



**NEWCASTLETON
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Newcastleton & District Community Council
Tuesday, March 21st, 2023
(Replaced Mar 14th cancelled due to weather)
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting**

Present: Iain Crosbie (Chair) Lyndsay Patterson (vice chair), Barbara Elborn (sec), Rob Irwin, Jim Lewis, Ian Nichol, Lisa Rogers; SBC Councillor Annette Smart; 10 members of the public

- 1) **Apologies** received Cllrs McAteer, Jane Cox, PC Allan Patterson
- 2) **Declarations of Interest:** BE item 6c – community Trust has written to SBC expressing its frustration with current policy. RI item 6d – planning application for Flatt Farm telecoms mast.

3) **Police Report** (PC AP) Local report:

FEB

- Theft of Flowerpot from address in North Hermitage Street, recovered nearby.
- Two vehicle Road Traffic Accident South of village, injured person transported to Hospital in Carlisle.
- Intruder alarm activation to Primary School, all in order, unknown activation
- Report of male being threatened by neighbour. Attended and all resolved amicably.
- Multiple concern calls for person calls to village.
- Complaint regarding a vehicle entering Douglas Square driving over pavement into Langholm St to exit, keeper traced and warned accordingly.

MARCH

- Report from vehicle owner that vehicles number plates had been cloned, not unusual now with the clean air areas in cities, persons will copy the plates from an identical vehicle to evade the tolls charged. Cleared up with Police help.
- Multiple concern calls for person in village.

- 4) **Minutes of the last meeting** Feb 2023 were presented as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by LP, seconded by RI.

5) **Matters arising:**

- a) Area Partnership - Digital meeting proposed April 18th, CC will share team's links when available.
- b) Lighting for steps riverside feedback – to be c/f, no feedback from SBC yet ref ownership.
- c) Bottle recycling scheme – concerns regarding this adding additional costs to rural communities and small business. Clarity on its introduction and implementation still sought.
- d) Douglas Square crossing - c/f to next meeting. Community consultation still to be actioned.
- e) Elliot Gathering - evening event during the Show weekend has now been funded.

6) **Planning**

a) **Muirhall/Teviot Wind farm update**

- i) Participating CC's meeting Mar 20th with Local Energy Scotland held, Hawick, Southdean, Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage, Upper Borthwick and Teviot Water, Langholm, Ewes & Westerkirk, Denholm, in attendance. Burnfoot, Eskdalemuir, Etrick & Yarrow, Liliesleaf Ashkirk & Midlem

sent apologies.

- ii) Whilst the commission of the site is 10 years away, Muirhall are seeking large investment to develop the site, it was possible the site could be sold on in this time frame. CCs were committed to concluding a legal arrangement which bound the developer to the CCs in terms of commitment to honour the community benefit fund and that once written and signed this would pass with any other documentation to any new owner and funds would remain ringfenced.
 - iii) Newcastleton Community Trust proposed as the lead partner (Walter Douglas UBTW), seconded by Philip Kerr (Southdean, Cameron Know (Hawick) to represent all in further discussions with Local Energy Scotland. NDCT would seek circa £5k grant to pay for legal advice to create a community limited by guarantee which would host and manage the community benefit fund (£2.86m pa). This was in addition to the share ownership offer if communities wished to progress this at a future date. CC advised that permissions would be asked of NDCT Trustees prior to committing but that this wasn't seen as onerous. BE would report back following decisions by the board.
- b) **Holm Hill Active Leisure consultation:** Held Mar 2-4 in BH. Many visited to review the plans and left comments. All overwhelmingly positive; that is to relocate Boosie to Coulter Skye and incorporate paths and trails as part of this process. The active leisure strategy will, once established, help overcome the significant decline in footfall and day visitors caused by the long, protracted delays experienced by the reopening of the 7stanes and the walks on Priest hill. This ongoing decline was having a devastating impact on local trades. Budget was being sought to incorporate the leisure activity as part of the program and it was hoped that works to this could commence later this year. Planting would start once permissions from FLS had been granted expected end 2023.
- c) **Conservation Status** – CC continues to seek to understand the barriers for allowing renewables to be incorporated to home improvements locally which face refusal under the current conservation status. JL reminded members that SBC, as part of Scotland's ambitions to reach net zero targets, had signed up to the climate actions initiative and supported the Scottish Government target to reach net zero under the umbrella of Just Transition. This approach does not seem to be manifesting itself locally. The CC would invite the Heritage and planning officer to explain how this was being implemented locally.
- d) **Buccleuch Planting:** Roan, Ninestane Rig and Leahaugh Forestation plans shared, still to be finalised. Disappointingly these did not include the CC's previous feedback to include and expand on the active leisure plan as part of this. It was hoped this would feature when final proposals were submitted.
- e) **Flatt Farm** - Pre-Planning Consultation - 3 UK SRN1089 Telecoms mast.
- i) Initial plans were available on the CC website. A representation of views was presented by community members at the meeting. They were advised this was a pre-planning application and that the CC was able to submit questions on their behalf to seek a wider understanding on some of the issues raised. Concerns raised were impact to water supplies and access to properties as well as a general objection to the proposal.
 - ii) It was stressed that in the event the CC's support was formally requested to object to the proposals then a wider consultation process would need to be undertaken. It was not in the gift of the CC to support or object to a new facility without seeking wider engagement.
 - iii) Residents were advised to submit questions to the secretary who would seek further clarity from the developers' agents.
 - iv) As a preplanning application this was seen as a scoping exercise to seek views and should not

be seen as the planning application. It was hoped that feedback would help the agent/developer refine proposals to address some of the issues raised by the community at this stage in the process.

7) Correspondence

- a) **Kings Coronation grant £500.** One application that did not meet the criteria, combination of events proposed awaiting SBC feedback.
- b) **Community council insurance 2023-34** Paperwork completed and submitted. No assets to insure, no event covered or specified. No funds to pay for any extras.
- c) **SEPA consultation** Paperwork circulated to members for feedback please action
- d) **Coronation Champions Awards** details on the web site. Local nominee proposed, IN to submit.
- e) Forest Land Scotland – **Forest Road access Priest Hill** carpark complaints. A number received from Carers attending as well as members of the public re the state of the road. FLS advise waiting on heavy gear to sort.

8) Public forum/Community issues/AOB

- a) **Telfords route changes** to the 127a (Village to Carlisle) Covid subsidy withdrawn from Mar 31st, significantly reduced passenger numbers. Telfords reconfigured services so that nothing of significance lost based on their knowledge of usage. **Summary of changes:** 07:55 Carlisle – Newcastleton (mostly a positioning journey, withdrawn) 16:05 Newcastleton – Canonbie / Moat (Withdrawn). Journeys used commonly by workers maintained. Alteration to accommodate shift workers from Newcastleton working at McVitie. Service retimed Monday to Friday to connect with the X95 in Canonbie at 07:31 to have a through connection from Newcastleton – Carlisle. CC acknowledged that the community was lucky to have a local committed provider who knows what is needed and can structure a service to meet this within the funding available.
- b) **Flower beds** in playpark decaying and damaged. Need to be removed as well as in Douglas Square. Copshaw Gardeners had been unsuccessful in recruiting new volunteers. SBC would be asked for help to remove them safely and grass over where appropriate.
- c) **Battery collection** – would be investigated. IN to report back
- d) **Dog poo bins** requested to be placed at Pathhead bridge side near village sign.
- e) **C2C road route** announced ahead of July launch.
- f) **Village signage** needed to be cleared – community service request to do this.

There was no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8:39pm.