UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held 19th August 2019

In Drumelzier Village Hall

**Present** Simon Edwards (Chairman), Andrew Weston (Treasurer), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), David Campbell, Chris Lewin, Christopher Lambton, Emma Reid, Nick Shapowal, , Rosalind Birchall, Councillor Kris Chapman (SBC), Councillor Heather Anderson (SBC), plus one member of the public~~.~~

**01.08.19 Apologies:**Kirsty Hughes, Sally Walker, Andrew Beveridge, Penny Wedderburn Scott, Councillor Eric Small (SBC)

**02.08.19 Minutes from last Meeting (held 15th July 2019)**The minutes were agreed.

**03.08.19 Matters Arising from previous minutes**Transport Matters. Chris commented he had drafted the Bus Survey and sent to Kirsty but he had not had a response yet. The Chair agreed to send a reminder. The Chair also commented that he had written to Timothy Stephenson regarding the 1720 hrs Bus from Peebles requesting it to run at 1730 hrs in support of Education and the needs of Students, no reply received at yet.

**04.08.19 Community Plan**- 5’x 3’ Notice Board: Nick advised he had heard nothing to-date regarding his request for quotes having submitted the dimensions and Chris informed the meeting he had sent the Chair the information regarding commercially available Notice Boards.

 Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging points: Nick was thanked for his update and the meeting informed that Applications, taken annually, are now being looked at again. Councillor Kris commented that there had been a budget of £250k for charge points for this year and with this budget now closed he was unaware of what it would be for next year, no further resource being made available this year. West Linton, Jedburgh and others had got in this year. The Chair commented that he had approached a landowner but not within the Broughton area and wondered if this mattered; he also asked the Councillors present if SBC might be able to identify some council land for us to locate Charging points on but Councillor Heather confirmed that there was no SBC Car Charging Plan but that she was keen there should be one as felt this was exactly what SBC should be investing in. Nick stated he was not particularly keen on the council providing a piece of land but would it not be possible for the village to purchase a suitable plot. Done through the Community via the Wind Farm funds, or by going direct to Scottish Power – Energy Savings Trust (EST) for support. There was then a discussion regarding the type of Charger that should be purchased with Dominic Ashmore telling of his own excellent experience of travelling from one Rapid Charge to another whilst on holiday but that they were the most expensive, costs somewhere in the region of £20k - £40k for a 30w charger. Nick expressed that we should be going for the slow charging type drawing people to the village and keep them there for a while to use the facilities. These cost in the region of £2k to £3k for a 7 kw charger. The meeting then heard again how the Trustees of the Village Hall were not keen to have EV Charging points in the Car Park despite being an ideal location. Andrew suggested by the Public Toilets might be a good place and a discussion ensued regarding a number of locations, outside of the playing fields and Dreva Road were both mentioned. Councillor Heather suggested EST would help locate a suitable site and finance not such an issue if via the Trust. Heather also suggested that we should invite EST to come to a meeting to discuss the whole matter and also invite Committee Members from the Village Hall to the same meeting to encourage consideration of options for the village. She would be happy to write to the Hall Trustees. Nick confirmed with Councillor Kris that he had received the list of Chargers and types of Cars that he had sent through and Kris went on to confirm that Broughton would be looked at in next year’s round of funding. Dominique kindly informed the meeting that Peebles have a Rapid Charger located at the former Council Offices.

 Community Website: The Chair thanked and congratulated Emma as Chris Lewin informed the meeting that she had sorted a number of issues. Emma asked that more information be provided to put on the site itself and Chris expressed that he was more than happy to make a start with historical information, local society details etc but it really required someone to gather the information that we might want to be seen on the website and add it. The Chair agreed to send a notice to local Societies but other information was required such as local Walks that Sal and Stephanie were looking at plus a ‘blog’ about the History of the Village which it was agreed would be good but there might be a copyright issue.

 Drop In Club: To be taken as an Agenda Item.

**05.08.19 BT Adopt a Kiosk Scheme.**

The Chair informed the meeting that he had applied for two in Broughton; BT had responded that the one at the School can only be used to house a Defibrillator and the one at Dreva requires ‘a change of use’ from SBCC who subsequently have confirmed they have no problem with this. The one at the school will have the power left on and be paid for. A further two kiosks are being adopted by Broughton in Bloom and Drumelzier in Bloom respectively. Chris felt one should be a Tourist Information Box and it was also commented that the Drumelzier Box should contain a Defibrillator. Furthermore despite being older if looked after these kiosks should cause no problem although the Drumelzier one already requires a refresh. Rosalind asked whether the boxes were ‘listed’ and the Chair commented we were saving BT £6K in decommissioning costs. There was also a question as to whether the kiosks could be done up to which the Chair confirmed they could be once we are notified they have been transferred. All were reminded that we are taking on the responsibility of keeping them ‘Safe’ and David commented they could be ‘quite a job’ to fix. It was also questioned as to whether the Drumelzier Hall insurance would include the Defibrillator if it was housed in the kiosk.

