

Newcastleton & District Community Council
Minutes of ORDINARY MEETING
14th May 2019 @ 7:00 pm village hall

Present: Scott Wilson (Chair), Laura Paterson (Vice Chair), Barbara Elborn (sec), Greg Cuthbert, Rob Irwin, Margaret Elliot, Trevor Harrop, Lyndsay Patterson (part), Cllr George Turnbull, Cllr Watson McAteer, Cllr Davie Paterson. **Apologies:** Ian Nicol, Joan Robson, Adrian Downey, Shaun Turnbull, PC Allan Paterson

Police Report April 10th Call regarding the cutting down of trees in Boosie Woods by Buccleuch Estates foresters when there were nesting birds. Work was stopped and Estate managers spoken to, they stated that the necessary checks had been carried out prior to commencement of work. No offences libelled; however work has ceased on the site. **11th** Call to Buccleuch Terrace regarding mixed race youth visiting the village being racially abused. Statements noted and a youth was cautioned and charged with making a racially unacceptable comment and a report submitted. Several calls from various addresses in the village regarding children being chased through woods, dangerous driving, and threats being made. Extensive enquiries carried out resulting a male being cautioned and charged with various charges including dangerous driving, and a breach of the peace, a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. **12th** Call to Frank Coutts Court regarding a male who alleged he was bitten by a dog, caller and dog owner came to amicable solution without Police intervention. **13th** Report of a Quad bike being stolen from Hermitage Farm, the quad was seen driving through the village during early hours followed by what appears to be an old style Mitsubishi Pickup. Call from resident of village regarding messages left on a Facebook page. **14th** Further calls regarding messages received, by further residents this expanded and resulted in enquiries into a mental health issue. **18th** Theft of a Quad bike from a secure shed at Acreknowe farm, near Stobs, Hawick. Quad was seen and followed by local resident driving over the border at Scots Kershope, however then lost to sight prior to old Dog and Duck. A task force has been set up at Galashiels Police Station and are now collating the Quad and tool thefts in Borders area. **25th** Call received regarding packages left on doorsteps in Moss Place, this was part of the ongoing mental health situation.

OTHER AREAS The thefts from and of works vans continues, there have been vans entered in Jedburgh area, linked to thefts of further quad bikes. A farm 4X4 pickup was also stolen from farm on Carterbar. Evidence suggests the vehicles are coming West either through village or Via Saughtree into Kielder. This is happening across the South of Scotland and into Cumbria. A 4X4 vehicle which was stolen from the Charlesfield Industrial area was recently recovered after being used for numerous thefts and other incidents in the South of England. **28th** A Poaching incident was reported at Fodderlee Farm near to Bonchester Bridge. The farmer found two dead badger and two dead Deer carcasses on his land all animals had signs of having been mauled by dogs. The carcasses have been taken to SASA at Edinburgh for a full post mortem and collection of DNA evidence.

Action: *Allan Brannan, Forestry Scotland to be asked to ensure main access gates at Priesthill, Florida and Dykecrofts entrances were locked.*

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING were proposed by Scott, seconded by Trevor and agreed as a true representation of the meeting

CODE OF CONDUCT was previously circulated for acceptance at the meeting. All present gave their undertaking to abide by the code for the 2019-20 period. Those absent had indicated their support to the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING

1. **Flooding update** Work has been ongoing in the background for Newcastleton by SBC, specifically extra modelling to help refine the flood risk further to better advise them going forward. SBC are now completing the final appraisal summary document which will be used to advise the Council on future decisions and to prioritise recommendation for which schemes go forward. Outputs from this exercise will inform what actions SBC take forward in 2nd Flood Risk Management Cycle, 2022 - 2028.

