**Yetholm and District Community Council Meeting**

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

**Tuesday 25th February 2020 at 7.00 pm**

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

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

**Apologies:** Denise Allan

**Members of the Public**: 3

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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 set out below and, subject thereto, the minutes were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chair. |  |
| 3 | **Matters Arising/Outstanding** |  |
| 3.1 | GW reported he had taken a photograph of the existing board. The OS map had been obtained for the village shop project. The CC can access the SBC election map and use it free of charge. |  |
| 3.2 | SM confirmed that signage had been applied to the ladies’ toilet. The toilet had not yet been repaired. |  |
| 3.3 | SB requested additional dog bins. SM said no additional bins would be allocated because of manpower issues with emptying. That had always been the position. SS confirmed that this had been discussed many times and that potholes, dog fouling and speeding were evergreen items that came up at each AGM. It was agreed that one of the bins would be relocated from the upper village green in KY to Blunty’s Mill and an assessment made of its effectiveness before taking the matter further. |  |
| 3.4 | SS asked the meeting to note the contents of the Police report which had been circulated. A mini road show from the Police would take place at the next village lunch scheduled for 19th March. RBS and Trading Standards will participate as well. It will focus on scams and how to avoid them. The village lunch will offer a suitable target audience. |  |
| 3.5 | SB confirmed a grant application had been put in for the hedge cutter only. A storage container had been identified and would cost £500 plus vat plus delivery. It was being reserved for the moment. SM said Neil Hastie would check on what the rental charged by SBC would be. SB suggested that as the container was for Resilience it should be free of rental charges as it was carrying out work for SBC. Planning permission will be required as it will be *in situ* for more than 28 days. SM will enquire of SBC. SB will progress. | SM  SB |
| 3.6 | SS has spoken to KM and the latter will speak to SBC and James Wauchope about tree planting. | KM |
| 3.7 | SS confirmed the village shop “open house” at the Kirk the preceding day and had attracted between 60 and 70 people and there had been useful feedback. |  |
| 3.8 | SS reported there had been difficulties contacting the person at SBC about the forthcoming elections but an apology for the late response had been received. JS had queried the points raised but not had a response. SS assisted by JS will progress the matter. | SS / JS |
| 3.9 | It was noted that the church bells were ringing albeit not with a full peal. |  |
| 4 | **Members of the Public – Issues and/or Concerns** |  |
| 4.1 | A member of the public raised the issue of village toilets and asked about insurance. SM said SBC self-insured its assets but confirmed the toilets were a protected asset. |  |
| 5 | **Police Report** |  |
|  | It was noted that JS had circulated the monthly report. ER advised that there had been a number of night-time incidents connected to cross-border thefts using back roads to avoid detection and the public were encouraged to report suspicious activities. |  |
| 6 | **Festival Committee Update:** |  |
|  | ZKD confirmed that all necessary preparations were in progress and on track. |  |
| 7 | **Portfolio Presentations:** |  |
| 7.1 | **Housing and Planning - Shane Black (Vice Chair)** |  |
|  | SB said there was nothing to report for the month. |  |
| 7.2 | **Finance - Angela Walker** |  |
|  | AW reported that the YTD Finance report was: Income £2,707, Expenditure £1,580, Surplus £1,127 which when added to the brought forward position at the start of the year gave a Reserves total of £7,585. The members discussed a number of items of possible anticipated expenditure to the advantage of the village and district. It was agreed that members would consider the matter further and more definite proposal would be brought to the next meeting.  AW has met with a student for research purposes. | ALL |
| 7.3 | **Yetholm Resilient Group – Stuart Kelly** |  |
