they are still awaiting the SBC report on the future of the public toilets and whether these will continue to be maintained by SBC or an external contractor. |  |
| 3.6 | Speeding/Safety Concerns – It was noted that a police patrol car has been in the village on a number of occasions since the last meeting checking speeding. NG still awaiting response from SBC re signs. | NG |
| 3.7 | 30mph Signs at Bluntys Mill – this is being followed up with the relevant department at SBC. |  |
| 3.8 | Work on Houses at Woodbank Road – further to some previous concerns raised, there has also been an issue with a flat bed truck left parked over the weekends which is causing an obstruction. It was noted that issues such as this should be reported to the police. |  |
|  | Presentation by Robert McCulloch-Graham Director of Borders Health and Social Care Board.  Attended to provide comment on the recent closure of the surgery in Yetholm – this was a decision made by the Kelso Medical Practice following 6 months of survey at the start of 2019. It was noted that due to the historic link with the Kelso practice, a new practice in Yetholm would only be possible if this was a separate, self-funded practice now that Kelso have decided not to continue with this. Those present expressed again that the main issue the CC has is the lack of communication throughout the process and the fact that when trying to make an appointment, Yetholm appointments were simply not offered. RMG provided some potential options for mitigating methods and the idea of a community transport scheme was discussed. It was noted that the Cheviot Wheels scheme already exists which is run by The Bridge. This idea could be explored further then a public meeting held to progress. |  |
| 4 | **Members of the Public – Issues and/or Concerns** |  |
|  | It was noted that there is a blocked drain at the wax knows and an issue with standing water; SM noted that this will be attended to by SBC as part of routine maintenance.  The members of the public present asked whether any progress had been made regarding the movement of the flashing speed sign; it was advised that the SBC monitoring period is still ongoing.  The issue of the public toilets was raised again, with the reiterated warning to the councillors that members of the public will take the story to the press should further action by SBC not be forthcoming. |  |
| 5 | **Police Report - Community Beat Officer (PC Suzanne Howgego)** |  |
|  | Incidents of graffiti took place over the weekend to particular properties in the village, it was noted that this has been quite poorly cleaned/covered and is still quite visible in places. |  |
| 6 | **Festival Committee Update:** |  |
|  | The next planning meeting will take place in January. |  |
| 7 | **Portfolio Presentations:** |  |
| 7.1 | **Housing and Planning - Shane Black (Vice Chair)** |  |
|  | No new plans received this month. It was noted that there are now demolition works ongoing at Proctors Smiddy which do not appear to have a demolition order and some of the stone is encroaching on the road. There was also issues regarding a ‘fireworks party’ to take place, which has already been brought to the attention of the police. |  |
| 7.2 | **Finance - Angela Walker** |  |
|  | Income YTD £2503, Expenditure YTD £670; we currently have a carry forward balance of £8290. AW noted that an email was received regarding the rates for the pavilion as the exemptions are changing; the building should still receive an exemption but there is a form to be filled in. There are still some monies outstanding from web adverts. |  |
| 7.3 | **Yetholm Resilient Group – Stuart Kelly** |  |
|  | SK raised concerns about having an up to date list of people in the village who are willing to help in emergencies; he personally experienced an incident with a person in distress attending his property in the early hours of the morning recently. A resilience meeting should be held to address this. |  |
| 7.4 | **Village Maintenance & Utilities – Vacant** |  |
|  | It was noted that PR has now moved and is therefore no longer a member of the community council, as he is out with the area. ER advised that he is having a further meeting with SBC officers and will update on the list of outstanding maintenance tasks in due course. |  |
| 7.5 | **Education - Zoe Keddie** |  |
|  | No update. |  |
| 7.6 | **Grants- Denise Allan** |  |
|  | No update. |  |
| 7.7 | **Health & Social Services – Sandi Keddie** |  |
|  | SAK advised that Scottish Heart have attended and fixed the defib, as the cover had been jammed. |  |
| 7.8 | **Tourism – Graeme Wallace** |  |
|  | GW noted that the stock of aprons is running low so he will place a further order, it was noted that these will be in organic cotton and the colour will be changed to match the tea towels. GW added that there has been a good response to the survey regarding the shop buyout and a stage 1 funding application is likely to be submitted soon. |  |
| 7.9 | **Projects, Events & Pavilion – Iain Dougal** |  |
|  | No Update. |  |
| 7.10 | **Chair, Website Liaison & Public Events – Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | SS provided a report by email advising that the bottle bank has now been emptied as it had been very full for some time. There has been some uncertainty over whether this has just been domestic glass, however it was noted and agreed that the pubs had been advised by SBC to use the bottle banks. David Edgar will not be doing the Christmas tress/lights again this year and a letter has been received from SBC about the electric connection for lights which needs to be completed by 1st November. ER will try to get in touch with the relevant SBC contact to explain the situation. |  |
| 8 | **Scottish Borders Councillors Update** |  |
|  | During the meeting it was confirmed that a UK general election will be held on 12th December, this is likely to cause some issues with SBC service in the lead-up. SM noted that the funding bid for outdoor gym equipment could be ‘reworked’ as a community grant and there is funding left in that particular pot. |  |
| 9 | **Additional Correspondence** |  |
|  | None. |  |
| 10 | **AOB** |  |
| 10.1 | SAK has been approached by various members of the public asking whether any further first aid training will be held in the village. NG noted that a new ‘dedicated’ and certified first aider will be required now that Paul and Sandra have moved away. |  |

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 26th November in Yetholm Youth Hall at 7.00pm.**