**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting**

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

**Tuesday 27th October 2020 at 7.00pm**

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

**Apologies:** Iain Dougal (ID), Sandi Keddie (SK), Zoe Keddie-Dixon (ZKD)

**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 and a monthly report had not been received .  |  |
|  | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** |  |
|  | The Chair drew the attention of the meeting to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th September 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 3.2 and 4.5 SM reported that the initial response from the SBC Service Director on the toilets had been that replacement locks would be fitted as a priority to prevent exposure to Legionella and that it was not proposed to open more toilets because of the revenue costs involved in cleaning. Subsequently SBC had indicated a willingness to examine a partnership with the Community Council at least for the duration of the crisis such that volunteers from the community would keep the toilets clean SBC would supply all materials. On the issue of refurbishment SBC had indicated that if there was an appetite within the community to reopen then the SBC Service Director would speak with the representatives of the CC about that proposal. AW responded that that suggestion would be welcome, and others supported the suggestion subject to gathering enough local commitment. SK asked about costs. SM responded that he believed the repair work had been commissioned and if that were the case then there remained cleaning and making them fit for purpose. It was agreed to request SM to respond to SBC with confirmation that the CC would look to discuss and progress the matter. AW offered to lead the discussion and that was agreed.  | SM / AW  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.3 the Chair thanked everyone for assisting with the organisation of the bottle bank emptying. GW reported that he had emptied some of the items to ensure it closed.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.4 on the footpath ER reported that the SBC Access Officer had visited and inspected. His suggestion was that small signs were put on the wall of Yetholm Mill and on the gate at the back of the Yetholm Mill property and an arrow to point the way. It was also suggested that the hedge currently obscuring the sign be cut back and the sign itself painted up to improve its visibility. ER will talk to the owner of Yetholm Mill about the proposal. A member of the public asked about the packhorse bridge and the steps which limited accessibility. ER responded that the Access Officer had said the packhorse bridge was sound and will be kept under review. The steps were not a concern to the Access Officer. ER agreed on a request from a member of the public to have the Access Officer review his findings in respect of the packhorse bridge | ER ER  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.5 JS confirmed that his photographic survey of the benches was progressing.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.6 on the village map it was agreed that the map commissioned by JS would be used. JS will progress the matter.  | JS  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.8 on the Christmas trees and lights, it was reported that the trees had been ordered at £50 each. The Chair confirmed that 4th December was the intended date for installation of the trees. JS confirmed the position on the lights and the Chair thanked him for the work done. JS will document the position for future use. The cost will be paid by JS and recovered from the CC in due course. Members of the public had indicated willingness to assist in the installation.  | JS  |
|  | With regard to minute 4.1 on the clock it was confirmed that it was now in working order.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 4.2 on the former surgery it was confirmed that no plans had been seen.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 4.4 with regard to the metal work on the bench from Halterburn it was now with a member of the public in store. Enquiries were being made about composite material for repairs.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 7.6 on the gates, materials will be delivered by the SBC. The Chair will respond to the SBC and arrange delivery.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 10 on the matting in the children’s playpark SM had reminded officers on the matter but there were difficulties in obtaining supplies.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 10 on the matter of the telephone boxes SM reported that he was waiting to hear from BT.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 10 on the matter of the benches it was agreed to defer installation until after the winter months.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 10 it was confirmed that signage for the Heritage Centre in the Mission Hall was with the Roads Department.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 10 it was confirmed that type 2 surfacing material was required.  | SB  |
|  | With regard to minute 7.2 it was confirmed in response to an enquiry made by the Secretary that SBC had accepted the passing of the resolution in the form submitted.  |  |
|  | **Members of the Public – Issues and/or Concerns** |  |
|  | A member of the public asked about why a further gate could not be supplied for location opposite to the one that had been supplied. SS will make enquires.  | SS  |
