**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting**

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

**Tuesday 24th November 2020 at 7.00 pm**

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

**Apologies:** Sandi Keddie (SK), Zoe Keddie (ZK), Stuart Kelly (SK), Denise Allan (DA),

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

**Members of the Public**: 3

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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.  |  |
|  | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** |  |
|  | The Chair drew the attention of the meeting to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th October 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 3.3 ER reported that the packhorse bridge had been inspected and some tree roots and saplings needed attention and that this would be attended to by SBC. ER would be speaking to the owner about signage. SM said that he had spoken to owner who had told him that RB a local resident had rebuilt the bridge when the owner had taken ownership.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.5 at the invitation of the Chair JS confirmed that copies of the map had been delivered to GW. GW confirmed one map would fit in the notice board outside the shop. After discussion it was agreed that the other map would be placed in an aluminium frame on the bus shelter. GW will investigate this.  | GW  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.6 the Chair reported that the trees had been bought and would be collected by EG and that the lights would be on from 4th December for one month. JS confirmed that he would contact Ian Ascroft the electrician to issue a test certificate. The Chair gave thanks to all those involved.  |  |
|  | With regard to minutes 3.10 and 4.1 the Chair confirmed that she had enquired about gates and a member of the public had also spoken to the relevant person at SBC . One gate and associated materials rather than two gates would be delivered as the other gate was not on a public footpath and therefore outside the scope of the department. The Chair asked if there might be grant funding available. This may be looked at after the first gate is installed.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.15 about the type 2 material SB confirmed he was waiting for a response. It could be bought at a cost, but a cost-free supply was available.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 7.3 relating to car sharing for the flu jabs ER confirmed there were as yet no formal processes, but it was on the agenda because it had wider implications for the whole Borders region. ER would be having discussions with the NHS.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 8 it was agreed to add the words “Dairy Wood” in order to make the location clear.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 10 SB confirmed that a larger post would be used for stability.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 10 the Chair confirmed that new signs about dog fouling had been placed at the entry to the playing fields.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 7.32 on the transfer funds it was agreed that GW and AW would liaise an agree an appropriate method.  |  |
|  | **Members of the Public – Issues and/or Concerns** |  |
|  | A member of the public asked about the proposed new industrial area on the Kelso Road. SM reported that at this stage there was nothing new to add. It was in the proposed draft local development plan and that was out for consultation. The first stage was that it needed government approval which was some months away and possible not until Spring 2022. If it were zoned for light industrial activity the site owner would need to enter into an agreement with a developer to develop the site. SBC does not own the site and it would be up to the site owner to negotiate the SBC for access roads and services to be installed after it was zoned for light industrial use. SBC does own an adjacent field which is and will remain zoned for affordable housing with access to the proposed industrial zone.  |  |
|  | **Police Report** |  |
|  | The Secretary reported that no police report had been received. Subsequent to the meeting the Police Report was received on 25 November for the period up to that date and distributed to members.  |  |
|  | **Festival Committee Update:** |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed there was nothing to report on the Festival Committee as the festival had not taken place because of the Covid 19 situation. The question of planning for coming year had been raised and the response had been from SBC while planning could be considered no commitments should be made. It was doubtful whether any Spring or early Summer events would be allowed to happen. A meeting would take place in early January to discuss matters. The installation of the principals might take place in the open at the pavilion to avoid a closed location. SB asked if any past principals might be willing to take the role of chair of the Festival Committee as the previous chair of the festival committee had resigned. The Chair pointed out the constitution would need amending to permit this if that were thought appropriate. It was note that elections for the YCC were due but had been postponed because of the Covid crisis.  |  |
|  | **Public toilets**  |  |
|  | At the invitation of the Chair, AW reported that she had had a meeting with Jason Hedley of SBC and SM to discuss the matter. At the moment there are 16 out of 41 toilets open. Cleaning 4 times each day is required for toilets to be open and there were insufficient resources for that at SBC. The toilets in Peebles however were being operated on the basis that the community supplied the labour for cleaning while materials were supplied by SBC. A debit card swipe machine had been installed and had to be used to gain access. Jason Hedley will have conversations with members of the public who had previously assisted in Yetholm. The toilets have been redecorated. A number of matters required consideration including a transfer of the asset to the YCC. The earliest opening time would be April 2021. AW had spoken to members of the public who wanted the toilets open immediately. A further meeting would be arranged to discuss the matter. A list of necessary repairs had been supplied. The cost of replacing sanitary fixtures required examination. The meeting discussed the matter. SBC would deal with YCC which would be required to liaise with the community. SM confirmed that the standard of cleaning was that set by SBC which was through cleaning. A demonstration would be given by an induction course. AW will take the matter further.  | AW  |
