UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held 20th April 2020

Via Zoom due to Covid-19 Restrictions

**Present** Simon Edwards (Chairman), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Nick Shapowal, Andrew Beveridge, Chris Lewin and Rosalind Birchall

**01.04.20 Apologies**Emma Reid, Penny Wedderburn Scott, Kirsty Hughes, Councillors Heather Anderson and Eric Small

**02.04.20 Finance**The Chair opened the meeting welcoming those on-line to the Zoom meeting explaining that the order of matters would necessarily be different during Lockdown and that he had issued a number of emails which would continue to be the main method used for matters to be progressed. Under this item the Chair detailed his handling of the accounts since the resignation of the Treasurer expressing again that nothing further could be done till the Bank process had been completed which he had been advised would take 3 months (currently we are 2 months in). He then handed over to Chris Lewin, who recently responded in detail via email, having concerns regarding the accounts in particular the number of signatories and how the accounts were being managed. Following a thorough discussion it was agreed that the UTCC would have 3 authorised signatories for the accounts namely, Nick Shapowal, Rosalind Birchall and Stephanie Jackman with the requirement of any two of the three to count at any one time. It was further agreed that Nick Shapowal would take up the role of Treasurer.

The Chair continued, expressing that Resilient Communities was proving a considerable workload at the moment and previously monies for this had been held together with the UTCC funds but that he would be opening a separate account for this now. He further informed the meeting that Phase 1, as he was calling it, of the NHS Shielding Letters had gone out and due to a number being missed off there would no doubt be a Phase 2 and possibly a Phase 3. Chris Lewin asked about monies received from SBC to support communities and the Chair explained that £1,000 had been paid under Covid-19 for the ‘immediate relief of people in need, that a further £1,000 had been received from SSE Wind Farm grant also but to support the Resilient Communities piece and that the Bridge had offered further monies with the Chair receiving £300 in support of his request, giving a total of £2,300 received towards supporting our Community (£1,000 UTCC and £1,300 Resilient Communities). It was agreed in principle that this would be paid to the Shop and then monies paid to Resilient Communities as applicable. It was further acknowledged that monies for Resilient Communities were additionally used to cover wider events such issues surrounding bad weather (equipment, filling of grit bins etc).

The Chair commented that there was significant information for Communities on the SBC website including what support was available for all those affected, either through health or an inability to work, from the Community Assistance Hubs, remarking that it appeared there had not been much take up from our Community although he was quite sure we had vulnerable people in the area. Community Assistance Hubs been advertised via Radio and social media. He felt this needed to be communicated better to ensure people knew about it and started to register for support.

A thorough discussion was then had regarding the distribution of funds to those in need and it was agreed by all to utilise the Shop Card system. £20 would be put on to a Shop Card and could be used to purchase essential items (less alcohol and cigarettes) and would be issued to all those who applied. The scheme will be advertised widely and via social media and would be handled discreetly. (After Meeting Note: Advertising of the Support Scheme has been done via social media).

**03.04.20 AGM Nomination Process**The Chair explained that it was likely the AGM would be held via Zoom which was open to all including the public and that all matters leading up to the AGM including the Nomination process would need to be done via Email and this had been agreed by the Returning Officer, Julian Birchall. The Chair further informed the meeting that he would be sending out further information and the mechanics to be adhered to following the meeting and the lead and POC for this would be Chris Lewin.

*Post Meeting Note: In accordance with SBC and Scottish Government guidance received on the 23rd April, the AGM will be postponed until such time as a full public meeting can be held.*

**04.04.20 AOB**

**Fencing issue.** Nick advised the meeting of a problem arising from the state of the fencing at the back of the King George V Playing Fields which is in such a poor state of repair that ‘Benny’s’ Sheep are spilling onto the Playing Fields. It was discussed as to who owned the fields and what the UTCC could do about the issue to which Nick agreeing to do some investigation and report back via email.

(After Meeting Note: Nick has been able to establish from Fields in Trust that the KGV Playing Fields are now the responsibility of SBC but suggests he sends FIT photographs to see if they would be prepared to support a repair and dependent on the outcome an approach is made direct to SBC).

**Vote of Appreciation .** Chris Lewin wished it to be noted that the CC are extremely appreciative of all the hard work the Chair is currently doing towards supporting Resilient Communities during the current crisis.

**Supermarket Deliveries.** Nick stated that he had been made aware that in England Supermarkets were currently giving priority to those over the age of 70 in the allocation of their Delivery slots but this was not happening in Scotland. The Chair agreed to raise this with SBC but agreed that Supermarkets here were favouring those in the possession of a Shielding Letter.

**VE Day.** The Chair explained to the Committee that sadly the physical celebrations on 8 May had had to be cancelled (an alternate date being discussed is 15/16 August) but this significant event would not go unnoticed. The Pipes will be played by Alex Docker at 1500 hrs on Friday 8th May with a Commemorative Service broadcast on Sunday, 10th May on the Parishes of UT Churches Website.

**Date of Next Meeting**. After a discussion it was agreed that during Covid-19 short Zoom meetings would be held every fortnight. The next meeting will take place at 1900 hrs on Monday, 4 May, 2020. Invitations to be sent out by the Chair.