**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting**

**Minutes of the Meeting held at the Youth Hall**

**Tuesday 29th March 2022 at 7.00 pm**

**Present:** Shane Black (SB) (in the chair), Graeme Wallace (GW) (Vice Chair), Norman Burr (NB) (Treasurer), Karon Philips (KP), David Green (DG), John Palfrey (JP), John Stobart (JS) (Secretary), Cllr E Robson (ER) Cllr S Mountford (SM),

**Apologies:** Sumati Bala (SB). Heather Freeland-Cook (HFC), Paul Freeland-Cook (PFC)

**Members of the Public**: 2

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|  | **Minute**  | **Action**  |
|  | **Apologies for Absence:** as above.  |  |
|  | **Welcome of New Members** |  |
|  | SB welcomed the new members to the community council following the outcome of the by-election. The new members introduced themselves.  |  |
|  | **Minutes of the Previous Meetings** |  |
|  | The Chair drew the attention of the meeting to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th November 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** |  |
|  | NB confirmed that the process for replacement of the signatories on the bank mandate was in progress.  |  |
|  | The chevron sign was in place at Catch-a-Penny on the Kelso road.  |  |
|  | The hedges opposite Lochside still required attention. The Lochside side has been cut back. SBC will be asked to look into the matter. | SM/ER |
|  | The benches on Cherrytrees are in SBC workshop undergoing repairs. Reduced manpower in the depot had delayed the work. Volunteers are not able to work in the depot because of insurance limitations. ER will communicate with SBC about progress on the matter. | ER  |
|  | A survey has been done by SBC tree officers of the trees in the Yetholm villages and some will be lopped and pruned.  |  |
|  | The ditch on the Halterburn road had been cleared of fallen stones and debris.  |  |
|  | Some of the potholes had been filled in when work was done on the road to Kelso.  |  |
|  | It was agreed that in future minutes would have a column for action and responsibility.  | JS |
|  | It was agreed that JS continue in the role of secretary to the community council.  |  |
|  | **Members of the Public – Issues and/or Concerns** |  |
|  | A member of the public asked if materials could be supplied so that volunteers could repair the benches in the current locations. ER will make enquiries. | ER  |
|  | A member of the public asked if the ditches further up the Halterburn rise could be cleared. ER will ask that it is added to the schedule of work.  | ER |
|  | A member of the public asked if the wall roadie between the Mission hall and the haugh could be repaired as it was very slippy in wet weather. It requires the application of ‘type 1’ material. Enquires will be made into obtaining a pathways grant for that purpose. In addition, the gate at the bottom is impassable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. SB will speak to DA the former YCC member who had responsibility for obtaining grants about what was achieved in that regard. A member of the public asked if similar work could be done on the path that led to the Youth Hostel as it also was in need of repair from about midway along.  | SB.  |
|  | A member of the public asked about the 20 mph countdown signs in the approaches to the village and whether they were on the roads where drivers most needed guidance on the matter. The signed have been financed by the Scottish Government rather than SBC.  |  |
|  | **Portfolio Presentations:** |  |
|  | **Housing and Planning - Shane Black**  |  |
| a)  | SB reported that three applications had been received concerned with windows and doors.  |  |
|  | **Finance – NB**  |  |
| a) | NB summarised the current position. There is over £14,000 in the account after receipt of a legacy. There is no major expenditure expected. The reimbursement of JS for expenditure incurred by him in 2021 was discussed. At the request of the Treasurer the matter was put to a vote and it was resolved to reimburse JS in full for the expenditure he had incurred. Payment will be made when the new signatories on the mandate are finally approved by the bank.  |  NB |
| b) | NB reported that the monies from SBC had not been paid as the minutes approving the code of conduct and agreeing to observe the same had not been filed with SBC. JS was Requested do file the minutes of the last meeting.  | JS |
| c) | NB reported that here were two insurance policies in place and the differences between them were not known. JS will contact SBC after the meeting and confirm that the cover required was unchanged. It is believed that the other policy covers the Rideout but the records will be investigated. If there is overlapping cover then there may be difficulties with the insurers in the event of a claim. JP asked whether the pavilion require the correct level of maintenance before an insurance policy would cover it. It was noted that dilapidations through lack of maintenance was not an insurance risk under any commercial insurance policy.  | JSJS |
|  | **Village Maintenance & Utilities – NB** |  |
| a) | NB raised the issue of the collapsed fence at the far end of the recreation ground which was a potential hazard. After discussion it was agreed to contact the landholder about the position after an inspection had taken place. If the landowner is willing to permit it, then consideration may be given to asking villagers to assist in voluntarily removing it to abate the hazard. It was believed that the paths through the wooded area were not rights of way but had been created by dog walkers through repeated use. Some ‘homework’ will be done to try to find out the position.  |  |
| b) | NB raised the matter of the road to Mindrum as soon as it leaves Scotland and enters Northumberland as it is in poor repair and hazardous. After discussion it was agreed that an approach should be made to Northumberland County Council about the matter.  |  |
