**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting**

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

**Tuesday 27th April 2021 at 7.20 pm**

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

**Apologies:** Iain Dougal

**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 30th March 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 3.3 the Chair reported that the AGM had just been held immediately prior to this meeting. It was noted that the resignation of Zoe Keddie had been accepted at the annual general meeting that had preceded the current monthly meeting. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.4 ER notified the meeting that that he had not been able to obtain a response from SEPA about the site at Proctor’s Smiddy. SBC was trying to obtain a response but the local office appeared closed, and emails were unanswered. All SBC departments had visited and discharged their duties but SEPA had still to visit. The bonfire appeared to have been burned but another had been built, the piles of tyres remained and parking proximate to the verge was taking place. The Police had visited as well. The tyres and the watercourse which were SEPA responsibilities remained concerns. The proprietors maintain the site is used only for vehicle repairs and not breaking-up of vehicles for which latter there was no licence held. Some vehicles on the site looked beyond repair. Efforts to regulate the site and have it tidied continued. Activity at the site appears to be intensifying. An offensive sign has appeared painted on the oil tank on the site. There has been an increase in “boy-racer” type vehicles at the site. The matter is ongoing. | ER |
|  | With regard to minute 3.6 the Chair confirmed she had emailed the bench survey to CB at SBC following the last meeting and was awaiting a response. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.7 SK confirmed he had had sent the email from the Sir Walter Scott Society to the History Society. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 4.1 to 4.4 the Chair asked if there were any further comments in the matter. There were none. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 4.5 ER was awaiting a reply from the officer on the matter. An inspection was required. Aspects concerning permitted development would need to be investigated. The new construction appeared to be connected to the existing building. The matter is ongoing. | ER |
|  | With regard to minute 7.7 JS confirmed he had sourced batteries and would place an order. The current batteries are on two bars and were last replaced in 2017. | JS |
|  | With regard to minute 10.2 work on the gate on the wall roadie from Town Yetholm to the Bowmont haugh from Grafton Road was to take place but had not yet commenced. The matter was ongoing. |  |
|  | With regard to minute 10.6 the Chair confirmed that one dog poo bag container had been put up but it was not yet known if there had been any improvement. |  |
|  | **Members of the Public – Issues and/or Concerns** |  |
|  | A member of the public asked about the Deanfield Place sign which was in white rather than the Yetholm colours. It would be referred to the relevant department at SBC | SM |
|  | A member of the public asked about the possibility of installing a defibrillator in the Bowmont valley possibly at the old phone box at Belford. Power was required for the location. Standalone solar powered defibrators were said to be possible if there was no power. JS will look into the matter. | JS |
|  | A member of the public said that relocating the container from the pavilion would be likely to lead to objections from SBC. |  |
|  | A member of the public asked for the fencing material to be taken to the proposed location or moved to the pavilion for storage. It is on the Kirk Yetholm side of the bridge on the left as one approached Town Yetholm. The previous gate had become dilapidated and had been boarded over. |  |
|  | A member of the public asked about the obstruction of the pathway along the haugh on the Kirk Yetholm side past Blunty’s Mill. A fence is being built across the path that has long existed along the riverbank obstructing access. Residents had expressed concerns about the obstruction. The landowner has extended his boundary. Planting has taken place. The matter will be referred to the Footpaths Access Officer at SBC. | ER / SM |
|  | A member of the public asked about a proposal concerning a bike repair station. The Chair confirmed that a proposal in that regard had been received from the Friends of Nature House. The installation at Kelso was little used. There is a national database. The number of cyclists passing through the village had increased. The location may be on the green at Kirk Yetholm next to the Halterburn road or alternatively near to the pavilion. |  |
|  | **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 an outline plan of what might be done and was aiming, if possible, to arrange events for June for outdoor events, virtual events and quizzes. Events would be announced when appropriate within the then applicable guidelines. |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed that a chair for the Festival Committee was needed and the matter should be considered. |  |