**06.08.19** **Broughton Bonfire & Fireworks**.

 The Chair informed the meting that there had been considerable correspondence on this matter. To-date permission has been given to hold the event in the field behind the Village Hall; the Event Plan is required at least two weeks prior and he stated guidance on this can be found on the SBC Website; the public liability insurance is in place and Andrew confirmed ‘Zurich’ have said we are covered for everything, all eventualities, with the £195.46 paid, but what is still required is an Accredited First Aid Body to be on site during the event. It was asked if the Members of the Moffat Mountain Rescue, who have been used before, count as an Accredited Body; Dave said he would take an action to look into this. The Chair continued to explain that construction for the event can only start the weekend before and it must all be cleared up by the weekend afterwards. He also advised that Scottish Power Energy Networks are commencing works in the area and two poles in the ‘Bonfire’ field need replacing which will result in the site of the bonfire to be changed. Disclaimer notices would also need to be put at the entrance to the Car Park due to concern about public proximity to the Scottish Power works. The Chair continued that he had had 16 people get in touch with concerns about the event, regarding the burning of tyres, a veiled threat to inform SEPA, complaints about impending noise, that there was poor separation and lack of control last year. The Police had also been in touch asking for the Bonfire position to be moved to avoid impact on the road behind. A considerable discussion ensued regarding the whole event, in particular the fact that the UTCC would be purchasing the Insurance and is the Committee happy we can comply with all aspects of the Insurance. Dave reminded the meeting that last year the Bonfire was ‘crowd’ funded as the Committee refused to pay for it as it did not want to take responsibility for the event. He also informed the meeting that he had monies left over from last year and that this year there would be ‘Marshalling’. Dominic Ashmore commented that it was a really lovely Village event. It was in the end generally agreed, and further commented on by Councillor Heather, that the Committee really did need to take responsibility. Chris also made reference to the Soup and Sandwiches that were laid on last year in the Hall, which requires better organising if happening this year.

To move this on it was agreed that Dave would brief on his plan for the event at next month’s meeting and the individual Committee members would read the Insurance Document which the Chair would circulate so that all could be satisfied we can comply.

**07.08.19** **Community Speed Watch**.

Following a ‘near miss’ outside the Shop recently, the Chair questioned whether we wanted to continue moving forward with the Scheme and should a public meeting be held. Andrew made the meeting aware he was not happy regarding the Police attitude towards their responsibility for the scheme, explaining that there was too much being passed to the Community and that the police should be doing much of the work and taking full responsibility. He also mentioned about the use of ‘cut-out’ life sized photographs of a Policeman with a Camera and that we should get permission to put these up in the Village. The Chair was still keen to push for more of the Flashing Signs, he also said the Police had put rubber strips near the War Memorial demonstrating they were doing something. Emma commented that the ‘30’ sign on the south side of the village did not work well and that the one outside the School didn’t work at all.

Councillor Heather asked the meeting if there was general dissatisfaction with the Scheme’s process and should she be writing with our concerns. The meeting was informed that a significant amount of funding was involved for the equipment and clothing; that a team of 12 volunteers had to be found and that the kit would need to be collected from Peebles and returned which amounted to a considerable amount of effort for all involved. In addition although it was the Community who wanted to assist the Police there appeared to be an expectation that the Community would do all the work. It was therefore generally agreed we might be better spending the money on flashing signs. Dave asked if we should get a Camera installed and Councillor Kris informed the meeting that a report was going to the SBC Committee to effect Community Councils ability to buy flashing signs and that he could also request a Speed Monitoring Report. Andrew also said he would email Councillor Kris as he had a concern the Speed Camera Van cannot position itself properly and Councillor Kris agreed to look into this to find some evidence.

**08.08.19 Broughton Bite and Blether.**

Emma reported that she had visited Eddleston’s version of Bite and Blether and shared with the members how they run it. She has also been in contact with the Environmental Health officer, Shaun Walsh, and confirmed it was easy to get started just needed to find volunteers to support it. Furthermore the questionnaire had been compiled and having been kindly adjusted by Chris was now ready to go. Emma also reported the Hall could be hired for £8/ hour and was dependent on how much of it was used. It was agreed that £2.50 was a sensible contribution to ask from attendees. Eddleston has been going for 4 years and have a cut off of 30. Chris felt there would be demand but how much was yet to be seen. It was also suggested the event should be held frequently, once a week but with Emma siting the need for 21 volunteers Rosalind offered that potentially Skirling’s lunch club at once a month would be more what we could do. It was also made clear to the meeting we would be donating not selling food. Following a discussion it was agreed that questionnaires would be leaflet dropped out but a box would be made available in the Shop for them to be returned.

