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**Newcastleton & District Community Council**

**Minutes of digital meeting 13th April 2021 @ 7:00 pm VIA ZOOM**

**Present:** Lyndsay Patterson, Barbara Elborn, Keith Bough, Iain Crosbie, Ashley Thomson, Ian Nichol, Rob Irwin, Margaret Elliot, Scott Wilson, Cllrs McAteer, Turnbull, and Paterson. Nuala McKinlay (SBC)

1 member of the public **Apologies**: Greg Cuthbert, Marcus Day

**Welcome:** LP welcomed all to the meeting.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting – Mar 2021**

Accepted as a correct, proposer Margaret Elliot, seconder Keith Brough.

1. **Matters arising:**
   1. **Flooding**

Newcastleton Volunteer Flood Group has had 2 meetings, now constituted with Chair; Lee Musson and Vice Barry Jackson. Next meeting to be arranged with SEPA/Scottish Water and SBC. Team preparing discussion guide/agenda and hope to have mapping of Holm Hill plans/leaky dams, water catchments to share. Cllr McAteer contacted both SEPA (via email and post) to request a site visit from the CEO. No response as yet. He reported Scottish Waters disappointing reply, responding that we will not accept a ‘standard response’. He would continue to seek an on-site meeting to discuss the issues to establish the extent of the proposed works to address flooding and whether this was concluded.BE reported that corrs had been received from SEPA D&G regulation team and an invite would be extended to them to attend the meeting when this was confirmed.

* 1. **CCTV** update KB reported progress; H&H meeting to confirm connections, planning prepared for submission, install on track for June. Code of Conduct had been prepared and was nearly finalised. Ops manual would incorporate the GDPR protocols and be produced near install dates.
  2. **Community Maintenance**

**Pathways Houghton Park & Oliver Place** – update on when works were to be progressed was sought given the new financial year had commenced and works had been authorised. Cllr Paterson stated that SBC would be prioritising works based on urgency, and we had would need to wait. This work had been requested for over 3 years and was seen as a local priority by the CC.

**Riverside fencing** unfortunately further decay had occurred on the posts south of the previously replaced section. A quote had been provided to SBC to request this be covered by small schemes. All Cllrs confirmed their approval for this to be actioned and were thanked for their support. It was hoped this would be actioned prior to lock down being lifted on the border from April 26th.

* 1. **Area Partnership update**

SBC had agreed a new approach based on the community feedback across the region, none of this finalised much work still to be done. Tasks separated into AP format and Community Grant Fund. Meeting this week with officers to discuss AP further, meeting with communities w/c April 19th to discuss CF. Teviot & Liddesdale Area partnership has already agreed to progress forward as two types of funds:

**Type A 50%** of total pot allocated into 10 shares (all CC regions get 1 share exc Burnfoot/Hawick who get 2). Based on 2021-22 budgetsthis equates to £21k/£2.1k pr rural CC. Wider discussion needed to establish how set criteria for this. An approach would be circulated and the community asked to respond, suggestions for discussion:

* Max of £500 pr application constituted groups?
* Unconstituted groups could apply for max of £250?
* Split into rounds or gone when it is gone?
* Panel to score applications? Who should be on it? young person’s panel?
  + Assessed like procurement bid so it is a fair assessment?
  + Scores published so all can learn reasoning behind awards/not granted
* What type of projects? Environmental? Young people?

Awards would then be reviewed/scored locally, winning bids submitted to AP for final sign off – shortlisted groups expected to attend to support their bid and speak if need be.