|  | **Portfolio Presentations:** |  |
|  | **Housing and Planning - Shane Black (Vice Chair)** |  |
| **a)** | SB reported that an application had been received for internal work and windows at Cherrytrees House and the other was a reapplication in respect of a bungalow at Hoselaw where two cottages were proposed to be demolished and replaced. |  |
| **b)** | The Chair reported that comments had been received from members of the public about a radio installation and satellite dish installation on the Venchen above Cherrytrees. It was thought to be related to Border Link but the position would be confirmed. The matter is continuing. |  |
| **c)** | It was reported that roof work was being done on the Old Swan. The scaffolding may not fully stable and secured and the site management may not H&S compliant with no hard hats or high viz jackets being in evidence. No planning application has been received. It would appear to be reroofing with the same materials. The temporary scaffolding was being left up overnight and was easily accessible by others as it was on the main street. |  |
| **d)** | The Chair reported that scaffolding was proposed at the shop mid-May for urgent repair to the roof. |  |
|  | **Finance – Angela Walker** |  |
|  | AW reported that income was £21 for walks and expenditure was the bill for the subscription of £15 giving a surplus for the month of £6. |  |
|  | **Yetholm Resilient Group – Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | SS reported it was winding down but could be reinstated if and when required. The Chair thanked everyone who had helped in any way. |  |
|  | **Village Maintenance & Utilities – Vacant** |  |
|  | The Chair noted the potholes remained. |  |
|  | JS reported the embankment work at the bridge was proceeding to general public approbation. |  |
|  | **Education - Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed that the school was back again. |  |
|  | **Grants- DA** |  |
|  | DA said contact had been made in respect if the swinging gate and the path warden would investigate as soon as possible. |  |
|  | **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. |  |
|  | Covid vaccination was proceeding. JS had pinned a notice to the village notice board about tests being available for those who required a Covid test. The Chair confirmed that it had been placed on Facebook as well. |  |
|  | **Tourism – GW** |  |
|  | GW reported that the caravan park was reopening later in the week. Tourism was expected to pick up. |  |
|  | GW reported that the History Society had fixed pictures of old Yetholm on the notice board. The map would be put in a frame to make it secure. |  |
|  | The Chair asked if the Men’s Shed has reopened to attend to the necessary repairs to the notice board. GW will enquire. | GW |
|  | **Projects, Events & Pavilion – SB** |  |
|  | In the absence of ID, SB reported that orders had been placed for the windows and further quotes were being obtained for work to the roof. It was estimated to be around £5,000. |  |
|  | The Chair asked about the picnic benches that needed placing and fixing in position. The picnic benches could be assembled on a fine day. SB said enquires would be made. | SB |
|  | **Chair, Website Liaison & Public Events – Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | The Chair thanked the History Society for the pictures on the notice board. There was little activity on the website and certain adverts had been taken down as agreed. |  |
|  | There were no current public events. |  |
|  | **Scottish Borders Councillors Update** |  |
|  | SM said that the pothole in Cheviot Place had been reported last year but a new instruction had been issued. |  |
|  | SM said that on the matter of the toilets, SBC were willing to work with the community council but wanted confirmation that the YCC would take on responsibility. JS responded that it would be necessary to know the cleaning protocol required before confirmation could be given. AW said there had been two volunteers but that may be insufficient allowing for sickness and other unavailability. SK said that with reference to experience at the church it was a bigger job than might be anticipated. The Chair said no commitment could be made without a group of volunteers who were willing to follow the cleaning regime required. The Community Council in Peebles have taken on responsibility in the town and details of the protocol they follow will be sought. |  |
|  | **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 an enquiry had been received about a sponsored walk proposed by the resident at Mowhaugh in aid of mental health for men. The Chair had responded that it would depend on the guidelines at the time. |  |
|  | JS asked whether he might make enquiries about the scope for an automatic toilet in Yetholm given the current issue. It was agreed he could make enquiries. | JS |

The meeting closed at 20:23 hrs.

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 25th May 2021 at 19.00 hrs by Zoom call.**