



Newcastleton & District Community Council

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Minutes of Ordinary meeting

PRESENT: Lyndsay Patterson (Vice), Barbara Elborn (sec), Rob Irwin, Keith Brough, Jim Lewis; PC Allan Patterson, 2 members of public

1. Welcome, Apologies, Declarations of Interest, Code of Conduct, Equalities Statement

- 1.1 **Welcome:** (LP, BE) Lisa Rogers was introduced. She will support the CC with admin.
- 1.2 **Apologies:** received from: Iain Crosbie (Chair), Ian Nichol, Cllrs McAteer, Cox, Smart
- 1.3 **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest from members
- 1.4 **Code of conduct:** Members present signed previously circulated document
- 1.5 **Equalities statement:** LP signed previously circulated document

2. Police Report: PC Alan Patterson provided positive feedback on the renewed monthly police surgery at Buccleuch House, reporting 6 residents attended. The monthly regional feedback **report posted on** <https://livenewcastleton.com/community-services/newcastleton-and-district-community-council/>

NOVEMBER

- Call to Shankend area regarding possible poaching using lamps. Resident noticed a spotlight shining within forest area at night. Commission stalkers used thermal imaging, to date no other reports.
- Abandoned 999 call to house in village. This is a 999 call that has been dropped before, call handler makes contact and are unable to re-establish contact. On this occasion Police attended and all was in order, it had been a miss dial.
- Call regarding possible theft of a vehicle. Bottomed as a civil dispute over the condition of a vehicle after sale. No further police action.
- Collision between a car and a cyclist reported near to Hermitage Castle. Police and Ambulance attended no major injuries, no offences libelled.

DECEMBER

- Ongoing neighbour dispute in village, police attended, solution is no nearer.
- Reports of persons banging on doors and windows at rear of Frank Coutts Court, youths are congregating in the school at night and then running along back gardens. Several youths from village to be spoken to regarding their behaviour.

Other rural areas:

- West Linton area hit last week by Quad thefts again.
- All quiet along the Southern side of area, but with increased fuel costs theft of heating fuels is inevitably going to be an issue as we head further into winter.

Other matters:

- The issue of the boat parked at the end of Union St remains. AP has spoken to the owner. Traffic safety concerns related to sight blocking, kerb mounting and vehicle access have been voiced by CC and residents. AP will continue to pursue this. Parking issues to be carried forward.
- There has been some improvement to the road surface near D'Mainholm Farm after patching.
- An additional police officer will be assigned to the area. This will facilitate enforcement of the speed limit in the village

The next monthly police surgery will take place on Jan 10, 2023, at Buccleuch House between 5-7pm prior to the Community Council Meeting.

3. Minutes of the last meeting (LP) November 2022 were presented as true and accurate record of meeting. Proposed by KB, seconded by RI.

4. Matters arising:

- 4.1. **Area Partnership:** The next meeting in February may be hybrid in response to CC request re access, travel cost and seasonal weather issues impacting on the community's ability to attend. Other rural CCs also support this. IC will attend to push this point.
- 4.2. **Admin support:** CC's remit is to act as a communicator between the public sector and the community which is hampered without increased resources to fund web hosting, secretariat, and digital subscriptions. The CC has been dependent on the community Trust to continue to provide access to zoom and other facilities enabling it to undertake its work. Lisa Rogers will provide direct CC admin support and investigate a secure, shared online workspace.

5. CCTV

- 5.1. **Riverside install:** KB reported that this has been completed. There are now 18 cameras at 7 locations, and the system has been used by the police in their investigations. Further sites are being scoped to extend coverage outside the heart of the village, and two businesses have asked to join the system. These sites would be funded directly but access/data fed to the central system. BE proposed asking SEPA to provide a marked post on the opposite banking so that river levels can be reviewed remotely at time of crisis.
- 5.2. **Selkirk Bid request:** KB/BE will host a workshop for the Selkirk team in the village in January.

6. Planning

- 6.1. **Douglas Square crossing point:** The FB post had 1,416 viewings, 5 shares and 87 comments. The main issues raised were what is the best location, would the money be better spent on a different kind of crossing (or no crossing), is there a necessity for a crossing at all. The feedback has been provided to SBC, who will come back to us with FAQs in January. The CC will provide this info to residents and solicit further feedback.
- 6.2. **Teviot Windfarm Community Benefit Fund:** Redacted Crossdykes Community benefit circulated and on CC website, and MEL community leads minutes circulated and on CC website. Actions: collaborative CC meeting to agree parameters of CBF agreement and respond to Muirhall carried forward to Jan meeting

7. Correspondence

- 7.1. **Volunteer Flood Group:** VFG representative Jennifer Wilson reported that the group had a meeting with Duncan Morrison SBC/Flood Mgt. Sandbags will be delivered for the south end of the bund for pre-placement. At the north end of the bund, the dip in the grassed area near the bench was visited. There is also a dip in the banking between Whitchester and Henry Streets. After the meeting, Morrison inspected the riverbank to look for signs of subsidence or erosion. SBC will come back with a report on the possibility of demountables for the north end of the bund. Some area to the east of North Liddle Street may need to be paved (this land belongs to the Trust). SBC will be in touch with Buccleuch Estates about clearing the scrub on the far riverbank, and check will be made to find out if any other landowners are involved there.

8. Public Forum/Community issues

- 8.1. **Borders National Park:** A group working to establish a Borders National Park will make an updated presentation to the CC at the Jan 10 meeting, all welcome.
- 8.2. **Borders Bus Network Survey:** SBC has launched a Bus Network Survey and encourages Borders businesses and residents to take part in helping to shape the future of the bus network in the area. The survey is open until 9 January 2023 at <http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/busnetworkreview2022>
- 8.3. **Monthly Market proposal:** Emma McLellan, founder of the new social enterprise ReCloth in Newcastleton, has proposed holding a monthly "Makers' Market" in the Village Hall for local businesses/crafters/producers. McLellan was reminded that any event planned for the Square would require a risk assessment and public liability insurance. CC endorsed her proposal.
- 8.4. **Lighting raised again on Polysport verge/bridge steps** CC will ask SBC to report on the outcome of the proposed lighting review to see what their view was from the previous time this was raised.

9. **Conservation status:** raised again as a barrier to home improvements with residents reporting refusals for double glazing windows. BE advised that the Trust were in discussion with SBC regarding this as a barrier to deliver the community decarbonisation plan and that it was hoped a more common-sense approach would be adopted in planning. SBC are reminded that the conservation status was granted based on the grid layout of the community as stated in their policy on conservation areas and this should not inhibit residents undertaking property maintenance particularly in the current energy crisis when double glazing is seen to be so prevalent across the whole community and can, subject to size within the room space save up to 20% heat loss.
10. **Leahaugh/Roan planting proposal** – question regarding inclusion of leaky dams in the planting was raised, advised to contact Buccleuch directly to ask/request consideration as formal planning permissions had not yet been received.
11. **Flatt Farm** – concerns noted again that a quality farm estate had been sold for planting and that our agricultural heritage was continuing to be threatened.

9. AOB

Key Dates:

Date of next police surgery: Tues, 10 Jan 2023, Buccleuch House, 5-7pm

Date of next CC meeting: Tues, 10 Jan 2023, Village Hall, 7pm (including Borders National Park presentation)

Vice Chair thanked all for attendance and wished everyone a merry Christmas, and the meeting closed at 7:45pm