

**Newcastleton & District Community Council**  
**Minutes of ORDINARY MEETING**  
**13<sup>th</sup> August 2019 @ 7:00 pm village hall**

**Present:** Laura Paterson (Vice Chair), Barbara Elborn (sec), Greg Cuthbert (Vice chair) Rob Irwin, Trevor Harrop, Joan Robson, Lyndsay Patterson, Ian Nicol, Cllr George Turnbull, Cllr Watson McAteer, Cllr Davie Paterson. **Apologies:** Adrian Downey, Margaret Elliot, Shaun Turnbull, Scott Wilson (Chair) **Also present:** 2 members of the public

1. **POLICE REPORT** - No report was received
2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** were proposed by Trevor, seconded by Rob. Signed by the Vice Chair and agreed as a true representation of the meeting.
3. **FLOOD DEFENCE PLANS** Information was still on display in Buccleuch House to seek feedback – this was critical to support the proposals to ensure that SBC endorsed the scheme to go forward as part of all the National proposal for Scot Gov to consider, there were many schemes across Scotland not all would be approved. The more community engagement the better the chances of it being adopted. A community questionnaire had been prepared for door to door distribution with copies available in BH. This would seek community support for a flood scheme. No final decisions would be made until detail surveys and additional technical reports could be undertaken; this can only happen if the community supports the concept of a flood scheme. Given that the 1 in 200yr outcomes suggest 85% of the community would be impacted, it was hoped that a positive response would be received and that SBC flood team would support the submission to the SBC executive and Scot Gov. The consultation would be open till end Sept with findings reviewed for the October CC meeting. Cllr Turnbull suggested NDCC contact SoSEP to seek financial support to contribute to the plans as they would have infrastructure budget.
4. **MATTERS ARISING:**
  - a. Broadband Update - Fiona Muir and Duncan Nisbet, Stakeholder Director, R100 to meet CC in September now outcomes of R100 were known. Date TBC
  - b. Community transport conference/meeting feedback - SBC need to save £186k in costs. Reviewing all sorts of options; community owned transport, taxis, dial a ride etc. The CC/Telfords, met with Timothy Stephen and John Dellow Aug 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss local routes and potential changes. It was agreed that the best approach was to undertake a survey of usage before deciding on solutions (in the field from Aug 19<sup>th</sup>). Bus User Scotland will undertake this work and also be based in Buccleuch House for some of the time to seek feedback directly from users and the community. All agreed this is the right approach for our community. The CC have agreed to work with SBC to review the outcomes and adopt changes that can be implemented within the budget constraints to benefit as many people as possible – including leisure travel at weekends. There will be no immediate change to services. The CC stressed the need to join up the cross border and cross county travel budgets to avoid the current malaise of 'its not in my area so I am not paying for it'. Under the new Enterprise Agency and Borderlands Growth deal there was great opportunity for these traditional barriers/resistance to be broken enabling the whole region to receive a better public transport network. This needed to be progressed by SBC at a senior level with their relevant counterparts in other LA areas
  - c. CCTV update – Still awaiting outcomes of Public Space CCTV SBC consultation; Jun–Oct; a second report to Council in December 2019 - Consultation Plan. Whilst this is ongoing, no funding applications to SBC for CCTV provision can be considered. The consultation plan references Area Partnership meetings as well as face to face meetings, telephone conversations as methods of engagement. NDCC keen to apply to the Communities fund for the maximum amount (£15k) in order to seek match funding elsewhere. It was not clear why communities previously not awarded CCCTV were being penalised when it had been agreed by the executive to encourage local solutions to matters. Newcastleton had spent much time working proposals

etc and now wished to progress matters as a priority. Cllrs were asked to investigate why the rural communities cannot progress a grant application. CCTV costs were still likely to be £30k but more robust proposals had been received which included £500 annual maintenance cost, satisfying any support issues raised previously.

