**Newcastleton & District Community Council**

**Minutes of digital meeting**

**13th January 2021 @ 7:00 pm VIA ZOOM**

**Present:** Greg Cuthbert, Lyndsay Patterson, Barbara Elborn, Keith Bough, Marcus Day, Iain Crosbie, Scott Wilson, Ashley Thomson, Ian Nichol. Cllrs McAteer and Turnbull and 1 member of the public **Apologies**: Rob Irwin, Cllr Paterson

**Welcome** GC welcomed all to the meeting. Iain Crosbie was formally welcomed as a co-opted member for 3 months before becoming a full member from April onwards. There remains one vacancy, anyone residing within the District is welcome to join if they have a passion for where we live and our community and able to devote a few hours pr month to support the work of the committee. Please contact any member via the web site for a nomination form.

Future CC meetings will be held digitally until further notice. **Community post box** is located on the left-hand side of the fuel pumps forecourt enabling the CC to continue to receive correspondence during the upgrade works to Buccleuch House, which is now out of bounds. Correspondence should include a telephone number or email address; no postal responses will be possible given current operational issues. Contacts are available on <https://www.visitnewcastleton.com/community/newcastleton-and-district-community-council/>

1. **Minutes** of the last meeting (Nov) were agreed. Proposed GC, seconded LP
2. **Matters arising -** there were no matters arising not on the agenda
   1. **New CC roles**: Chair confirmed as GC, proposed by BE, seconded by IN. Vice Chair confirmed as LP, proposed by ME, seconded by SW. BE retained as secretary.
   2. **Community Transport** update Leaflet on options for elderly/appointments available to those who need it via the outreach team, surgery, or COGS. All services booked via COGs.
   3. **Flooding group update** – members from Resilience, Fire, CC would meet with Hawick Flood, SBC, SEPA and other groups to seek learnings from their experiences to set parameters of work/support needed. Following this a call for community representation would be made to support specific tasks. It was hoped that a new way forward would be in place for the first anniversary of Storm Dennis.
   4. **CCTV update** Full scoping of the project completed, cost £32.5k. Scoping gone to SBC planning to help formulate the detail that they want to speed the process. Seeking donations to help towards costs; CC, NSP, NBF, NDCT and Resilience Group raised £11.5k towards costs. Hoping others will also contribute as raising money so difficult under Covid. Donations very welcome as we cannot host a coffee morning; Newcastleton & District Community Council bank details sort code 80-22-60 account no 10076267. Please indicate that your donation is for the community CCTV project on any reference.
   5. **Buccleuch House upgrade** No mail accepted, temporary mailbox on forecourt, scaffolding up, phase one commenced, phase 2 contract to be signed but not expecting any issues, Weather/icy conditions delayed commencement of roof works – Jan 18th onwards now. No one should visit the site; all are asked to respect Covid protocols and avoid the site to protect themselves and the workforce.
3. **Public Forum/Community Issues**
   1. Pathways Oliver Place and Houghton Park now confirmed as SBC Road Assets – Cllr Turnbull to follow up
   2. Road to Mangerton passing places request – CC would rather see budgets directed at Ettleton Cemetery pathways and other areas of more pressing need.
   3. Footbridge riverside maintenance – this had been drilled but appears to be ineffective, SBC to revisit and check safety concerns.
   4. 20 MPH feedback – CCS views on this mixed; not policed so cannot be enforced, commences too far outside main body of community at the northern entrance but does serve to ensure slow vehicles enter the village in its heart. 2nd Smiley being installed at Ashcroft place timing to be advised
   5. Area Partnership new format/structure was presented to the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Forum on Jan 12th following collaborative work between the 8 CCs from the region, representing 18k/16% of Scottish Borders population. These were very warmly received and supported by all in attendance. All elected members present, excluding Cllr Paterson, agreed to progress the proposals. These would now be put to wider community consultation before being taken to full council in March where it was hoped new methods of working could be utilised from April 2021 onwards. Details of how members of the public could review proposals will be circulated when known.
   6. UK Gov’s transport ‘connectivity’ consultation NDCT, NBF and NDCC submission sent in and acknowledged by the deadline of Dec 31st. Available on the website for anyone who wishes to review. Positive feedback was received from others. We await sight of the SBC submission (Jan 20th)

1. **Community issues: Vandalism of Whithaugh Bridge** - wanton destruction of property unacceptable, particularly as this belongs to the community and has a direct impact on everyone who uses the bridge. Anyone with any information regarding this encouraged to report it to police or crime stoppers. Boy Racers incident Saturday Jan 9th, a good response form social media had been received enable police to track the routes, there are known groups operating and they are being investigated. We thank those who came forward and encourage all to continue to report all incidents in our community and surrounds to police or crime stoppers.
2. **Correspondence**
   1. **Local plan feedback**: CC previously agreed on key issues Dark Skies, conservation issues ref doors and windows and extending development area now we own the Holm hill. SBC had responded to concerns.
   2. **Hawick & Hermitage Police Report** Next to useless as no mention of incidents in Newcastleton over recent periods; dogs/sheep incidents, loner living in bothy with knife etc and vandalism. Hoped to change this under the new way forward for Area Partnerships with monthly reporting be reinstated, and that CC’s would get access to police to challenge and ask about issues that directly impacted communities.

**There was no other business, meeting concluded at 8:30**

**Date of next meeting – Tue Feb 9th at 7pm via ZOOM links on the website**