**Type B fund** – anyone within the T&L AP can bid for this.

* Should it be themed?
* Should it only relate to local place plans?
* Should preference be given to bids benefiting more than 1 CC area? Flooding, forestry, dark skies etc?
* What should the frequency of awards be?
* Max level of award given low fund for this year?
  1. **Community Voices Project**

GC/BE met Alchemy, awaiting timing plan which will be circulated along with snippets of archive footage. Used to start the ‘conversation’ and stimulate engagement in other communities. Each area has the chance to field people to talk experiences, aspirations, ambitions for when it returns; locally 6 people identified ranging from young who never knew the railway to elderly who worked on it. Filming planned w/c May 10th week for 3 to 4 days across Newcastleton, Upper Liddesdale/Steel Road/Whitrope, Chesters, Bonchester Bridge, Denholm, Hawick, Burnfoot, Upper Borthwick. Snippets and films avail w/c May 17th onwards for use on social media and to start to push the messaging.

1. **Public Forum/Community Issues**
   1. **Garden waste** Concerns raised by MOP ref dumping of garden waste in the river post flood, no regard to pinch points and this also includes branches – what can be done about green waste? Clarity was sought regarding the SBC/multi-use vehicle piloted for travelling around the region to collect waste – what happened to this? Where is it? Why can’t it come to us fortnightly? Cllr Paterson advised green waste had been removed from council services saving £600k+ in costs, reminding the CC that SBC adopted the protocols of rural proofing so we could not expect be provided if it could not be done for all. It was pointed out that SBC provided this for Jedburgh for the trial - the pilot never reached the village as proposed. Cllr McAteer would seek clarity and advice from SBC on removal/disposal of garden waste and report back.
   2. **20MPH feedback** to SBC suggested the need to put in a slow-down buffers to reduce impact of the immediacy of reaching the 20 MPH from an unrestricted road: 60 MPH reducing to 30MPH, reducing to 20MPH zone. This is going to be trialled at the north end of the village and if successful extended to the south. Consultation underway.
   3. **Smiley pole** in place but no smiley which is awaited from the Timber Transport budget allocation and will be fitted once available.
   4. **Eildon housing** New local letting policy now official and will be promoted following this meeting. [**https://www.visitnewcastleton.com/community/eildon-housing/**](https://www.visitnewcastleton.com/community/eildon-housing/)**.** CC thanked Eildon for working with them to improve opportunities for local residents and looked forward to seeing the homes filled locally. The team now needed to focus on Cairn, SBHA to see if local polices could be employed for these properties similar to Eildon.
2. **Planning**
   1. **21/00395/FUL 8A North Liddle Street** – extension no issues
   2. **Teviot Wind Farm proposal** CC invited them to attend the May meeting. Far too early to be raising expectations about vast sums of community benefit – it will be 5/6 years before anything happens. Need to keep focused on the environmental impact assessment when the scoping doc is issued to ensure that water/flood and transport do not impact us adversely, but we also need to be aware of our neighbours issues as we will need them to support us as more encroach; Wauchope East and West and Newcastleton Forest are expected to reappear as soon as Eskdalemuir ‘noise’ budget issues are resolved by the MOD upgrade to the equipment. At Hawick CC last night they spoke about real community benefits and given the scale this does seem achievable; broadband, cheaper power, apprenticeships in renewables, CBF and community ownership. However, there were concerns raised about the scale of the proposal and whether the company had the resourses to deliver its ambitions.
3. **Financial planning & Draft accounts** These had previously been issued to members to ask if they supported awarding the NVFG £250 towards costs when/if task identified for expenditure. This was agreed formally for acknowledgement in the minute. Accounts for 2020-21 now final so can be authorised – SW to ask JH to do them again, all in agreement.
4. **Correspondence**
   1. free training courses for CC’s link to the portal <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/skills-supportOU-CC>
   2. **Council launches second phase of consultation on draft Anti-Poverty Strategy** open until 16 May and is available at [www.scotborders.gov.uk/antipovertystrategyconsultation](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/antipovertystrategyconsultation), is aimed at getting views on the draft strategy itself as well as what respondents see as the main challenges and opportunities that these issues can present.
   3. **River clean up May –** posters circulated.

**Date of next meeting:** **Tue May 11th** @ 7pm on Zoom, link on web site following this meeting

Speakers:

Andy Jones, Newcastleton Primary School (TBC)

Jamie Leslie project Manager Teviot Wind Farm