**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting**

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

**Tuesday 28th January 2020 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Susan Stewart (in the chair), Shane Black, Stuart Kelly (SK), Graeme Wallace, Denise Allan, Cllr S Mountford, Cllr E Robson

**In attendance:** John Stobart (Secretary), PC Rachel Stark, PC Linton

**Apologies:** Angela Walker, Iain Dougal, Sandi Keddie.

**Members of the Public**: 5

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| 1 | **Apologies for Absence:** as above |  |
| 2 | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** |  |
|  | The Chair drew the attention to the meeting to the minutes of the previous meeting and asked for any comments or corrections. There were none except as noted in the matters arising and the minutes were accepted and signed by the Chair.  |  |
| 3 | **Matters Arising/Outstanding** |  |
| 3.1 | Notice Board – A photograph will be taken to show the current condition. **Ongoing.** | GW |
| 3.2 | Public Toilets – SS asked about the proposals for the toilets which had been damaged by vandals. SM responded that the matter would be discussed in the SBC budget process although the budget had not yet been set. SM informed the meeting that the male toilet was closed while the maintenance man is long term sick leave but signage would be posted indicating that the ladies could be use ladies’ while the gentlemen’s remained closed.**Ongoing.** |  |
| 3.3  | Xmas tree light connection – the minute should read “was **not** resolved”.  |  |
| 3.4 | Electricity pylon – the poles have been repositioned further away from the riverbank.  |  |
| 4 | **Members of the Public – Issues and/or Concerns** |  |
| 4.1 | A member of the public raised the issue of the house on the corner of Dow Brae having been defaced and its windows broken by persons now facing criminal charges noting that the matter had arisen because of the criminal record of the occupant. SM responded that he had asked the public protection department and been told the occupant could not be relocated without his consent. PC Stark said any further incidents would be dealt with by the Police.  |  |
| 4.2 | A member of the public raised the issue of the untidy area around the public toilets. SM responded the land at the rear was privately owned and SBC could not act. SM confirmed he had been in touch with officers at SBC about signage and keeping the area where leaves gather in front of the toilets clear of leaves given the usage by long distance walkers and visitors.  |  |
| 4.3 | A member of the public asked if it would be possible to rationalise the distribution of dog bins and litter bins in the villages of KY and TY. The Chair said that the location of the bins had been looked at in the recent past but would be reviewed to look for improvements where possible.  |  |
| 4.4 | A member of the public expressed dissatisfaction with the Christmas tree and lights. The Chair responded that, while not ideal, the tree and lights were best that could be arranged in the limited time available after notice had been received by the CC.  |  |
| 5 | **Police Report - Community Beat Officer (PC Rachael Stark)** |  |
|  | PC Stark reported on vandalism and two housebreakings at Kelso. PC Linton and now on the same team. PC Stark offered the opportunity to host an event in village with Police, RBS, trading standards and other agencies covering scams, safety and related matters. She said would be preferable to the bank and other agencies if it were held during Monday to Friday during working hours but there could be flexibility if required. It would be a public event held as a coffee morning The Chair agreed to respond after consultation. SM asked the CC to note that this would be the last police report dedicated to the village and in future there would be one for the whole ward of Kelso and district giving more information.  |  |
| 6 | **Festival Committee Update:** |  |
|  | The next planning meeting will take place on evening of the Monday following.  |  |
| 7 | **Portfolio Presentations:** |  |
| 7.1 | **Housing and Planning - Shane Black (Vice Chair)** |  |
|  | SB reported that there were two applications needing responses by 16th January. One related to doors and windows in the village and the other was the conversion into a flat of property in KY. |  |
| 7.2 | **Finance - Angela Walker** |  |
|  | Income YTD £2622.10, Expenditure YTD £1580.07 giving a surplus of £1042.03; we currently have a carry forward balance of £7499.80. The Border Hotel has still to pay for its web advert and has been emailed another reminder.  |  |
| 7.3 | **Yetholm Resilient Group – Stuart Kelly** |  |