- d. Langholm Moor Buccleuch Consultation – July 10<sup>th</sup> Buccleuch announced Langholm and Newcastleton would have until Mar 27<sup>th</sup> 2020 to present HOT's together with financial principles to secure all or part of the moor as a community buy-out. Since that time several meetings have happened with NDCT, NDCC, NBF and other interested parties to discuss the opportunity. Newcastleton prepared a scoping paper discussing the need to undertake wide feasibility assessments to understand the risks as well as the opportunities for developing forestry/planting, renewables and agriculture and we are now seeking funding to undertake this work over the coming months. Once these outcomes are known, the team plan a series of community consultations so that all aspects of the proposals can be reviewed by everyone. Brexit leaves huge uncertainty about farm subsidy, there are no guarantees of future relief or grants for environmental land management to cover the SSSI. The challenge is huge, but we asked for the opportunity and we thank Buccleuch for giving us this chance. We will do our utmost to get answers to enable us to develop a robust sustainable strategy and then share all the findings before any decisions are taken. We will need the community to back us and we will need help to support our campaign to raise the money, without your support it cannot happen.
- e. Legal surgery - a few sessions so far with appointments, don't forget to ring to book in advance it is NOT a drop in. They will only visit if there is a need. 01450 372336
- f. Grass cutting & other sites SBC propose only cutting 50% of the riverside next year and allow the rest to grow wild improving biodiversity. Given this is a local attraction and ticks can breed in grasses if not managed and there has already been issues with dog poo not being collected given the height of the grasses, the CC felt this wasn't acceptable. The CC had investigated the cost of cutting this locally, but this would be well out of the bounds of the paths budget already allocated to keep the riverside walks and areas within the Sawmill woodland managed as well as the village entrances north and south. Donations would be asked for from Poly/Paterson whose fields bounded the road edge and were also part of the cutting undertaking locally. Further donations would be needed if the village was to be 'presentable' to visitors next year. Other suggestions of permanent planting augmented by local bedding were accepted. Cllrs were asked to investigate this further given that the community were being asked to absorb so much. Path Maintenance grant confirmed as £450 – spent £232.50 leaving £217.50 for rest of the year and early next season.

## 5. **Planning/Housing:**

- a. Home Energy Scotland FREE WALL Insulation deemed to be successful. To date 24 installs completed, 3 still to be completed and a further 10 surveys to be undertaken once the present workload was finished. Overall the team were delighted with the responses and advise that these were significantly higher as a result of the endorsement and local campaigning by the CC and the Trust. HEEPS are looking to install 'tiny tag' metres in some completed properties to measure temperature and humidity. They would also like a volunteer who has had the work completed to willing to act as a case study to track the journey, experience and benefits of having the insulation fitted. If anyone is interested in helping them measure data and become a champion, please get in touch with the CC.
- b. Faw Law Wind Farm proposal/response – additional info requested provided on water and flood issues from the meeting. Consultation had been on display in BH since June meeting. No feedback received from members of the public. Statutory response required by any end of Aug to Scottish Energy Consents; scale, height, impact on water supplies and flooding likely topics of concern. Draft will be circulated before despatch.
- c. Conservation status/Scrutiny Committee submission – expect to hear progress by September meeting

- d. Planning applications: Park House, 5 south Hermitage Street provide extension to infill storage building no objections

**6. Public Forum/Community Issues/Open questions:**

- a. Telephone box Douglas Square – letter received, circulated. Still key given that Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug village had 5 power cuts due to adverse weather and no comms possible – need an analogue phone. Lack of user calls registered is because eth box has been out of order since before June and repeated requests for it to be fixed have been ignored by BT.
- b. Glass Recycling – vandalism, zero tolerance, broken units. Wholly unacceptable behaviour particularly as the square is where our visitors arrive to enjoy their day. Not helped by the collection not being able to be done as equipment broken. This had been requested to be sorted at the time and we were still waiting. Cllrs asked to push for this to be resolved as a
- c. Community Policing – given above and broken window at Buccleuch House what is happening? How many community officers were employed by SBC? When will we meet the senior police personnel? No presence had been seen in the village since the start of the common riding season and this needed to be addressed.
- d. Roads/Square – causing serious issue for those using mobility aids. Uneven surfaces meant very unstable surfaces only worsen as we head to winter. Strategic Transport Forum to be contacted to see if budget could be found to undertake repairs to main road as well as Douglas Square. Wood Waggon continue to park in the square even though they are now liable to fines and, on the roadside, disturbing the setts and causing damage.
- e. Caulside surface again breaking up across the border into D&G. Cllrs asked to pressure D&G re this again with winter looming this wasn't acceptable.

**7. Correspondence**

- a. Clinical Response Model from the Scottish Ambulance Service – letter circulated
- b. Review of polling stations and places – previously circulated
- c. Scottish Land Commission Review – previously circulated
- d. Program of works Teviot & Liddesdale 19/20 updated – underway at last!
- e. **SBC Food Growing strategy:** Views sought in Scottish Borders Food Growing Strategy Consultation; Scottish Borders Council would like to hear from those who already grow their own fruit/veg, as well as those who do not but would like to give it a try. Borders Food Growing Strategy required under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, with a consultative draft to be finalised by spring 2020. The strategy seeks to identify land that may be used as allotment sites and identify other areas of land that could be used for lots of different kinds of community growing. [scotborders.citizenspace.com/customer-communities/foodgrowingstrategy](http://scotborders.citizenspace.com/customer-communities/foodgrowingstrategy)

- 8. **AOB** – Shaun Turnbull had resigned given increased work responsibilities. He was thanked for all his efforts over the past years and wished huge success at the Spar. This left a vacancy on the CC, anyone wishing to join please get in touch with a member.

**9. Next meetings:**

Date/time	Subject	Venue	Attending
<b>Sept 10th</b>	Community Council	Village Hall	All welcome
<b>Sept 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Area Partnership Meeting	Hawick Town Hall	All welcome