

## **Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting Minutes of the Meeting held online by Zoom Call.**

**Tuesday, 7 September 2021, at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Susan Stewart (SS) (in the chair), Shane Black (SB), Graeme Wallace (GW), Angela Walker (AW), Denise Allan (DA), John Stobart (JS) (Secretary), Cllr E Robson (ER) Cllr S Mountford (SM),

Apologies: Stuart Kelly (SK), Iain Dougal (ID)

In attendance: Fiona Thompson (FT)

Members of the Public: 2.

1. 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. The Police Report is referred to (5), below.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

2.1.

The Chair drew the attention of the meeting to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th July 2021 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.

With regard to minute 3.1 there was no further information.

3.2.

With regard to minute 3.2 it was confirmed that the refurbishment of the benches was still proceeding.

3.3.

With regard to minute 3.4 the additional chevron sign for Catch-a-Penny was being manufactured and had not yet been put in position.

3.4.

With regard to minute 3.5 it was confirmed that the car on the Morebattle Road had been removed.

3.5.

With regard to minute 3.10 there had been a meeting on the Green about the benches where a representative from SBC had said there would not be a problem but the work had to be scheduled. The benches are in the portacabin next to the pavilion.

3.6.

With regard to minute 3.13 there has been a discussion about painting the tourist sign but a quote for the work is awaited.

3.7.

With regard to minute 3.15 on the badgers at the churchyard, there was as yet no resolution of the problem. The position would be monitored.

3.8.

With regard to minute 3.17 on the potholes in the Bowmont Valley it was not known whether the work had progressed. SM would make enquiries.

3.9.

With regard to minute 4.2 it was noted that grass cutting in the playing field had been carried out and the benches were accessible. Thanks were given to SBC for the work having been done.

3.10.

With regard to minute 12.1 on the tree in Grafton Road SM reported that an inspection was to be carried out.

3.11.

With regard to minute 5.2 SM confirmed that the white lining had been carried out on the roads and the pavement signs at the school had been renewed and repainted. The paw marks had still to be done. ER confirmed that other equipment was needed for these but they were on the list of work.

4.

Members of the Public – Issues and/or Concerns

4.1.

A member of the public said that a large recovery vehicle and trailer were being parked overnight every night in the High Street in Town Yetholm. SM responded that the vehicle is taxed and can park on the public highway. They are not a nuisance per se. It was asked if there should be an operator's licence which would specify the location for storage of the vehicle. That will be followed up by Cllr Mountford.

4.2.

A member of the public raised the issue of Proctor's Smiddy where vehicles were often in the road which created a hazard. ER said numerous complaints had been referred to SBC and the

Police. Complaints to the Police were the right course. A site visit would take place to look into erecting warning signs. Cllr Robson to follow up.

4.3.

A member of the public raised the issue of the footpath from the Haugh to Yetholm Mains. ER confirmed that a meeting with the landowner had been requested.

## 5. Police Report

5.1.

The Secretary reported that a police report had been received since the last meeting and had been circulated.

5.2.

It was noted that there had been a report of an intoxicated individual on Woodbank Road.

## 6. Festival Committee Update

6.1.

The Chair said FT was in attendance to report on this. FT reported that Festival had not taken place because of the pandemic, but some fund-raising had taken place. Reserves were £5,047.35 at 31st August. No community grants had been received. There was no revenue from patrons. Expenses varied year-on-year, but the Festival usually turned a profit each year of about £500.

## 7. Elections to Yetholm and District Community Council

7.1.

JS confirmed that the notice and nomination form had been drafted and sent to SBC. The notice had been placed on notice boards and nomination forms placed in the village shop. There had been four nominations but these were not enough to be 50% of the 11 required by the rules. SBC had agreed that the nomination period could be reopened to seek additional nominations. It was proposed to reopen the nomination period.

7.2.

It was agreed the process should be reopened. Timing was discussed and it was agreed that the process should be begun. After discussion it was agreed that the period should be 21 days subject to discussion with SBC and the September regular meeting should be postponed to 5 October.

7.3.

The Secretary will action the paperwork.

7.4.

Note: Subsequent to the meeting the proposed timing was changed after discussion with SBC.

## 8. Portfolio Presentations

8.1.

Housing and Planning - Shane Black (Vice Chair)

SB reported that no new applications had been received.

8.2.

Finance

AW confirmed the income year to date was £453 mostly made up of ragbag moneys and sale tea towels and notelets. Annual subscription to the Bridge was £15 and half of the ragbag receipts had been donated to the School. Total expenditure was £153 giving a surplus of £300 added to reserves. £1700 was held from a donation from Yetholm Horticultural Society. Advertising would be billed at 50% because of the pandemic.

8.3.

Village Maintenance & Utilities

a)

JS confirmed the railings at the War Memorial had been repainted.

b)

It was noted that the bin at the cemetery was overflowing.

c)

ER confirmed that a request had been made for the hedge at the War Memorial to be cut.

8.4.

Education

SS said the school had returned but there was nothing to report.

8.5.

Grants

DA had nothing to report. The pathways grants has been submitted.

8.6.

Health & Social Services

JS confirmed he had inspected both defibrillators and that they appeared to be in working order and the pads were within date.

8.7.

Tourism

a)

GW said there was nothing new to report. Tourism was beginning to revive once more.

8.8.

Projects, Events & Pavilion

a)

DA said there was £6,511.05 in reserves. £3,782.20 had been paid for roofing materials in August. Other expenditure had been on utility bills.

b)

SB estimates had been received and material had been bought. Total cost would be between £5,500 and £6,000 for the roof and associated work.

c)

An enquiry was made about whether planning permission was required. It was noted it was a renewal using material rather than asphalt.

d)

SB said enquiries had been received about forming a cricket club and using the pavilion.

8.9.

Chair, Website Liaison & Public Events – Susan Stewart

a)

The Chair reported that activity on the website was increasing.

b) 8

The Chair was in the process of organising some public events.

## 9. Scottish Borders Councillors Update

SM confirmed the village toilets were due to be reopened after refurbishment but will be closed at the end of October. A decision has not been made on when they will be reopened after that.

ER reported that SBC was preparing a response to a request from the Scottish Government about a national care service to run alongside the NHS. There were major implications.

## 10. Additional Correspondence

JS confirmed that all incoming appropriate correspondence had been forwarded to the relevant members for consideration.

## 11. Any other Business

### 11.1.

SS wished to record her thanks to Kevin Lees and Euan Gibson for recovering the marquee and placing it in the pavilion after inspection of the poles.

### 11.2.

SS said a Poppy Wreath had been organised for Remembrance Sunday.

### 11.3.

SS reminded the meeting of the need to make arrangements for Christmas Trees.

### 11.4.

GW had prepared a list of costs for tourist material but it would be considered at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 19:59 hrs.

Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 5th October 2021 at 19.00 hrs by Zoom call.

**JS/09/2021**