**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting**

**Minutes of the Meeting held online by Zoom Call.**

**Tuesday 25th May 2021 at 7.00 pm**

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

**Apologies:** Stuart Kelly (SK), Denise Allan (DA),

**Members of the Public**: 2

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|  | **Minute** | **Action** |
|  | **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 below. |  |
|  | **Minutes of the Previous Meetings** |  |
|  | The Chair drew the attention of the meeting to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th April 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. |  |
|  | **Matters Arising/Outstanding** |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.2 ER informed the meeting that SEPA had responded saying they had visited the site at Proctor’s Smiddy. SEPA had said that he quantity of tyres was not such as to give them a cause for concern. The police are looking into the offensive sign. It was confirmed the sign had been moved to a different angle and no longer visible. ER will have a detailed discussion with the SEPA officer. The matter is ongoing. | ER |
|  | With regard to minute 3.3 the Chair reported she had not heard back from CB at SBC on the bench survey. The bench at the cemetery had not yet been returned. The Chair will seek a response. The matter is ongoing.  JS Reported that the benches at Romany Loch had been renovated. It was believe that villagers in Town Yetholm may have done the work. | SS |
|  | With regard to minute 3.6 ER confirmed that the construction at the back of the property had been referred to the planning department at SBC. An officer is investigating and will take enforcement action of required. SM asked the meeting to note that he understood that a retrospective planning application had now been submitted. SB had not yet been made aware of it. The issue of the path has been drawn to the attention of the enforcement division. Mr Gibson who owns the neighbouring land is going to reinforce the path with materials he has available by agreement with the landowner. It is a prescriptive permissive right of way. YCC thanked Mr Gibson. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.7 JS confirmed he had bought two new batteries for the defibrillators as the two small heavy boxes were not batteries but rather inline transformers for the cabinets. The new batteries will be good for approximately four years subject to usage. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.8 dealing with the gates on the wall roadie DA was investigating whether a grant was available the matter. The matter was ongoing. | DA |
|  | With regard to minute 3.9 the Chair confirmed that the dog poo bag container appeared to be being used. It was reported that similar containers were in use in other places. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 4.1 SM reported that the Deanfield Place sign will not be replaced until has become worn. It was recently renewed albeit not in Yetholm colours of green and yellow. SNB said other signs had been replaced two years ago in the village colours and the sign in question had been missed. SM said no further funding was currently available. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 4.2 JS confirmed he had looked into the matter and had circulated a report detailing that the phone box in the Bowmont valley at Belford was owned a local farmer who had bought it from BT and was willing to allow it to be used. Unfortunately there is no power in the kiosk. Although the defibrillators have long life batteries the cabinets need a power supply to maintain an ambient temperature. Alternative technology is available but the cost is £2,000 rather than £1,000. Details are in the report. The Chair has spoken to the Bridge and there may be funding available. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 4.4 it was note that KL had erected the gate and constructed some wooden steps. YCC expressed thanks to KL for his work. KL said that the highway giving access to the gate was breaking up and needed investigation as it was becoming quite precarious. SM will look into the matter. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 7.8.3 relating to the Men’s Shed and the Notice Board it was reported that contact had been made and it was work in progress. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 7.9 (b) relating to the picnic benches SB confirmed they would be built up when a decision was taken on exact location and slabs were installed as a base for each. AW confirmed the chosen position was the lower green. SB will look into what is available. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 8 (b) AW said emails had been circulated about the cleaning regime. It was said that cleaning was required four times each day and the time would be one hour each time. There were only two known volunteers and that would be impossible to achieve. SM confirmed this was the cleaning regime required by SBC because of Covid. JS had made enquiries and the going rate is £14 an hour and the cost of satisfying the regime with a contractor would be astronomical. JS had been in touch with suppliers of superloos. It is a work in progress. There may be local objections to a superloo. A member of the public said he had seen people urinating outside. Inspecting and checking would be a difficult task. There is a sign on the St Cuthbert’s Way saying there are toilets in the village. SM said a business case and a formal application was required for funding. Cleaning criteria may be relaxed as and when the Covid restrictions themselves are relaxed |  |