| c) | GW asked SBC to note that light number 3 on Dow Brae needed attention. GW has written to SBC on a number of occasions, but the matter has not been seen to. ER agreed to look into the matter. Light number 9 is still overgrown.  | ER  |
| d) | JP raise the matter of Proctor’s Smiddy and the fact of some traffic accidents having taken place there. The matter was discussed, and it was noted that road signs had been erected to warn motorists that they were approaching a junction. It was also proposed to paint ‘SLOW’ signs on the carriageway.  |  |
|  | **Education / Grants and Funding** |  |
| a) | SB said that neither education nor grants and funding as portfolios had been allocated. SM asked the meeting to note that SBC had grant funds from which money could be available for specific purposes. The key is to prove community benefit. If the YCC can produce a list of matters for which grant funding is needed, then KP will look into the possible sources of grant funding.  |  |
| b)  | The issue of putting lights at Christmas on the trees that stand on the village greens was raised in this context. The position on the use of the connection to the street lighting was noted and the process was explained. It would be necessary to hire a ‘cherry-picker’ to do the work. If contact were made in the summer, then tree suppliers could be contacted well in advance the issues experienced the previous year may be avoided. The matter will be discussed further in the summer.  | Carried forward.  |
| c)  | JS will liaise with KP on previous grants applied for and matter that might be appropriate for grant funding. | JS/KP |
| d) | Education as a portfolio will be considered at a later meeting. SB will speak with a person in the village who has previously expressed interest.  | SB.  |
|  | **Health & Social Services – JS**  |  |
| a) | JS confirmed he had inspected both defibrillators and that they appeared to be in working order and the pads were within date. The pads in Town Yetholm had been replaced after use.  |  |
| b) | JS will look into sourcing a new cover for the box in which the machine is located in Town Yetholm as he had lately had to repair it with superglue.  | JS |
|  | **Tourism – GW** |  |
|  | GW confirmed the tourist season was about to begin. It was noted that the butchers shop was closing and sales of tea towels through that outlet would cease although there were believed to be two possible buyers of the premises.  |  |
|  | **Projects, Events & Pavilion – SB**  |  |
|  | SB said no events were planned but some tidying up was to be done including the contents of the resilience container.  |  |
|  | There is intended to be a meeting of the pavilion committee in April.  |  |
|  | £6,000 has been spent on the pavilion roof. It must be fully up and running for festival week when various social activities are proposed to be held.  |  |
|  | **Chair, Website Liaison & Public Events**  |  |
|  | Susan Stewart (SS), the former Chair of the community council, is still looking after the village website.  |  |
|  | Local businesses are required to tell SS if they want material on the website. It was noted that information could also be placed on Facebook pages about the village.  |  |
|  | **Police Report** |  |
|  | The police will be circulated when it is received.  |  |
|  | It was noted that the Community Police Officer would not be attending as the Police Force do not have sufficient resources to attend all community council meetings. They will attend YCC meetings however if there are known issues to be addressed. If particular issues do arise, however, they can be notified to SM who sits on the police committee.  |  |
|  | **Festival Committee**  |  |
|  | SB reported that he had attended meetings of the Festival Committee in an unofficial capacity pending the reconstitution of the community council. Insurance was in place. The festival is being organised. Installation of the Principals is taking place on 6th May 2022. Sponsorship is in place.  |  |
|  | SB will ask Fiona Thompson if she wished to attend the next meeting of YCC to give a full update on matters concerning the festival.  | SB |
|  | **Scottish Borders Councillors Update** |  |
|  | SM reported that the SBC was in purdah pending the elections in May.  |  |
|  | ER reported that a fingerpost was proposed for the green in Town Yetholm pointing to the Heritage Centre and asked if there were other local amenities that could be placed on it to assist visitors in finding local amenities. Some ideas were suggested. All members will consider the matter further and report back.  | Carried forward.  |
|  | JP asked about the current position on the public toilets in Town Yetholm SM confirmed that they were now fully operational.  |  |
|  | **Additional Correspondence** |  |
|  | JS confirmed that all incoming appropriate correspondence would be forwarded to the relevant members for consideration in continuation of his earlier practice.  | JS |
|  | **AOB** |  |
|  | JS will contact Clare Malster at SBC about a grant for repairing the boundary wall of the Yew Tree allotments abutting the road.  | JS |
|  | SB raised the matter of the legacy that had been received from Ms Dean a retired schoolteacher in the village. It was considered that given her profession some appropriate equipment might be added to the playpark for the smaller children. SM said that speaking to Craig Blackie should be a first port of call as he is knowledgeable about play equipment.  | SB  |
|  | SB also raised the matter of the defibrillator in the Bowmont Valley. JS will pick this up again and report on it.  | JS |

The meeting closed at 20:57 hrs.

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 26th April 2022 at 19.00 hrs at the Youth Hall**