

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held 17 August 2020

Via Zoom due to Covid-19 Restrictions

- Present** Simon Edwards (Chairman), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Nick Shapowal (Treasurer), Andrew Beveridge, Chris Lewin, Rosalind Birchall and SBC Councillor Eric Small
- 01.08.20** **Apologies**
Emma Reid, Penny Wedderburn Scott, SBC Councillor Heather Anderson
- 02.08.20** **Minutes from last Meeting (held 20 July 2020 via Zoom)**
The Minutes were agreed.
- 03.08.20** **Matters Arising from previous minutes (via Email)**
No matters arising.
- 04.08.20** **UTCC Accounts to 31 March, 20**
The Chair, as temporary Treasurer, informed the meeting that Sign Off of the accounts had been completed as at the end of March 2020, these having previously been emailed to all committee members. The Chairman will ask Arthur Lucas to audit the accounts, they can then be handed over to Nick Shapowal as the new Treasurer. The chair also confirmed, new signatories transferred but correspondence addressees still to be adjusted. The UTCC has received £300 in compensation from the bank and all agreed 'well done' to Simon for finally resolving the matter. Extra signatories and Internet banking will be addressed when things are 'back to normal'.
- 05.08.20** **King George V Playing Field – Wood Area**
Nick and Simon had a meeting with Neil Pringle from Scottish Borders Council. The council have said they do not own the field, Fields in Trust, as the guardians, disagree and have said the Council must give permission for the erection of any new fencing. Neil Pringle will supply quotes. Two ideas, one is to fence all the way round the field side of the wood, second is to fence the burn side of the wood. Concerns were raised about both ideas. It was agreed it was not our decision but for whoever owns the field, the matter was left undecided. Neil Pringle has agreed that the dead wood could be cleared to make the path more accessible plus an area for picnic tables. -Andrew Dunlop has agreed to take the wood. Neil Pringle had questioned the purpose of the wood area and Nick raised the issue of safety for children and the requirement for gates for runners, and there were concerns over costs, which it was agreed, could be mitigated if we were eligible for a Small Scheme Grant or a grant from the Wind Farms. To avoid costs for the clearing Nick suggested we could organise working parties from the community, he also mentioned the survey Emma had had done from Mack at Dawyck regarding the tree species. Following a comprehensive discussion the chair summarised as follows:
1. Neil Pringle to give us costs for fencing
 2. Community work party to clear the dead wood (to be kept to three hours)
 3. Confirm the purpose, as contained in the vision for Broughton; a village BBQ site, picnic tables and benches, to restore the area, Fiona Pagett's idea of an Adult Fitness Gym but overall to enhance the area and increase use.

- 06.08.20** **Planning Applications (via Email)**
The chair confirmed only one, Stirkfield Farm for a Conservatory, no reason to object.
- 07.08.20** **Microgrants (via Email)**
The Chair reported that none had been received. However, Shirley Kay had informed the Chair that her son, Warren, for whom she had applied for a microgrant of £250 in February, having turned to the school as advised for extra support with physics tuition, had passed his exam and was delighted with the result.
- 08.08.20** **Police Report**
Nil received but the Chair reported there has been a Quad bike theft in Penicuik plus that Andrew Dunlop of Corstane Farm had noticed a drone above his farm which he had subsequently reported. Stephanie made the meeting aware that there had been a significant increase in dog thefts in rural areas with puppy farmers taking advantage of the increase in demand for puppies and dogs during lockdown and advised those with dogs to be vigilant. Nick reported the theft of hens that had been stolen and then abandoned on the road, the owners were found and the hens returned.
- 09.08.20** **Any Other Business**
Kirsty Hughes. The chair reported that Kirsty Hughes had been accepted at St Margaret's University and so will be stepping down from the UTCC. Simon said he would write and thank her for all her hard work on the committee, congratulate her on her university place and also let her know that if she required a reference he would be happy to supply one.
Noticeboard near School. Maryanne Jenkins of the school would like to know if she is permitted to put school notices on the Noticeboard nearest the school. Chris advised that this noticeboard held a very useful OS map of the area for tourists but it was suggested it would just be a temporary arrangement during the period covering the current pandemic. The chair said that this would need to be looked into as he felt sure it was locked but nevertheless required some TLC.
Schools. Eric reported that the schools had gone back and all appeared to be going according to plan with the new arrangements
Bottle bank potholes. Andrew informed the meeting the potholes have been filled in.
- 10.08.20** **Date of next Meeting – 7pm, Monday 21 September 20, IN PERSON at Drumelzier Village Hall, under Covid-19 Scottish Government Guidelines for meetings**
The committee all agreed that we could now move to having meetings in person and it was suggested Drumelzier Village Hall would be a suitable location and able to accommodate the meeting under Scottish Government Covid-19 Guidelines. Face coverings required and Social Distancing.