

Newcastleton & District Community Council
Minutes of ORDINARY MEETING
8th October 2019 @ 7:00 pm village hall

Present: Laura Paterson (Vice Chair), Greg Cuthbert (Vice chair), Barbara Elborn (sec), Rob Irwin, Trevor Harrop, Joan Robson, Lyndsay Patterson, Margaret Elliot. Cllr Watson McAteer, Cllr Davie Paterson,
Apologies: Ian Nicol, Cllr George Turnbull **Also present:** 9 members of the public

This meeting was preceded by the AGM

1. **Election of officer bearers** – there was no nomination for chair, it was agreed to carry on in the current format of 2 vice Chairs until Jan 2020 when it was hope new resources would be available to assist the CC. LP & GC would remain in post as Vice chairs with BE in post as sec/treasurer until then. Members of the public were urged to consider joining the CC so that work load could be shared more widely. Forms would be made available in Buccleuch House.
2. **Code of Conduct acceptance by members for 2019** – previously circulated and on the web site. Last approved in April 2019. For the record and to tie it into the AGM minutes all present agreed to abide by the code.
3. **Police report/feedback ref lack of presence**– still no report (last June 2019) or police in attendance even after the CC writing formally to SBC CEO to request their presence in this meeting. The lack of support/acknowledgement of this by SBC was seen by the CC as a disgrace. Cllr Turnbull would again be asked to follow up on this and seek reasoning why no such support was forthcoming. With the onset of darkness and the proposed road closures (A7) unknown vehicles would again be entering the village, it was inevitable that further theft and damage like that experience in 2018 would be incurred. The CC were continually frustrated in their efforts to install CCTV with SBC refusing to consider any application for funding leaving the community feeling extremely exposed and vulnerable. The CC would again write to SBC but would also seek support of politicians to take steps to redress the indifference shown to us by SBC and the Lothian & Edinburgh police force. It was understood that additional budget had been provided by SBC to increase the amount of community policing but none of this was forthcoming locally.
4. **Forest gates** – efforts would be made once again to seek Forest Enterprise Scotland to close all the accesses into and out of the forest to stop them being used as getaways like last year, they were currently being left open by foresters due to felling.
5. **Minutes of the last meeting** were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by JR, seconded by LP and signed by LP

Matter arising:

6. **Flooding consultation feedback** - Interim report from SBC received. Full report will be available in BH on receipt and will be posted on the web site. SBC were very impressed with the overall turnout and the quality of responses. They are taking time to respond so that they are all answered, in summary;
 - 113 overall responses – not all respondents answered every question
 - 80% of respondents recognise the flood risk in the village
 - 90% thinking that it was well represented in the drawings
 - 90% agree that the village needs a scheme.
 - 33% offered to be involved in the future community working group which is hugely encouraging so thank you for supporting this. However, due to GDPR issues we didn't ask for names and addresses so if you wish to do this, we need to know who you are, to be involved please put a note into the RED post box in BH stating that you do and how we can contact you. Email or telephone preferably, we do not have time to knock on doors.

7. **Community Transport consultation feedback** Bus Survey received – copies of this will be available for everyone to review in BH and also posted on the web site. Follow up meeting with suggestions to review. Discussion with Telfords as well as waiting for information from Scot Gov ref new scheme/grant funding to support a commercial/lease venture which looks the most promising option. As any vehicle is leased the maintenance and upkeep costs are reduced leaving no liability on the community. However, this scheme would need to be operated on a license and run professionally with paid driver. More details will be shared when we have investigated all the options. The CC is committed to ensure the any changes meet the majority of community need.

8. **CCTV update** – no change ref application, CCTC consultation now closed, expected SBC response Dec

9. **Recycling status; rural recycling facilities and state of bins** - A pilot project was running in Jed to help inform future decision around the wider provision of a mobile recycling service. NDCC continue to press SBC as to why they have broken their promise of providing this service locally. Bottle banks are broken making them difficult to empty and often now there is an excess of broken bottles in the square which is obviously unsightly and dangerous. SBC reported that two full broken bottle banks were taken away and replaced with new ones on Saturday 6th September and the excess glass has been uplifted from around the banks. This was untrue with the operator informing SBC works had been completed when they had not been. Cllrs were again asked to raise this with SBC and ensure prompt actions were taken to redress this so that glass was not left in bags unable to be deposited. With increasing recycling needs it was imperative that increased uplift provision was provided or more bins would be need necessitating moving the location of the recycling.

10. **Planning applications**

Buccleuch House NDCT sought support from the CC for the proposal which had been provided previously to support grant applications prior to NDCT or anyone seeing any design output. Designs and plans have now been in local consultation since September with planning expected to be granted by end of Oct. If there are serious objections to the proposal then this will impact on the grant funding deadlines as decisions will delay. The CC asked all present to support the proposal which was agreed and a letter of support will be issued.

Fairview:10 North Hermitage Street TD9 0RB, replacement windows no objections

11. **Public Forum/Community Issues**

- i) **CC Newsletters feedback** – well received, suggestions to do it 6monthly. This would be possible with more support on the CC but it cost in terms of time and effort as well as ££s to do it.
- ii) **Strengthening local participation** – Oct 3rd workshop feedback TH and BE attended, circa 20 present form CCs in Teviot & Liddesdale and elsewhere. Deep sense of anger from all about lack of focus, being used to fulfil a statutory obligation and the need to take back control.
- iii) **Impact local care services ref SBC recent decision to take back inhouse** –impact of this on the community was unknown. Heather Scott attending the seminar in Galashiels ref care support.
- iv) **War memorial planting proposal** – Copshaw Gardeners happy to take this on but want help to do so, see posters for info.
- v) **Winter recycling hours** Winter opening hours are: Weekdays – 10am to 4.45pm, Saturday and Sundays – 9am to 4.45pm Lunchtime closure remains – 1.15pm to 2pm each day

12. **Open questions from the community**

Road closures and diversions would continue to plague us with D&G not speaking with SBC and visa versa. The closures by Amey would be provided by the E&L which was welcomed.

13. **Correspondence**

- a. **Great Borders River Clean - Sunday October 27th** –
- b. **Crown Estate Scotland Draft 2020-23 Corporate Plan consultation till Nov 25th**
- c. **Newcastleton Conservation Area update provided by Cllr Turnbull:** Chic Johnston confirms that we received a request from the CC to review the Conservation Area within Newcastleton. We

stated that we would not remove the Conservation Area largely due to its unique character and layout but could consider removing the Core Frontage designation within it. We said we would seek public opinion on this within the Main Issues Report which we did. The removal of the Core Frontage designation, which in essence seeks a higher standard of replacement windows than elsewhere in the conservation area, will be considered by the Council as part of the proposed LDP when it is referred to elected members in the New year. There will be a 12week consultation period inviting responses to the proposed LDP. This will take place early next year. Any objections to the proposed LDP will form part of the LDP Examination.

- d. **NDCC note to Tracey Logan** – no response from CEO office
- e. **Woodland planting pilot** – Greg/Barbara attended

14. **AOB**

The chair again stressed the need to work collaboratively and to bring issues forward to the CC, not to make personal comments against members of the CC. Decisions were taken as a group not by individuals and always with the best and widest interest of the community. Members of the public were asked to respect this and address any issues to the CC.

15. **Date of next meetings:**

- Nov 12th CC ordinary meeting
- Nov 19th Area Partnership meeting Hawick Town Hall
- Dec 10th CC ordinary meeting