|  | **Members of the Public – Issues and/or Concerns** |  |
|  | A member of the public asked whether the gate on the other side of the haugh could be made good. Currently there is a temporary and unsafe structure. |  |
|  | A member of the path at Blunty’s Mill. ER reported that the access officer had said it was a prescriptive permissive path. There is no landowner dispute. The landowner had said he understood the right of community access. A member of the public aid the fence would block the path in its current position. |  |
|  | A member of the public said private cleaning of site facilities was once a day. SM said that public toilets were required to be cleaning four times each day. |  |
|  | **Police Report** |  |
|  | The Secretary reported that a police report had been received since the last meeting and had been circulated. |  |
|  | **Festival Committee Update:** |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed that the Festival Committee had a short programme of events planned for festival week starting 13th June. |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed that a new chair was needed for the Festival Committee but until there was a new community council elected matters would not progress. The constitution may need to be amended. |  |
|  | **Portfolio Presentations:** |  |
|  | **Housing and Planning - Shane Black (Vice Chair)** |  |
| **a)** | SB reported that two plans had been received. One was a new thatched roof on Rowan Cottage Kirk Yetholm and the other was internal construction to the Old White Swan hotel. |  |
|  | The chair said advanced notice of an application on the telecommunications mast had been received that day. |  |
| **b)** | The radio installation and satellite dish installation on the Venchen above Cherrytrees was not the subject of a planning application and it is being investigated . It was thought to be related to Border Link but the position would be confirmed. The matter is continuing. |  |
|  | **Finance – Angela Walker** |  |
|  | AW said there was no matters on which to report. |  |
|  | **Village Maintenance & Utilities – JS** |  |
|  | JS said the SBC had been seen filling in potholes around the village. |  |
|  | **Education - Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed that there was nothing to report. |  |
|  | **Grants- DA** |  |
|  | DA has not mentioned anything in her email to the Chair. |  |
|  | **Health & Social Services – JS** |  |
|  | JS confirmed he had inspected both defibrillators and that they appeared to be in working order and the pads were within date. |  |
|  | **Tourism – GW** |  |
|  | GW reported that the Halterburn wall was falling into the ditch. It was not an attractive entry to the village for those walking the Pennine Way. SM said it was a farmer’s responsibility. SBC could instruct the landowner if neglect resulted in debris impinging on the highway. It is schemed for the autumn before the ne next winter. |  |
|  | JS had bought a frame for the map in Town Yetholm. |  |
|  | GW said there was an exhibition during Festival Week at the History Society hall, |  |
|  | **Projects, Events & Pavilion – SB** |  |
|  | Quotes were awaited for the work required to be done. |  |
|  | The Chair said a tent was proposed to be erect on the playing field for a short time for a birthday party on 5th June. | SB |
|  | The Chair said the school had required and been granted access to the pavilion to use the toilets for a two day sports and prize giving event. |  |
|  | The Chair said The Plough had agreed to return the marquee. SB will look into the matter. |  |
|  | **Chair, Website Liaison & Public Events – Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | The Chair reported that activity on the website was increasing. |  |
|  | There were no current public events. |  |
|  | **Scottish Borders Councillors Update** |  |
|  | ER asked if the bottle bank had been emptied and it was thought not as it was overflowing. |  |
|  | **Additional Correspondence** |  |
|  | JS confirmed that all incoming appropriate correspondence had been forwarded to the relevant members for consideration. A list had been circulated. |  |
|  | **AOB** |  |
|  | The Chair reported that old records were to be handed to the History Society. |  |
|  | The Chair said a number of complaints had been made about the new planning on the haugh by the bridge. The trees were being knocked over by the sheep. |  |
|  | GW said the grass on Dow Brae was encroaching on the conservation drain. It will be looked into by SBC. |  |
|  | GW said a badger had excavated a large hole and placed debris on the road to Yetholm Mains. It will be looked into by SBC. |  |
|  | The Chair said it might be worth raising interest in the public for future membership of YCC. |  |
|  | ER said chevrons signs had been manufactured for Catch a Penny. SB suggested it was in the wrong place. It may be that work needs doing on a second sign. |  |
|  | It was raised that there were serious potholes up the Bowmont valley that were getting worse. |  |

The meeting closed at 19:57 hrs.

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 29th June 2021 at 19.00 hrs by Zoom call.**