**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting**

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

**Tuesday 29th June 2021 at 7.00 pm**

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

**Apologies:** Angela Walker (AW), Denise Allan (DA), Iain Dougal (ID),

**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 25th May 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 3.1 ER informed the meeting that discussions with SEPA were continuing about the site at Proctor’s Smiddy. SS said that there were reports of fuel having been spilled on the road. The matter is ongoing.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.2 the Chair reported that the bench at the cemetery had been returned fully repaired. There had been enquiries made by village residents about refurbishment of the benches and they had been informed it was a work-in-progress. The matter is ongoing.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 3.5 there was no update about the gate on the wall roadie. There has been an email received about the footpath grants for which applications are possible until December.  |   |
|  | With regard to minute 7.8 there had been a burst pipe in the cold water system that prevented use of the toilets in the pavilion.  |  |
|  | ER raised the matter of the chevron signs at Catch-a-Penny, one had been placed at the wrong place but a second sign is to be manufactured and put at the original location.  |  |
|  | With regard to minute 10.2 it was noted that the phrase should be “new planting” rather than “new planning”. SM reported that the steps onto the haugh were being inspected. A member of the public said that two extra steps had been put in. |  |
|  | **Members of the Public – Issues and/or Concerns** |  |
|  | There were no questions from members of the public.  |  |
|  | **Police Report** |  |
|  | The Secretary reported that a police report had been received since the last meeting and had been circulated.  |  |
|  | SK asked if the car of the deceased resident on Morebattle Road would be moved. SB said he thought the keys could not be located. A member of the public said he understood that there were no known next of kin but the mobility company who had adapted it had been contacted.  |  |
|  | **Festival Committee Update:** |  |
|  | The Chair reported that a short programme of events had taken place during festival week beginning 13th June and had been well received and supported. The duck race is proposed to take place in August on the last Saturday before the children return to school. |   |
|  | **Portfolio Presentations:** |  |
|  | **Housing and Planning - Shane Black (Vice Chair)** |  |
| a)  | SB reported that a retrospective application had been received in respect of the building at Yetholm Mill.  |  |
|  | **Finance – Susan Stewart**  |  |
|  | In the absence of AW, SS income was £243.50. Expenditure was the Bridge subscription of £15. Reserves brought forward were £5,840.03. Reserves carried forward were £6,068.52.  |   |
|  | **Village Maintenance & Utilities – JS** |  |
|  | JS said the paint on the war memorial needed attention and it was being looked into by SBC. ER confirmed it was now with the Estates Dept. with a view to it being done.  |  |
|  | **Education - Susan Stewart** |  |
| a) | SS said the road signs painted on the roads were getting worn away in need of being repainted. SS asked whether bollards in the shape of pencils might be put up as they had ben in other villages to alert drivers of the proximity of a school. ER said the road signs were on the list of work to be done.  |  |
| b) | SS said the school had had an online end of term assembly that had gone well. It had been uploaded on Facebook.  |  |
|  | **Grants- SS**  |  |
|  | In DA’s absence SS asked the YCC members to look at the email on pathways grants that had been circulated with a view to applying for a grant for Yetholm pathway improvements.  |  |
|  | **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.  |  |
| b) | JS had not followed up the additional defibrillator but would do so. |  |
| c) | SS said a member of the public had asked if any training for the village in CPR was possible. It had last been done some time ago. JS said there were DVDs with the defibrillators. SM said it was expected that real life demonstrations may become possible in the autumn.  |  |
|  | **Tourism – GW** |  |
|  | GW reported that there had been some sales of items and the funds had been paid to the YCC account.  |  |
|  | GW reported that over 200 people had visited the exhibition held by the History Society during Festival Week.  |  |
|  | **Projects, Events & Pavilion – SB**  |  |
|  | SB said quotes were awaited for work to be done.  |  |
|  | The Chair asked if the new picnic benches could be erected. SB said the slabs needed to be aid by SBC. SM said an arrangement with one of the officers could be organised to determine the precise locations.  |  |
|  | **Chair, Website Liaison & Public Events – Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | The Chair reported that activity on the website was increasing.  |  |
|  | The Chair reported that there were very few public events. Badminton is taking place again in the Wauchope Hall. Bookings are patchy because of limitation on numbers. The Youth Hall was used the previous week for the Spine Race. The Spine Race event had set a new record.  |  |
|  | **Scottish Borders Councillors Update** |  |
| a) | SM said the kerbstone at Kirk Yetholm had been reported as it was coming away.  |  |
| b) | ER said he had walked the footpath by the river. A meeting was to be arranged with the fencing contractor and the landowner to discuss matters and ensure the footpath is kept clear.  |  |
| c) | Thanks were recorded as given by the YCC to Mr Gibson for the work he had done voluntarily on the footpath at the Mill.  |  |
| d) | ER confirmed he had circulated a copy of the Outdoor Access Code to YCC members and a leaflet from Scotways dealing with footpath rights that could be emailed on to those who made enquiries. JS to print and place on the notice board.  |  |
|  | **Additional Correspondence** |  |
|  | JS confirmed that all incoming appropriate correspondence had been forwarded to the relevant members for consideration.  |  |
|  | **AOB** |  |
|  | The Chair raised the matter of the white lines in the middle of the road between Yetholm and Kelso which had become very faint. SM responded that there was a programme of works and these were included. ER said the programme was behind.  |  |
|  | The Chair said a member of the public has asked if they could plant bluebells around some of the trees in Town Yetholm in memory of deceased residents. The meeting discussed the matter. SM asked that native bluebells be used rather than invasive species.  |  |
|  | The Chair asked when the phone box would be painted. SM will look into it.  |  |
|  | SK said there is a badger problem in Kirk Yetholm under the posts at the church. SK asked about the best method to deal with the matter. A member of the public suggested an electric fence. It was noted that some residents in Kirk Yetholm fed the badgers. SM said SBC will be asked to look into the matter.  |  |
|  | SB said some road signs had become hidden by overgrown hedges. ER said SBC will be asked to look into the matter. The hedges need to be cut back manually. The hedge at Lochside is very overgrown.  |  |
|  | SB raised the problem at Proctor’s Smiddy that had been discussed earlier in the meeting. ER said half of the site had planning permission.  |  |
|  | SB said the bushes at the new gate near the war memorial needed cutting down as they restricted visibility.  |  |
|  | JS said the tourist sign near to the cemetery was in need of repainting.  |  |
|  | A member of the public raised the overgrown footpath from the youth hostel to the haugh which required attention. The matter of the community taking part in a voluntary scheme to deal with overgrown areas. A notice will be placed on the YCC website.  |  |
|  | A member of the public suggested SSPCA might be contacted about the badgers.  |  |
|  | It was raised that there were serious potholes up the Bowmont valley that were getting worse.  |  |

The meeting closed at 19:55 hrs.

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 27th July 2021 at 19.00 hrs by Zoom call.**