|  | **Portfolio Presentations:** |  |
|  | **Housing and Planning - Shane Black (Vice Chair)** |  |
|  | SB reported that there was an application for retrospective approval for dormer windows in the Old Swan in Town Yetholm. A member of the public asked about the windows being uPVC and whether comments were allowed on a retrospective application. SB confirmed that the public could comment on a retrospective application as with any other application. It was not a *fait accompli*. SM confirmed that an officer would take a video of the site at Kirk Yetholm on which new development was proposed and that there would be a “virtual viewing” using the video to which the applicant and objectors would be invited. There would be a notification when the local review body was to meet.  |  |
|  | **Finance – Angela Walker**  |  |
|  | AW reported it had been another quiet month with income of £48 from the ragbag and expenses of £100 for the Christmas Trees. £6,473 was being carried forward. £971 of Covid moneys were also still unspent.  |  |
|  | **Yetholm Resilient Group – Susan Stewart**  |  |
|  | In the absence of SK, SS reported that it had wound down. |  |
|  | **Village Maintenance & Utilities – Vacant** |  |
|  | The Chair noted it was vacant.  |  |
|  | **Education - Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed that she had been in touch with the head teacher about parking on Dow Brae at 3 pm causing a safety issue. The head teacher had agreed do put the matter in the school bulletin communication and to ask parents not to park there and would, if necessary, liaise with the community police officer about the matter. SB confirmed the school traffic signals were flashing at the appropriate times once again. SS had made a presentation, out of doors, to the winner of the design for the community shop  |  |
|  | **Grants- Susan Stewart**  |  |
|  | In the absence of DA, SS reported that the Pathways Grant remained outstanding. The matter of the gates had been considered earlier. AW and SS will liaise on the matter. No additional grants were currently required.  | AW / SS  |
|  | **Health & Social Services – Susan Stewart**  |  |
|  | SS reported that the flu campaign was ongoing. SB asked about whether the defibrillators had been checked. SS reported that one had been taken away recently but not actually used. SS will ask SK if she had checked the defibrillator pads. AW pointed out that this should be done every month.  |  |
|  | **Tourism – Graeme Wallace** |  |
|  | GW reported that the map had discussed earlier. A small amount of money had been made in tea towel sales. It was about £92.50 which was exceptionally low compared to previous years.  |  |
|  | **Projects, Events & Pavilion – Iain Dougal** |  |
|  | ID said contact would be made with Neil Tait for a new post. The key had been located and the padlock would be moved to the other gate. Covid prevented progress on other jobs.  |  |
|  | **Chair, Website Liaison & Public Events – Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed there had been a good number of hits on the website in connection with the shop buyout project. The share offer was still ongoing. There had been no ceremony at the war memorial for Remembrance Sunday because of Covid restrictions, but SS had taken the wreath to the Church and later placed it at the memorial.  |  |
|  | **Scottish Borders Councillors Update** |  |
|  | SM said there was a small agenda at the next meeting. ER said that in regard to the bend at Catch-a-Penny chevrons had been order and would be installed. ER said that the large holes at the bottle bank the holes would be filled in.  |  |
|  | **Additional Correspondence** |  |
|  | JS confirmed that all incoming appropriate correspondence had been forwarded to the relevant members for consideration.  |  |
|  | **AOB** |  |
|  | The Chair asked if the Cheviot Area Partnership link had been sent out for the meeting. Both SM and ER said they would make sure SS was invited. SB asked about the lamppost at Kirk Yetholm Brae as it was really dark. ER confirmed he would request it was attended to. Similarly, at Lochside the vegetation needed attention as it intruded into the road which made traffic difficult and hazardous. AW said some web invoices were outstanding and reminders had been sent. AW said that a tree in a plant pot on the side road from the High Street in Town Yetholm towards the shop was leaning into the road and presenting a hazard. In a wind it would be likely to fall over. SB will investigate and speak to the proprietor. GW said the 20-mph speed limit seemed to be widely be ignored in the village. SM said that it was understood to be a legal limit rather than purely advisory but would check the point. JS said the bench survey was in progress. SS said the community shop project had raised £145,000 in shares and donations. A member of the public asked about works going on at the Mill House and whether there was planning permission. It was suggested the work was under an amendment to the existing planning given in 2009. There is a shed which is to be joined to the Mill. The plans will be checked. Members of the public suggested there was material at the pavilion that could be used to fill the potholes. A member of the public asked about plans for the pavilion but SB said that until a meeting could take place no decisions could be made. SS asked for a commitment from the Pavilion sub-committee to hold a meeting before the next YCC meeting for the plan in 2021. SB / ID agreed to arrange this through the available Zoom facility. The Chair thanked those involved in the Christmas Trees work.  | SB SB / ID  |

The meeting closed at 20:07 hrs

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 26th January 2021 at 7.00 pm by Zoom call.**