The CC has received the outline proposal, but paperwork is too small to circulate or review in detail. Plans will be addressed formally on **June 18th** and then on public display in Buccleuch House until end Aug when we will discuss community feedback ref the proposals. Critical proposals get public support, if this was forthcoming it would improve the chances of it moving to the next stage. If it doesn't then other schemes needing work would be prioritised. If a flood scheme is not adopted it will stifle local development and opportunity going forward so much effort must be given to ensure that all community

concerns are addressed and how we might overcome potential barriers. Once plans decisions are taken in December and presented to Scot Gov, if successful it will then take a further 3 to 4 years of prep/planning to get budgets for any scheme approved. Not likely to be implemented for 5-10 years based on budgets avail.

2. **Broadband Update** Consultation is in the field for Open Reach FTTP scheme. John Lamont meeting was not informative. Have provided him with all unconnected premise data from 2015 to ask if he can prioritise this so we can move forward.
3. **Localities Bid Fund** outcomes: originally 9 projects submitted, only 8 put forward the other chose to go with Cheviot not Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership. To vote – register, get 3 votes, **all votes must be cast it is mandatory**. Hawick has 7 out of 8 projects. Rule Water Trust – Bonchester Bridge has asked for our support which they will need if they are to get through.
4. **Potholes and roads** – letter sent to D&G Council ref Caulsidehead damage as this is showing as closed on the complaint's portal. Members of the public should continue to report potholes to ensure they are addressed.
5. **Community transport needs feedback** - CC met with SBC Transport team Timothy Stephenson and John Dellow. They suggested the community had an opportunity to plan a transport solution that meets community need but and this was not as a result of any budget cuts; SBC pool cars now available, Buses finish at 5pm are these services meeting community need? Consider a taxi-bus service? Car membership scheme? Grant funded? We need a flexible transport service to include weekends to enable social interaction. Transport summit end June. NDCC invited. NDCC presented travel pattern data on usage since changes to the Carlisle route on a Saturday morning. Since this route now required a change at Canonbie to get the X95 from Edinburgh this route had resulted in drop of 80% usage for all passenger traffic but, worse a drop of 43 disabled users to 3. There were several reasons for this; waiting in the cold, no seats available and difficulty in mounting the vehicles and on the return carrying heavy loads twice. The CC were surprised that this data was not known within the SBC team who advised that it was easier for us to access it than them. The CC welcomed the proposed discussions and had fed back information but nothing as yet had been forthcoming from SBC. Concerns were expressed about the timing of the summit as it was the last day of school and commencement of the holiday period meaning many would struggle to attend and out views not heard.
6. **SBC Resources/grass cutting etc** – potentially from 2020 SBC will only maintain sites in their ownership, future maintenance of other sites is under review. SBC are raising awareness of this change now and have asked for comments from communities regarding this. The grassed areas within Newcastleton will be cut on the same schedule as last year - 20 working days. The bedding plant provision this summer will be the last provided and after this, there will need to be changes made to all former bedding plots to allow the cessation of bedding them out. This will affect the two L shaped plots to the side of the War Memorial and the small one to the front of the War Memorial. These changes can take the shape of either community groups taking over the plots, or grassing over the plots or parts of them, planting the plots with shrubs/perennial planting. The gardening group will review how they wish to move forward, and it is hoped that the Legion will contribute financially to ensuring the memorial can continue to be presented to the best standard we can afford. CC will ask what resources might be made available from SBC to undertake any additional cutting and maintenance on areas not owned by SBC; although the community has a new mower this does not have capacity to collect grasses from the riverside. A bigger resource will be needed to undertake this task.
7. **Scottish Land Reform** – the CC attended event 24th April. Split into 2 halves: 1st talk by Lorne Macleod, one of 5 Scottish Land Commissioners gave a talk about the aims of the Scottish land commission and how its work programme can help voluntary & community groups, social enterprise and individuals in the Scottish Borders, covering such topics as concentrated land ownership, community engagement in decisions relating to land, compulsory sale orders, vacant/derelict land etc. 2nd talk by Lindsay Chalmers, Development Manager at Community Land Scotland. An interesting, informative and practical talk detailing the 8 steps to a Community Land Buyout, encouraging the take-up of community land ownership in Scotland and detailing how this has been able to make a positive impact on challenges such as depopulation and the decline of town centres.
8. **CCTV update** – proposal received, awaiting 2nd quote to formalise plans before submitting application for funding to support the proposal. Community feedback was needed as well as permissions from the owners of identified locations. Consultation would take place at the CC meeting on June 18th, opportunity

