



**Newcastleton & District Community Council**  
**Minutes of Ordinary meeting**  
**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 7:25 pm village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Greg Cuthbert, Barbara Elborn, Keith Brough, Scott Wilson, Lyndsay Patterson, Ian Nichol, Marcus Day. Cllr Watson McAteer, George Turnbull, David Paterson, 4 members of public.

**APOLOGIES:** Margaret Elliot, Rob Irwin, Iain Crosbie, Ashley Thomson,

**OPENING REMARKS:** the meeting followed immediately from the AGM

1. **Minutes Last** meeting previously circulated were approval. Proposed by LP seconded SW
2. **Police Report** Report circulated. Chair reported that persons had been spoken to re tree thefts, it was hoped that this would now cease
3. **Matters arising:**
  - 3.1. CCTV update – hardware in place, needed final modifications. Signage to be erected and a switch on planned for end Mar/early April.
  - 3.2. Houghton Park, Douglas square build out - capital program proposed 2022 . Extremely disappointing that neither Houghton Park nor Douglas Square have any mention given their continued mentions and ongoing request for pathway improvements and attention to drainage. These would be carried forward.
  - 3.3. Lighting update – not received update
  - 3.4. Drainage update Toll Bar cottage works had been completed, SBC replaced an old-style cast-iron gully and traced back a damaged pipe that must have occurred some years ago. Now been repaired and the system seems to be working much better. Will be monitored over wet days. A road closure will be put in place in the new year to resurface the junction but has been tidied up at present.
  - 3.5. Douglas Square – recycling, siting of cycling repair post (SW/GC) site agreed with SBC
4. **Flooding:** Flood meeting village hall Mar 15<sup>th</sup>, Buccleuch House 17-19<sup>th</sup> and Digital 23<sup>rd</sup> All encouraged to attend, important to demonstrate support for SBC's efforts to ensure that preventive measures could be enacted.
5. **Area Partnership** – community grant fund review (GC) recognition that this needs to be restructured to enable easier applications and assessment which was how the communities envisaged it in the first place
6. **Public forum/Community issues**
  - 6.1. **Play park upgrade** £200k in 2024-2025 positive feedback albeit 2 years away
  - 6.2. **Local Development plan** 'Scottish Government seek removal of any indication of a preferred route for a railway extension from Tweedbank to Carlisle via Hawick' concerning statement in SBC council papers, clarity was sought and it was not expected that SBC would agree to remove this request from the local plan. This will continue to be monitored given the impact of this on the community.

- 6.3. **Heritage Centre** – request for more volunteers and a meeting to discuss support would be held, concerns about operating the centre as previous were now very real.
- 6.4. Request for consideration to use the **Bunkhouse** for Ukrainian refugees was raised previously via a member of the public and further raised by Cllr Paterson in the meeting. He sought the CC to press the community trust to consider this as an option. It was explained again that presently there was no occupancy certificate for the bunkhouse as capital works remained to be concluded and that the implications of hosting refugees needed wider consideration.
- 6.5. **Planning issue re flooding.** Conflicting views from SBC officers had been received for a planning application, clarity was sought to understand why the planning officer gave one view and the flood officer another.
- 6.6. **Greenholm** roof sliding causing concern on the B6357
- 6.7.

## 7. **Planning**

- 7.1. 22/00286/FUL Replacement windows 8A Douglas Square -no issues raised
- 7.2. **Scoping Windy Edge windfarm (Braidlee)** comprising up to 12 turbines with a maximum tip height of 200m. Scoping response outlined as follows, members agreed to submit report by March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline to Energy consents.
  - 7.2.1. **Proximity** – Pines Burns is now consented and adjacent and all views and issues need to be seen in the wider context
  - 7.2.2. **Site access** – the B6399 is used daily by the community and has been badly impacted by climate events, increased traffic on this can only increase its vulnerability – we have been ‘disconnected’ for over 20% of the time in the last 5 years so this isn’t something we wish to see ignored.
  - 7.2.3. **Grid connections** – given same developer for Pines Burns why wouldn’t the developer wish to utilise the grid connection already consented for Pines Burns, must be some benefit lessening the disturbances to the community if this was considered in wider context?
  - 7.2.4. **Planning policies** NPF3 is referenced frequently but NPF4 will be in operation so all policies, and statements need to be presented in this context not the outdated NPF3.
  - 7.2.5. **Flooding & Climate Challenge**- serious flooding 2020 and 2021 resulting in higher water levels as well as increased run off. Clear felling has added to this, mitigating measures need to be demonstrated in the full impact assessment so that we can be reassured the development does not increase pressures on the Braidlee Burn, Hermitage Water which runs into the Liddle.
  - 7.2.6. **Impact on tourism** – this is a divisive topic but regardless of vistas and landscape impact ANY closures of roads and access to our community further decreases the stability of our local economy. Footfall and traffic is integral to that, tourism WILL BE impacted regardless. Efforts need to be made to close roads etc out of season not between Spring and Autumn when retailers and hospitality need every single £ to survive the down season.
  - 7.2.7. **Digital technology/airwaves interference** – Newcastleton has its own resilience team who are equipped with digital radios which are integral to enable them to operate safely in a crisis. These are registered and licensed for usage, we would expect the developer to work with us to ensure that there is absolutely no impact on this, nor that used by our volunteer fire service.

7.2.8. **Viewpoints** – we would seek that 14/15/16 are provided to include the Pines Burn turbines and that maps are provided so members of the public can see the proximity of both sites

8. **CC election** process and timings as previously discussed in the AGM

9. **Date of next meeting** - May TBC following CC elections in April will be announced in due course