

**Newcastleton & District Community Council**  
**Minutes of ORDINARY MEETING**  
**14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 @ 7:00 pm village hall**

**Present:** Laura Paterson (Vice Chair), Greg Cuthbert (Vice chair), Barbara Elborn (sec), Rob Irwin, Trevor Harrop, Joan Robson, Ian Nicol, Lyndsay Patterson, Ashley Thomson, Cllr Watson McAteer, Cllr Davie Paterson, **Apologies:** Margaret Elliot, Cllr George Turnbull, PC Allan Patterson **Also present:** 2 members of public

**Police Report read in absentia:** DEC Report of a Saltire flag being stolen from a door in Moss Place, enquiries ongoing. Report of dwelling house fire from fire brigade. Report of chimney fire from fire brigade. Three separate reports of a red coloured pickup in area looking for scrap, especially asking for old batteries, registration was passed, and vehicle owner traced and made aware of complaints, also educated on requirement for scrap transfer license to work in Scotland. Reported incidents of a dog being stolen from the Shankend area, dog was in fact found deceased near to its home address, no suspicious circumstances. Report from resident of village of fraudulent activity on a bank card, transactions were blocked so no financial loss, details noted and passed to fraud unit for compiling. Two vehicle VA in village in area of the Trap involving a car and a motorcycle. JAN: Call requesting assistance to contact family members living in village, contact made, all in order.

Meeting to be arranged to discuss local matters of concern regarding new processes for police contact and reporting as well as updates on local matters.

**Welcome** – AT officially welcomed to the CC and confirmed that she had read and would agree to abide by the code of conduct. SW also welcomed back to the CC. There was still one vacancy, but this was hoped to be filled by the next meeting.

**Minutes** – approved; proposed by GC, seconded by TH, and signed for the record.

**Matters arising** – there were no matters arising not on the agenda:

1. **CC membership**, as reported
2. **Community Transport update** – outcomes awaited
3. **Dark Sky** – Communities in Bonchester Bridge, Denholm, Chesters, Upper Teviotdale all wish to join in with our project. ULHCC not in attendance at meeting. Will suggest side meeting at the AP so all can agree next steps and seek funding
4. **Alchemy Film & Arts invited to Feb meeting** – make movies and show films. Will attend the next CC to see what we can work on together, particularly relevant to community groups like COGS, LLAGS and Heritage; potential to do film nights, film a village archive? But the groups need to attend as the CC nor NDCT has capacity to drive this forward.
5. **Holm Hill Community update** - all done and dusted. Paperwork submitted this week. Outcomes expected by end of March
6. **Planning applications**
  - a. 19/01815/FUL Riverview Holiday Park – new accommodation/parking no objections
  - b. 19/01729/FUL Storage Building North East Mangerton Farmhouse Change of use of storage building to form holiday cottage, no objections.
7. **Public Forum/Community Issues**
  - a. Tinnis Bridge 30mph update, signage erected but issues regarding placement of these still a concerns. Police site visit requested to discuss the implications of speeding, this location does have road ends, a bridge and residents and is considered a hamlet so efforts need to be made to address community concerns.
  - b. Cattle Grid works planned closures Jan 20<sup>th</sup> for 3 weeks; processes deemed archaic given current farming practises and the length of closure impacting on the communities that this access serves

deemed wholly avoidable if up to date procedures and practises had been adopted by SBC – it would cost more but the cost to the businesses, residents and community would be beneficial. Further discussions were required with SBC to seek reassurances that modern cattle grid practises would be adopted going forward so this did not happen again.

- c. BT road closure B6399 planned Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 5 days, this was also deem unwarranted even though part of the works were located near the narrow Whitrope Tunnel. Traffic lights could be utilised to allow traffic to use this access. Timing of this work was also inconsiderate coinciding with the English half term holidays and the tradition uplift in increase in visitor traffic. This closure, on the back of 3 weeks of preceding closure, would further impact all, 4 wks of closures in as many weeks. Cllrs were asked to address this as a matter of urgency. CC would also take this up with MPs and MSP's. There continues to be lack of joined up thinking and implementation for works by the public sector

**8. Empty commercial unit Moss Yard** – no updates to report

**9. Feedback from Area Partnership ref urban communities** in Borders and other matters from AP, info circulated with the agenda pack

### **10. Open questions from the community**

- a. Sawmill plantation windfalls, Buccleuch to be advised to address asap
- b. Libby Clegg' celebratory bike rack to be relocated to Douglas Square
- c. Snow plough – clarity of timings for when roads ploughed as Hawick road effectively closed with recent snow as was the B6357 due to wood wagons being blocking access due to the snow.
- d. School heating – had been temperamental but was now operating correctly
- e. Pathways at Oliver place and Houghton Park were of concern and needed review by SBC
- f. Children's play park – maintenance required; poor fencing, deteriorating surfaces due to lack of grass cutting all contributing to it being in a very woeful and neglected state
- g. Piper – congratulations and thank you from all to the Brough's who organised the Hogmanay Piper, very well received and it was hope this would now become an annual event
- h. CC insurances – would be renewed on basis of last years CCR usage of Douglas Square but needs of NTMF needed to be clarified, someone from their committee needs to advise CC or plans
- i. Hawick flood literature recently distributed very informative
- j. New police reporting procedures of concern and would be discussed separately
- k. NDCT hosting coffee morning on Feb 29<sup>th</sup> to update all on progress of all the projects. NSP asked to support event and to use the opportunity to raise further funds for the school.
- l. Ask Sarah – info posted on FB

### **11. Date of next meetings**

Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, Mar 10<sup>th</sup>, April – date for this TBC based on workloads given long Easter holidays and availability of members, May 12<sup>th</sup>, June 9<sup>th</sup>