



## Newcastleton & District Community Council

### Minutes

Tuesday November 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 @ 7pm via zoom

**PRESENT:** Greg Cuthbert, Barbara Elborn, Margaret Elliot, Rob Irwin, Keith Brough, Cllr Turnbull, Iain Crosbie, Scott Wilson, Ashley Thomson, Cllr Watson McAteer, Cllr George Turnbull, 4 members of public.

Cllr David Paterson joined the meeting from 7:30 onwards

**APOLOGIES:** Lyndsay Patterson, Ian Nichol, Marcus Day.

- 1 **OPENING REMARKS:** Chair opened the meeting, thanking all for attending, stressing need for digital meetings until further notice.
- 2 **Minutes Last Meeting:** November 2021 were proposed by AT, seconded by RI
- 3 **Matters arising:**
  - 3.1 **CCTV update/SBC** Planning permissions now granted. Team finalising paperwork for submission to SBC to draw down the balance of the grant. Contractors will commence external works in December at Buccleuch House which will now host the control units reducing need to duplicate operating systems and paperwork. Residents/premises would be notified prior to Christmas of likely install dates to request access etc for the contractors. It was hoped all would be functioning and operational by February.
  - 3.2 **Houghton Park & other pavements** remain on the 'to do list', elected members will continue to chase for actions
  - 3.3 **20MPH update** Report published by consultants recommending continuation of the system where appropriate. SBC full council yet to approve recommendations but it as hoped that community feedback would confirm the need to action the 20MPH zoning. SBC officers attended local meeting: 20MPH would be extended to entrances of both north and south of village, signage would be placed approaching Holm Bridge advising drivers knew they were entering into a 20MPH zone. Unfortunately, the cost of providing a pavement adjacent to roadside from the north of the village to connect to existing pathway was prohibitive. Further investigation would be undertaken to look at funding sources.
  - 3.4 **Bins** – still not arrived. Elected members asked to chase
  - 3.5 **Handrails riverside/Polysport progress** – completed, thanks passed to NDCT for providing them.
  - 3.6 **Douglas Square Seating** budget approved (small schemes) and will be installed post Xmas. Thank you extended to elected members for their support in getting this sorted. Ideally colours should tie in to match the new planters – Copshaw Gardeners awarded their grant to replace existing wooden framed ones with recycled materials.
  - 3.7 **Street Lighting feedback/SBC:** correspondence received from SBC indicated lights installed met current legislation, but SBC would undertake tests determining if the lanterns had dropped capacity over time and outcomes addressed. Cllr McAteer asked to follow up.
- 4 **Police Report:** November for review, local report received which was very welcome; more relevant, demonstrates continued level of rural crimes not being covered in the main Hawick & Hermitage report. Greater need to have presence of police and localised info so that everyone knows what is going on and continues to report rural crime. Reports of return to Bobby's on the beat being reinstated in Cumbrian towns with decision to keep close eye on reports to encourage this to happen locally. Change of local command, new community Sergeant expected. Decision to write to new divisional Commander requesting local reporting continues.

5 **Flooding:** Flood group updated CC about recent meeting; minutes on the web site for reference. Chair cautioned all not to raise expectations that any short-term measures discussed were still to be assessed, approved, and funded. Scottish Government had stopped all flood programs until decisions had been made about how to fund them going forward. SBC reported that the village needs were ranked the same as Peebles in terms of SBC effort and priorities and this would ensure that things could progress when outcomes were known. Flood group had compiled list of landowners to approach with view to seeking buy in to work together to undertake natural flood management measures, SBC would engage with Tweed Forum to follow through. SBC Flood mgt team would update community early 2022.

6 **Area Partnership update** – community grants fund outcomes

- 6.1 Copshaw Gardeners awarded, KB thanked for his diligence in assessing and presenting this to secure the award.
- 6.2 BE reported request that T&LAP consider introducing a fast-track option to fund resilient needs pre year end. This was agreed by members however SBC continuing to raise issues with how we define Resilience. Elected members asked to direct them to immediate need so that budget could be sanctioned to install the 2<sup>nd</sup> emergency storage shed in the south of the village asap. This was being funded partly by fast-track (£1k) and community Resilience Group funds received from donations (£800). Footings were required to level the proposed site and to lift it securing contents if it flooded.
- 6.3 The new grant award/decision process was far from the proposed approach presented and accepted by the CC's in Dec 2020. Current approach was seen as onerous and cumbersome, taking significant volunteer time. It was felt to be unworkable going forward.

7 **Public forum/Community issues**

- 7.1 **Scrap collecting in field** Complaints received about abandoned vehicles creating a scrap yard in field next to Playing field, landlord approached, tenants had removed items.
- 7.2 **Bus timetable:** ongoing complaints about Border buses and Telfords timings not being compatible to secure correct timings to get an Edinburgh service at Gala. Cllr Turnbull reported efforts had been made to contact complainant with timetable provided and on paper there didn't seem to be any issues.
- 7.3 **Extending the Borders Railway;** UK Gov & Scot Gov reviews – disappointing that little consideration was given in the UK report. Discussions were now focused on seeking insight in to the scoping for the Borderlands feasibility report and contact had been made with Cllr Rowley to continue dialogue.
- 7.4 **Storm Arwen** – clear up and ongoing challenges; trails closed, Boosie badly damaged, Crow wood (behind caravan site) badly damaged. NDCT will tackle problem areas as/when resources/budget are available. Public requested to keep clear of site for own safety. Trees continue to fall post event/roots have been badly loosened. Signage and gates being removed by walkers and MTB riders disregarding the signs. Cllr Paterson reminded all that efforts are needed to address climate change.
- 7.5 Correspondence received thanking the community trust/CC for undertaking the dry gravel extraction
- 7.6 **SBC dog warden** contacted CC ref attending meeting and would be invited in new year.
- 7.7 **Drainage update** – Cllr McAteer reported no further forward, he would continue to chase.
- 7.8 Members requested update from SBC on when leaves and drains would be cleared post Arwen given leaf now lying likely to cause blockages in the event of flood.
- 7.9 **Resurfacing Douglas Square** to be included in capital works program.

8 **Planning**

- 8.1 9 north Hermitage Street, Granny Annex in rear no objections. Noted item incorrectly addressed.

9 **Correspondence**

- 9.1 Derelict land and buildings request from Emma Harper MSP ref potential legislation for land under 0.7hectares. Letter and rationale circulated, request for sites to be entered from MOP in minutes.

9.2 **Have your say – SBC budget questionnaire consultation**

9.2.1 Consultation open until end Jan

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ojLtiWub20G7bzduyPzRHSyTYERf6SJPsFZoXbJCCzhUQk1CQUg0OVFIWE1YVkiDRkJURE8wQ1BRMSQIQCN0PWcu>

9.2.2 Continuing concerns regarding community communication on serious issues like this which require wider consultation and feedback. It is not listed as a current consultation on the SBC website, MOP will be unable to respond unless SBC correct this.

9.3 SBCCN feedback, previously circulated, available on the web site.

10 **AOB**

10.1 Play park equipment would be considered for repair/upgrade before year end

10.2 Request for lighting south of South Liddle Street to Holm Bridge to be considered

11 Date of next meeting **Tuesday, Jan 11<sup>th</sup> hosted digitally**

The chair closed the meeting at 8:15, thanking all for their contributions during the year and wished all a very happy Christmas

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

Post the meeting, members were sent the revised code of conduct, Item 4 was amended to include the Trust, Resilience and Volunteer flood Group. All members were asked to read and confirm via email that they had read and accepted the new code. The secretary received affirmative emails from all members confirming their acceptance.