**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting**

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

**Tuesday 26th January 2021 at 7.00 pm**

**Present:** Susan Stewart (SS) (in the chair), Shane Black (SB), Graeme Wallace (GW), Angela Walker (AW), Stuart Kelly (SK), Denise Allan (DA), Cllr S Mountford (SM), Cllr E Robson (ER).

**Apologies:** Iain Dougal (ID)

**In attendance:** John Stobart (JS) (Secretary)

**Members of the Public**: 2

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|  | **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. It was noted that Sandi Keddie had resigned from the Community Council following the last meeting. |  |
|  | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** |  |
|  | The Chair drew the attention of the meeting to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th November 2020 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 3.1 SM had nothing to add to the previous minutes. ER reported that he understood that the saplings were to be cleared and believed that it may have taken place. SB confirmed that he had walked the path recently and it was much clearer than it had been. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.2 the Chair confirmed that map was on the notice board at the shop in Town Yetholm and on the bus shelter in Kirk Yetholm and that it had received a number of positive comments. The Chair thanked GW and JS. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.3 the Chair confirmed that the Christmas Trees had been erected and the lights installed and turned on in early December and had subsequently been taken down. Thanks were extended to KL, EG and JAS for the work done. It was noted that the lights were quite old and might be due for replacement. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.4 the Chair asked about the gate and KL confirmed the gate and the associated materials had been delivered to his address. KL asked the meeting to note that installation might be better delayed until it was known that the course of the river had stabilised as it was likely to change since it would affect the footpath to which the gate gave access. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.5 concerning the type 2 material SB confirmed he was waiting to hear from a supplier, and it was not progressing at that time. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.6 relating to car sharing for the flu jabs the Chair confirmed there had been an email received and had been circulated. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 4.1 concerning the proposed industrial area SB reported that there had been two emails and a letter received all of which set out objections. The point had been made that with the COVID-19 situation it was not an ideal time as all communications were by email which not everyone used. SM confirmed he had arranged for interested parties who had contacted him to have a conversation with the Planning Officer. The Planning Director Charles Johnson was collating all the objections as there were a number of similar projects across the Borders. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 7.1 concerning the toilets, AW reported that no further meeting had taken place and was unlikely to take place until April at the earliest. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 10 SB reported that the plans did not show the structure in question at the Mill House but that it was possibly the subject of an application which had not yet been sent to him. |  |
|  | In response to an enquiry from SM, the Chair said she had not received the invitation link to the Cheviot Area Partnership meeting. SM agreed to make sure it was sent. | SM |
|  | **Members of the Public – Issues and/or Concerns** |  |
|  | A member of the public confirmed the position on the gate as set out above. |  |
|  | A member of the public reported that he had been approached by a resident at Kirk Yetholm about obtaining a larger tree and better lights in the future for Kirk Yetholm, perhaps by public subscription. The Chair confirmed that public contributions would be welcome as costs tended to rise each year. It was noted that it was necessary to speak to tree suppliers earlier in the year to obtain a bigger tree as they tended to be in short supply. It was also suggested that a feature with an illuminated picket fence could be considered as well. A member of the public asked it to be noted that bigger trees would require special equipment be erect as there was a limit to the size of tree that could be installed when only manual handing was used. Fund raising would be considered. |  |
|  | **Police Report** |  |
|  | The Secretary reported that two police reports had been received since the last meeting and had been circulated. The Secretary said police reports tended to arrive on or about the 1st of the month for the preceding month and were therefore out of synch with the YCC meetings held at the end of the month. It was noted that the reports in the new format were more difficult to use as a source or pertinent local information relevant to Yetholm. |  |
|  | **Festival Committee Update:** |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed that a meeting of the Festival Committee had taken place in January where the position for the coming year had been discussed. Subsequently a letter had been received and circulated from which it was noted that many other Common Ridings for 2021 had already been cancelled. Another meeting of the Festival Committee was scheduled for 8th February with a view to considering matters including the use of a virtual festival or announce an official cancelation.  A member of the public asked the meeting to note that Jedburgh had decided that their festival could not take place unless the entire Borders region was in Tier 1. The Chair confirmed that that was also the import of the letter she had received. |  |
|  | **Portfolio Presentations:** |  |
|  | **Housing and Planning - Shane Black (Vice Chair)** |  |
|  | SB reported that there were no new planning applications.  SM confirmed that there had been an online appeal hearing in respect of the site at Kirk Yetholm on which new development was proposed including a “virtual viewing” using Microsoft Team to which the applicant and objectors were invited. the meeting was livestreamed. The appeal had been refused, the planning officer’s decision upheld and the application turned down.  There was no news on the Swan retrospective application, but new owners were moving in. |  |
|  | **Finance – Angela Walker** |  |