|  | NG had forwarded an email from SBC about the Scottish Borders Council’s Resilient Communities initiative and SK had responded. SBC will be in touch with important updates on the weather, training and event information, or other emergency information this winter. SK had contacted Scottish Power about the pole being in the water. Power had been cut off from 0830 until the afternoon one day without notice. SM said he had been sent a text message and had received a phone call to say it was happening two days before. Attempts had been made. SK said it was usually done through the post as well. SS explained it had been treated as an emergency. SK reported a number of people were concerned about flooding on the road to Kelso making it dangerous and asked what could be done? | DA |
| 7.4 | **Village Maintenance & Utilities – Vacant** |  |
|  | No Update. |  |
| 7.5 | **Education - Zoe Keddie** |  |
|  | ZK was not present. |  |
|  | SS will attend and judge the village school poetry competition.  |  |
| 7.6 | **Grants- Denise Allan**  |  |
|  | DA advised that applications for grants of £270 and £450 needed to be in in the next couple of weeks. SS applications be made. DA advised that storage container grant could be available through the community council and more information was needed on the required size. SS noted that this was for storing the resilience equipment. DA confirmed application could be made at any time. SS noted that a container was also being sought for the Shepherds Show.  | SB |
| 7.7 | **Health & Social Services – Sandi Keddie** |  |
|  | SK was not present.SS reported that Craig Gibson had informed her of a new website with information about health matters. SK had asked for posters and flyers and so on associated with it. |  |
| 7.8 | **Tourism – Graeme Wallace** |  |
|  | GW asked the Councillors if there were any plan to clear the gutters and streets of fallen leaves in TY and KY? SM said it was done every autumn. GW suggested TY and KY might have been missed.  |  |
| 7.9 | **Projects, Events & Pavilion – Iain Dougal** |  |
|  | ID had submitted a written note about the Pavilion stating (a) that costs were still awaited for the top layer of the *le boule* court, (b) the heaters still needed to be wired in and (c) insulation would be installed in the loft space when the heaters were wired in.  |  |
| 7.10 | **Chair, Website Liaison & Public Events – Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | SS confirmed the website still being heavily used with the number of page views up.  |  |
| 8 | **Scottish Borders Councillors Update** |  |
|  | SM advised that there was a motion at council on Thursday to ask the Scottish Government to amend the law on dog fouling. Currently the law only requires the owner to pick up dog mess afterwards but the proposed change is going to make it an offence to allow an animal to foul on a sports pitch or children’s play area whether or not it is picked up. ER noted the law will have to be formally amended to implement this.  |  |
| 9 | **Additional Correspondence** |  |
|  | None reported.  |  |
| 10 | **AOB** |  |
| 10.1 | SS reported an email from the floral gateway organiser in the village about planting saplings on the green to replace trees reaching the end of their lives. The matter will be referred to James Wauchope the owner of the green and SBC.  |  |
| 10.2 | SS advised that the proposed meeting on the community shop would be postponed as the necessary reports had not yet been completed. It was currently expected to take place later in February.  |  |
| 10.3 | SS advised that there were vacancies coming up on the CC and the process needed to be begun. There would be six vacancies as Paul Robson had left the village and five places were up for re‑election. Two people who were not standing for re-election were AW and SS. ER agreed to liaise with SBC if required. |  |
| 10.4 | SB raised the issue of parking on SBC land on the Back Lane. SM said the land was council owned and a rent would be required to be paid. SM will speak to SBC on the matter.  |  |
| 10.5 | SB advised there were potholes reappearing and SM advised the website <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> was the best way to ask SBC to deal with potholes.  |  |
| 10.6 | DA advised there was mud on the road by the chicken farm on the Kelso Road. SS said it was the responsibility of the farmers and J Wauchope would be informed.  |  |
| 10.7 | GW enquired about the use of video cameras in the villages and SM said it had been suggested to the community action group and they have said they will consider it. The Police do have mobile CCTV. ER noted it would cost a substantial amount.  |  |
| 10.8  | SK advised the church bells were not ringing but Mr Weir was coming back to deal with the problem.  |  |

The meeting closed at 20:22 hrs

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 25th February in Yetholm Youth Hall at 7.00pm.**