|  | A member of the public asked about the collection of school children in cars was giving rise to a traffic hazard. SS will contact the school to discuss.  | SS  |
|  | SB asked about the flashing signs showing the school specific speed limit under the “20 is plenty” programme for school safety and ER confirmed that there had been a discussion and it had been agreed that the relevant signs would be reinstated in the near future.  |  |
|  | **Police Report** |  |
|  | The Secretary reported that no police report had been received. ER said that there was a transition between the style and format of the police report, but it was to be reinstated.  |  |
|  | **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.  |  |
|  | **Portfolio Presentations:** |  |
|  | **Housing and Planning - Shane Black (Vice Chair)** |  |
|  | SB reported that there was an application for plot No.2 at the Venchen behind the Venchen Cottages and asked members to look at it promptly as responses were required by 15th November. It appeared a substantial development.  |  |
|  | **Finance – Angela Walker**  |  |
|  | AW reported it had been a quiet month with no income. Expenses were £78 for the Remembrance Wreath and the new flag. GW will transfer funds electronically in respect of items sold. SS said the Post Office might be an alternative.  |  |
|  | **Yetholm Resilient Group – Stuart Kelly** |  |
|  | SK reported that the village was waiting to hear into which Tier it would be placed under the Covid regulations, but the expectation was that it would be Tier 2. Flu jabs were being done in the Tait Hall which was a problem for those without transport as car sharing was not permitted. ER will raise the matter.  | ER |
|  | **Village Maintenance & Utilities – Vacant** |  |
|  | The Chair invited comments and GW said it appeared the Laurel had been cut back at lamppost No.9. it was confirmed that it appeared improved.  |  |
|  | **Education - Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed that she had visited the school twice and the school appeared to be settling back well. The winner of the competition for a design for the logo of the shop was delighted.  |  |
|  | **Grants- Denise Allen**  |  |
|  | DA said that the Pathways Grant application needed to be completed by 11th December. DA suggested the gates referred to above might be bought with the Pathways Grant. SB suggested that purchase of the hardcore for the path might also be funded that way. DA stressed that invoices were required for all claims.  |  |
|  | **Health & Social Services – Sandi Keddie** |  |
|  | There was no report.  |  |
|  | **Tourism – Graeme Wallace** |  |
|  | GW reported that the map had been covered earlier in the meeting.  |  |
|  | **Projects, Events & Pavilion – Iain Dougal** |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed that ID had said there was nothing to report.  |  |
|  | **Chair, Website Liaison & Public Events – Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | The Chair confirmed the website was in use and receiving hits particularly in connection with the shop buyout project which was now live and in connection with which documents would be delivered in the coming week. The Chair confirmed that on Remembrance Sunday it was proposed to have short wreath laying at the Memorial ad bugle playing might be possible metrological conditions permitting. JS offered to act as the official taker of names and associated contact details. Enquiries would be made about cutting back the hedge around the memorial. SK confirmed that the limit numbers was 50 people.  |  |
|  | **Scottish Borders Councillors Update** |  |
|  | ER reported he had raised the question of vegetation on the road from Lochtower to Catch-a-Penny. It was proposed to contact the landowners to ask them to cut it back extensively. It was becoming a serious problem as the vegetation was growing into the road. ER said the Church had decided not to have a recreation area bit would be cutting down some of the trees.  |  |
|  | **Additional Correspondence** |  |
|  | JS confirmed that all incoming appropriate correspondence had been forwarded to the relevant members for consideration.  |  |
|  | **AOB** |  |
|  | The Chair said she had asked how long minutes were required to be available and ER said he had asked the Clerk to the Council but believed that they had to be available request although not necessarily on the website. The Chair asked about the ongoing roadworks at Sainsbury’s and it appears a water or gas main is being installed. It was estimated to last 8 weeks. DA raised the question of locking the field gate adjacent to the recycling area as at least one mischievous person was using the field to drive around aimlessly. The locking was discussed generally. A member of the public who has a key will investigate. GW raised the use of Youth Hall by the CC as renovations were completed. The Chair said no face to face meetings were permitted. SK confirmed that no changes were proposed on limits on meetings.JS said there was dog waste in the playing field. SM said there had been amending legislation proposed but it had been side-lined by the Covid pandemic. The Chair said notices could be put up. JS said he had responded affirmatively to a suggestion from SBC that YCC might participate in online training for Community Councils generally to be provided by the Open University.  |  |
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The meeting closed at 20:11 hrs

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 24th November at 7.00 pm by Zoom call.**