|  | AW reported it had been two quiet months. Income in December was £71 from Nathan’s Waste Savers and £92.50 from GW for notelets and sundries. In January £62 was received from Kate Moses for walks. There had been a cheque in the post from the Border Hotel for the web advert for this year and next year at the discounted rate. Expenditure had been £100 for Christmas trees, a donation to the village shop of £1,000, the insurance premium payment of £200 and reimbursing GW for the cost of the picture frame for the village map. Income for the year totalled £12,210 and expenditure was £12,356 giving a deficit for the year of £147 but left reserves of £5,300. Resilience monies were being used for the Zoom subscription. It was noted that a 20% reduction was available for a full year subscription paid in advance. The Chair reported that the Zoom facility was made available to other groups and it was it widely used because of the COVID-19 situation. It was resolved that YCC would take advantage of this offer given the ongoing COVID-19 situation.  It was note that fees for some adverts had not been received and it was resolved that any adverts for which payment had not been received would be removed in March. |  |
|  | **Yetholm Resilient Group – Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | SK reported that the Resilience Group was up and running again although there were fewer parcels going to those shielding or unable to get to the shop, possibly because use was being made of arrangements with other sources of supply. The Chair confirmed that the position was the same with prescriptions which were markedly fewer than in the first lockdown, nor were there as many phone calls about shopping. Another leaflet drop had been made. Vaccinations were being given and the evidence was that over-80s were receiving the vaccination and over-70s were to be contacted in the next few days. |  |
|  | **Village Maintenance & Utilities – Vacant** |  |
|  | The Chair noted it was vacant. |  |
|  | **Education - Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed that she had been in touch with Jamie Wilson the head teacher who had confirmed that the school was operating in the normal course. |  |
|  | **Grants- Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | DA said there was nothing to report on grants. |  |
|  | **Health & Social Services – Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | DA asked what was to be done as she had not previously been involved. SS reported that JS had taken responsibility for the defibrillators. |  |
|  | **Tourism – Graeme Wallace** |  |
|  | GW reported that the map had been framed and put up on the bus shelter in Kirk Yetholm. The door of one of the frames in the notice board in Town Yetholm had been damaged by the recent high winds and repaired. A chain would also be placed on the Kirk Yetholm notice board to hold it in place. |  |
|  | **Projects, Events & Pavilion – Iain Dougal** |  |
|  | In the absence of ID, SB reported that a meeting had been held. Entry as a group to assess building maintenance was required. Two builders were carrying out a survey of the roof to assess whether a roof covering the existing in box profile would be feasible or cost efficient. It was also necessary to investigate whether planning permission was required. Depending on the cost fund raising may be required. It was also under consideration to replace the windows with shatterproof glass and removing the grilles for aesthetic improvement. |  |
|  | **Chair, Website Liaison & Public Events – Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed the website had been updated.  There were no current public events. |  |
|  | **Scottish Borders Councillors Update** |  |
|  | SM said there was a consultation on the 20-mph speed trial, but no response had been received from Yetholm CC. The Secretary said he had not seen the enquiry in the YCC mailbox but would investigate it. SM will forward to the Secretary his own notification on the matter. Opinions were mixed as to the effect of the new speed limit.  ER said the chevron for installation at Catch-a-Penny was now at the sign shop for manufacture and was expected to be installed in the not-too-distant future.  ER said he had passed on the remarks about potholes and was waiting for a response.  The review of the scheme for Community Councils had restarted. ER would report back in due course. |  |
|  | **Additional Correspondence** |  |
|  | JS confirmed that all incoming appropriate correspondence had been forwarded to the relevant members for consideration. |  |
|  | **AOB** |  |
|  | The Chair said she had been in touch with SBC about the potholes and had contacted SM and ER about the condition of many of the local roads. |  |
|  | The Chair asked about the future for the YCC as some members were retiring. ER responded that the aim was to delay any process until September because of COVID-19. SM said that some CCs had had AGMs and it was possible to co-opt additional members. The Chair proposed that KL and EG be co-opted onto the YCC. Both asked for time to consider the matter.  ER will seek additional confirmation of the position on elections. |  |
|  | The Chair said objections had been raised with her about the accumulation of rubbish outside of Rose Cottage in Town Yetholm. SM agreed to look into the matter. |  |
|  | SB said complaints had been raised about the state of Proctor’s Smiddy. ER said that had been a number of complaints. SM confirmed that the local constabulary had visited. A question was raised as to the existence of planning permission as the use seemed to change frequently. ER said further investigations would be made as it was noted that cones had been placed on the public road because vehicles were protruding into the road. There were risks from waste oils. |  |
|  | GW said the emptying of the bins at the bottle banks was erratic.  GW said there was a hazard from water runoff on the Halterburn rise. SB said it was a council drain. There is a grit bin, but runoff can be dangerous in freezing conditions. |  |
|  | GW said the response on the shop project had been outstanding. The matter was now with lawyers for the purchase to be carried out. SS said that enquiries had been made about using the Youth Hall temporarily while the shop was refurbished, and the question was raised about the need for a temporary change of use. Enquiries will be made with the planning department. |  |
|  | A member of the public said an application for change of use had been posted on SBC website in respect of the former surgery in Town Yetholm. |  |
|  | A member of the public pointed out that if vehicle breaking was being carried out at Proctor’s Smiddy a licence to do so was required. Similarly licences for disposal of hazardous waste were required if those activities were being carried on. Burning of rubbish was taking place and there were asbestos sheets by the side of the road covered in grass. ER confirmed the matter would be investigated. |  |

The meeting closed at 20:06 hrs.

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at 7.00 pm by Zoom call.**