to complete feedback/respond would be available at Buccleuch House. Proposals needed to be submitted by end June to SBC for consideration in the Sept Area Partnership. This was a large funding application and would be one of the first to be submitted to the new Community Fund. It would need community support to get funds awarded to undertake the project, all feedback received by CC members so far confirmed CCTV was wanted with many in the community seeking reassurances of safety over property, given the continued spate of break-ins and thefts in the locality.

9. **Planning & Roads - Douglas Square signage** was ordered and will be erected soonest to ensure users were aware of the new enforceable parking restrictions. **Repairs to the seat** were not discussed and would remain on the agenda for next meeting. **South Liddel Street** roadworks would commence June for 12 weeks, traffic lights and 20 MPH would operate for this time. Housing Associations meeting still to be arranged when time allowed. Proposals now received for **SBC Heeps** follow up and would be circulated and promoted separately to all. Seen as a huge opportunity to improve housing stock locally. A letter of support ref Timber Transport budget for works Bankend to Sandholm had been sent to SBC roads from the CC with additional support from the Business Forum and the Community Trust endorsing these works.

Faw Law Wind Farm – planning about to be submitted, request to present to the CC received. Sept meeting. **Pines Burn CBF** – all rural CC's (all exc Hawick) had adopted the motions. The SCIO would now be submitted to OSCR excluding Hawick. There was further opportunity for them to join, once comments had been received by OSCR in 12 weeks, following this the door would be closed. Efforts to seek EK to provide the paperwork for circulation were proving difficult as they had other priorities.

PUBLIC FORUM

10. **SOSEP public meeting Jun 27th, 6:30pm village hall.** ALL ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. This was the last round of public consultations; we would hear the broad strategic approach the new Enterprise Agency would be taking. This was expected to include transport and connectivity both massive challenges for us. Please come and get involved in the discussion.
11. **Strengthening Community Councils Forum** – paper previously circulated. The CC would be attending the meeting at SBC on June 11th where changes to current formats were being discussed.
12. **SBCCN AGM** May 22nd, Kelso Mens Shed - given the current issues with Hawick CC it was necessary to ensure that the rural CC's had representation on the core group. Efforts would be made to ensure this happened with all rural CC's requested to attend in order to vote for candidates.
13. **Local Legal Surgery from Cullen Kilshaw** - the Community Trust has arrange for Cullen Kilshaw, solicitors from Hawick to attend the village bi-weekly to provide a legal surgery. The plan is to begin this service from 21st May at 1600 – 1800 and every second week thereafter. If clients not able to get to Buccleuch House, where it will be hosted, then a home visit can be arranged – if this is within the bounds of the village. Anyone wishing to use this service **MUST BOOK AND APPOINTMENT** via their Hawick office 01450 372 336. First consultations will be free. Everybody welcomed the reinstatement of this service which many felt would become much valued by the community.
14. **Boosie Wood plantation** – request for indigenous planting to be considered when its replanted, members of public encouraged to write to Buccleuch to request this.
15. **Next Community Council meeting** – PLEASE NOTE THIS WOULD MOVE TO JUNE 18TH TO ENABLE PRESENTATION OF FLOOD PROPOSALS. There would be no July meeting.

Key meetings

Date/time	Subject	Venue	Attending
11th June	Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership	TBC, Hawick	
18th June	Newcastleton Community Council	Village Hall	All – flood meeting
27th June	SOSEP follow up meeting	Village Hall	ALL & community!
July	No meetings!		