**09.08.19 Review of Polling Districts.**

No comments**.**

**10.08.19 Planning Applications**.

Hartree House – all agreed the plans were fine, no issues

The Chair briefed the meeting that he had written to SBC asking for Training relating to Planning Applications and the role of Community Councils in them suggesting we host an event that others could attend but had not as yet had a response.

The Chair further advised that the new housing proposed for Broughton he felt could well cause major issues with traffic on the Dreva Road, the 701 and in the area opposite the shop.

**11.08.19 Microgrants**
There were no Microgrant applications to consider.

 Following a request to see the Audited Community Council Accounts the Chair confirmed he had received them from Andrew and would scan in order to send round.

**12.08.19 Shop Report**Christopher Lambton briefed the meeting that it was anticipated that Newspapers would be in the job by 1 Sep 19; plus there would soon be a Coffee Machine for take away coffee and Hot pies available. He was a little disappointed that out of the 330 emails he had circulated he had had only 13 back in response including one complaint (shop had been closed). All those who currently get their Newspapers from Hamilton’s should settle their bills there and can then start at the village shop with effect from 1 September.

**13.08.19 Police Report**
None received.
Councillor Heather advised the meeting that she had requested that a generic monthly report be produced by the Police for all the Community Councils as this was yet another month without a report. The Police had responded that they were looking at it but were short of staff so could not generate one at the moment.

Andrew asked the question regarding the increase in smaller events such as cycling and the like and did they not need licences. Councillor Kris replied that he did not know the legislation concerning small events.

**14.08.19 SBC Report**.

Councillor Kris reported that the Council were now back after the holidays and were in the midst of the Budget process. There was to be an Executive meeting tomorrow (20th August) but that everything was hinged around BREXIT and all plans could be blown apart. There is to be a internal Briefing in September. SBC concerns were surrounding a No Deal BREXIT especially with regard to policies on travel, medicines, the food supply chain, Care Homes etc. Although BREXIT was not a direct Council matter he advised there is a need to mitigate with a local BREXIT Committee.

 On the matter of Car Charging Points Councillor Kris advised he had submitted details; and regarding the Footpath issue the Council would see to that.

**15.08.19 AOB**

 Merlindale Bridge. The Chair reported that with the current works on the Bridge there is considerable disruption to the buses and this will continue in particular over the period 3 – 17 September. BARC Travel are providing a free taxi service but there is a minimum of 1 hour Notice to be given. It was questioned whether this was a Pick Up and Drop Off service on route or something else as it appears quite confusing. Could the Councillors please provide clarification? Chris pointed out that this was the sort of information that should be to immediate hand on the Website.

 Rosalind raised the issue of the height of the hedge on the main road junction of the A701 and the Drumelzier road. The hedge is so high you could not see at all. Councillor Kris took a note but spoke of the ‘High Hedges Legislation’. It was stated that Jim Warnoch owned the land there and the Chair said that Gus Swan did the hedge cutting and that he would get in touch with him.

 30 mile/ hour Stickers for Bins. It was questioned as to what was happening with the stickers Andrew said he had been waiting for the Chair to give the go ahead, the Chair stated he was happy they could now be deployed, 12 on each side of the road, one on the Blue Bin and one on the Grey (in line with what West Linton are doing).

 VE Day. The Chair told the meting that Andrew Beveridge and he would be attending the meeting being held at the School to discuss the format of the celebrations to mark VE Day. He also advised that Friday 8th May 2020 was a Public Holiday. Councillor Heather noted this was for Broughton, Bananas and Newlands Schools.

 Meeting Schedule. The Chair announced that meetings of the UTCC would now be held every month bar December. The April and August meetings will be held in Drumelzier Village Hall.

 The Laurel Bank Tea Room. Christopher reported that the Tea room was on the market now and that he had had a whisper of a Community buy out. The Tea Room would close on 1 October and that if there is interest the Scottish Land Fund might be of interest.

 Play Park Upgrade. Dave asked about the upgrade of the play park. Nic informed the meeting that the King George Vth Memorial Fields were a living memorial, people gave land and so the fields are in trust. It is thought that a grant was given to the Council to own as they were made guardians of the Fields. Councillor Heather thought not. It was also reported that the Bio Diversity Fence was non-existent. Dave reported that the school had put in an application to the Wind Farm for some new equipment for the play park.

 **Date of Next Meeting**. The next meeting will be held on 16 September 2019 in Broughton Village Hall.