



Newcastleton & District Community Council

Minutes

Tuesday January 11th 2022 @ 7pm via zoom

PRESENT: Greg Cuthbert, Barbara Elborn, Rob Irwin, Keith Brough, Iain Crosbie, Scott Wilson, Ashley Thomson, Lyndsay Patterson, Ian Nichol, Marcus Day. Cllr Watson McAteer, 2members of public.
Cllr David Paterson joined the meeting from 7:30 onwards

APOLOGIES: Margaret Elliot

OPENING REMARKS: Chair opened the meeting, thanking all for attending.

- 1 **Minutes Last Meeting:** December 2021 were proposed by LP, seconded by RI
- 2 **Matters arising:**
 - 2.1 **CCTV update:** CCTV The project now in build phase, new suppliers have completed the separate Buccleuch House install and are now starting work on the village sites from w/c Jan 17th, local trades will also be doing various jobs. Completion expected end Jan with commissioning and training in February. Formal switch on will be announced in due course. Signage will be placed at all entrances as well as Douglas Square. Village signage review already undertaken with agreement to remove out of date/irrelevant signage and utilise sites where appropriate. SBC will be informed once the plan is finalised with request to remove/replace accordingly. Operational manuals and code of practise manuals will be located at Buccleuch House. Keith Brough was thanked for his efforts in coordinating efforts and managing the program.
 - 2.2 **Houghton Park & other pavements** remain on the 'to do list', elected members will continue to chase for actions
 - 2.3 SBC previously advised cost of providing **new pathway on the roadside at North of the village** was prohibitive but the CC and elected members would continue to push for this given that 20MPH was originally proposed to encourage walking and cycling safely. External funding sources would be considered as well as consideration of future inclusion on the flood plans once details on path networks etc were known. Sustrans had contributed vast sums to Hawick scheme which set precedent for others.
 - 2.4 **Bins** – 4 out of 6 provided placed. Elected members asked to chase remaining to be placed; exit on road two bridges walk/Dykecrofts unmarked road and end of Langholm Street by the old railway crossing.
 - 2.5 **Street Lighting feedback/SBC:** correspondence received from SBC indicated lights installed met current legislation, but concerns persist about the level of lighting on riverside and south end of the village. SBC response suggested improvements in Douglas Square were also needed. Cllr McAteer to progress to undertake full lighting review including riverside.
 - 2.6 **Derelict Land nominated sites;** empty properties in Whitcheater Lane and Stopford Street as well as the shed on the riverside – this was considered a hazard given asbestos lying post Storm Arwen.
 - 2.7 **Drains** – have still not been cleared; their continues to be serious concern for the drain foot of Holm Bridge – recent HGV traffic to forests had caused massive pothole and probably weakened drainage below causing blockages. This needed immediate rectification given 'flood season' imminent. The CC again stressed the need for SBC to undertake these remedial tasks so that residents could be reassured that all effort was being taken to reduce impact of flooding.

- 3 **Police Report:** December circulated. Disappointing that no local references had been included so there was no reporting of rural crime. Neither had CC received any response to letter sent to Chief Superintendent Catriona Paton re village concerns. Cllr McAteer would follow up.
- 4 **Flooding:** group meeting planned, report next CC
- 5 **Area Partnership update** – dates for 2022 issued but not received.
- 6 **Public forum/Community issues**
 - 6.1 **SBC dog warden** contacted CC re attending meeting, literature requested for distribution, social media etc.
 - 6.2 **Climate Challenge projects** – 3 months support from Keep Scotland Beautiful to help community create relevant local climate challenge solutions. This was being led by the Trust who would focus on young people and their wishes as well as an environmental volunteer program to support community volunteers once development of Holm Hill got underway. The CC agreed to tackle the community recycling issues; bottle bank seen as not fit for purpose given same number of bins now as 20 years+ ago, need to increase clothing capacity as well as provide small electrical and other areas like green waste given our distance to Hawick recycling. Cllr Paterson would review funding options and report back. AT and MD both volunteered to review how Island communities undertake their recycling programs given that we are also a landlocked island. Meetings in the coming weeks. Community engagement would start once program agreed.
- 7 **Planning** - CC agreed to submit application on behalf of the Legion for the new flagpole in Douglas Square which would be paid for by the CC to be reimbursed by them to save money. It was hoped that this project would be completed in Spring well in time for the Queens Jubilee.
- 8 **Correspondence**
 - 8.1 CC scheme review consultation, no feedback issues
 - 8.2 Queens Jubilee Fund announced – up to £5k for community initiatives to support Jubilee
 - 8.3 Eildon Housing – 3 bed house avail end of January
 - 8.4 Request to support membership of the Association of Rural Scotland was agreed
- 9 **AOB**
 - 9.1 Signage review to be provided to Cllr McAteer to follow up with SBC to remove redundant signs
 - 9.2 Dog fouling continues to be an issue in main street
 - 9.3 Boy racers adopting worrying behaviours in racing North/South Hermitage Street as well as donut sin the square. Will be reported to police but CCTV will capture them in future
 - 9.4 Pedestrian crossing points – would be actioned north of the bus stop in Douglas Square
 - 9.5 Castleton Cemetery shed still not removed
 - 9.6 Ambulance speeding through village; individual complaints should be directed to Scottish Ambulance Service. Speeding restrictions apply to emergency vehicles when travelling in restricted zones: 30MPH zone = 45 MPH, 20 MPH zone = 30MPH
- 10 Date of next meeting Tuesday, **February 8th hosted digitally**