|  | SK had responded to SBC about a Resilience meeting on 10th March to be held from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm at the SBC HQ. It was suggested that there may be opportunities for networking and learning from other CCs. SK has asked for other CCs to know of their intentions. A discussion of the implications may be added a meeting that is already happening if appropriate. SB will look into the proposed meeting at SBC. | SB |
| 7.4 | **Village Maintenance & Utilities – Vacant** |  |
|  | No Update. |  |
| 7.5 | **Education - Zoe Keddie** |  |
|  | ZKD confirmed that matters were all satisfactory.. |  |
|  | SS has attended and judged the village school poetry competition. SS reported that the more junior children had excelled and performed much better than those in more senior years. |  |
| 7.6 | **Grants- Denise Allan** |  |
|  | DA had sent her apologies and it was noted that the grant application mentioned above will be progressed. | SB |
| 7.7 | **Health & Social Services – Sandi Keddie** |  |
|  | SK confirmed that questionnaires had been placed in prime locations in the village asking about health and related matters. |  |
| 7.8 | **Tourism – Graeme Wallace** |  |
|  | GW confirmed that the village aprons had been ordered and the village would make £1 on each apron. SS said the usual price was £6.50 giving a profit of 75 pence per sale. After discussion it was agreed to keep the price unchanged. There were a few unsold items after a typical year in sales. |  |
| 7.9 | **Projects, Events & Pavilion – Iain Dougal** |  |
|  | ID confirmed that money from the windfall fund had been received. SS asked about the date for completion of Le Boule Court. It was noted that here was an insurance form to be completed and details were required for it. There will be a family day held at a date to be confirmed. |  |
| 7.10 | **Chair, Website Liaison & Public Events – Susan Stewart** |  |
|  | SS reported she had had in the preceding week received five or six emails from different sources about moneys to celebrate VE Day and had spoken with Fiona about having on 9th May in the Wauchope Hall as a typical event to meet the new principals. If other people in the village raise this they should be advised accordingly.  SS raised the opportunity to advertise on the Yetholm Online website and asked that it be made known as widely as possible. | SS |
| 8 | **Scottish Borders Councillors Update** |  |
| 8.1 | ER confirmed that Catch-a-Penny would be looked at when the demands placed on resources by recent flooding elsewhere in the SBC area had been dealt with. |  |
| 8.2 | ER said that road traffic speeding in Dow Brae near the bridge had been raised. It was confirmed that, as there were streetlights no more than 185 metres apart in Dow Brae, the speed limit there was 30 mph, but no additional signs could be placed except to indicate exceptions. There may be a 30-mph sign missing from the back of the 20-mph associated with the school. There had been a sign near the bridge which at some point had been removed. ER will investigate the possibilities further. | ER |
| 8.3 | SM reported that a footpath will be constructed from Yew Tree Drive to the bus stop near to the allotments. There was a discussion about this matter and as to whether the bus in fact stopped there. It was suggested it might be continued as far Woodbank Road to optimise its usefulness. SM will discuss this with the SBC. | SM |
| 9 | **Additional Correspondence** |  |
|  | SS has received a letter from SBC about the removal of disabled parking bays Grafton Road and Cheviot Place. It is for information only. |  |
| 10 | **AOB** |  |
| 10.1 | SS reported that the Kirk Session had arranged in cooperation with Rotary to hold a session on Dementia on 31st March at the Kirk. It will last 45 minutes. Rotary are willing to hold additional sessions if required. |  |
| 10.2 | JS has circulated to the members an email about a meeting on 8th March concerning the creation of a new partnership body. |  |
| 10.3 | SS mentioned that the river is now cutting into the verge passing under the bridge quite severely. There was a discussion about flood prevention measures and about the possible benefits of dredging. The bridge is a listed asset. SBC will be asked to look into the matter. | SM/ED |
| 10.4 | GW raised the issue of lamppost number 9 which is very dark because of the overgrowth of vegetation. . |  |
| 10.5 | SB raised issues of a sign on Grafton Bank about the turning circle which had been removed and had taken section of concrete out and placed the sign on the lamppost. ER will investigate it. | ER |

The meeting closed at 20:05 hrs

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 31st March in Yetholm Youth Hall at 7.00 pm.**