

UPPER TWEED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held 15 March 2021

Via Zoom due to Covid-19 Restrictions

- Present** Simon Edwards (Chairman), Stephanie Jackman (Secretary), Andrew Beveridge, Chris Lewin, Rosalind Birchall, Nick Shapowal and Christopher Lambton, Councillors Heather Anderson SBC and Eric Small SBC
- 01.03.21 Apologies**  
Penny Wedderburn Scott
- 02.03.21 Minutes from last Meeting (held 15 February 2020 via Zoom). Comments by email in advance.**  
The Minutes were agreed.
- 03.03.21 Matters Arising from previous minutes (via Email)**  
Nil.
- 04.03.21 Planning Applications**  
The Chair informed the meeting of one application, the Mill at Kilbucho to which there were no comments; there had been a further application for Manavale submitted, then subsequently withdrawn. A further application was discussed, Rachan Farm House owned by the Warnock Family which had been refused by Council Planners. Chris Lewin commented that this was interesting as the reason cited was that it was not considered to be part of an existing building group and the development would thereby lay the way open to development of the field with a 'potential sense of place' for other dwellings.
- 05.03.21 Microgrants**  
No new applications have been received. The Chair informed the meeting that Broughton Primary School Parent Council were delighted with the £250 they had received for development of their Polytunnel and associated projects. The Chair further reported that we had received £2000 from Glenkerie Windfarm for our Covid Support Fund. We had been offered £4000 but the Chair thought to commence modestly, it had also been advised that there were less restrictions to be applied to its use. It was then suggested that once we had advertised the fact we now had additional monies for the Community we could look to going back for the additional funds. The Chair advised that the maximum amount for Microgrants was to be raised to £500 from the current £250 and there was a move to widen the scope for Microgrants, even to include Driving lessons. It was agreed this would be more useful to people and if greater funds still were required, applicants should be encouraged to go for a full application rather than a Microgrant. Chris Lewin agreed to draft a notice and put it onto the Facebook page and Website. The Chair then told the meeting that the Glenkerie accounts were now 'sorted' although he was still to approach SSE about getting to a position of 'auto top-ups' with our funding. On the matter of funding Andrew Beveridge made the meeting aware of monies available through Land Trust for Scotland, for practical training for women in Rural Scotland to develop particular land skills and talent in this area. Details would be circulated.

**06.02.21                      Police Report – emailed out 8 March 21**

There were no comments raised.

**07.03.21                      Treasurer's Report**

A new standing Agenda item, the Chair appraised the meeting of where we currently are with our UTCC accounts that comprise five ring-fenced funds. The UTCC Fund itself was a 'bus' fund up until December 2017 when it paid for the last bus, funding two buses, from then the costs were met from General Funds. If this project goes ahead again we can put a sum of money aside, also for such things as the Fireworks, if insurance is attained once again, or for Village Hall bookings and such like, to be operated as a 'General Purpose' fund. The Chair also reported that the figures as published will not now change as at 31<sup>st</sup> March for the year end. Rosalind Birchell then asked if we had decided what to do with our Covid Support Funds suggesting some could go towards a Taxi Service as this was not really running. Other suggestions had been Hand Sanitiser and Face Masks but Councillor Heather SBC informed the meeting that monies were available for these things. A discussion as to how best to use the funds ensued and it was agreed some monies should go to the Shop for the Welfare Fund rather than the shop asking for people to donate, if folk would like to donate we should point them in the direction of any number of Charities who are in much need of funds at the moment.

At this point the Chair raised the matter of the UTCC's Constitution discussed previously, in that we shall shortly need to hold an Extra Ordinary Meeting to approve the additional words agreed to be included regarding holding our meetings on Zoom and suggested it could be either at the start or at the end of one of our Ordinary Monthly Meetings. The Chair agreed to send out details.

**08.03.21                      SBC Councillors' Report**

Councillors Eric and Heather had two points of note, this coming Friday, 19<sup>th</sup>, was Budget Day for the Council and today had been the Planning Review Meeting. At the Planning meeting the only items of note was first, Winnie Brae, Skirling, a property outwith the local Development Plan and a Greenfield site, the application went against planning policies but when it came to a vote it was a very close call although it was rejected in the end; secondly, the application for Slipperfield Quarry where it was agreed there would be a Public Meeting organised. This application is being taken very seriously and has become high profile due to the proximity of a pipeline and potential security risk. Any comments on the impact of the Quarry on the local area should go to Graham Tulloch by 22 March in order for him to hold a Public Meeting. The application has to go to Planning Committee, the earliest one it could go to would be the June meeting. Regarding the Budget, fully costed budgets were submitted, 5 amendments were proposed and now being discussed with Administration.

**09.03.21                      Any Other Business**

**Tweeddale Area Partnership:** The Chair raised the matter of the planned meeting at the end of the month as proposed by Robin Tattler in his email regarding the review of CCs; a representative plus a sub from the Committee should attend. We can nominate someone as the sub.

**Old Laptop Donations:** The Chair made mention of Joe Furman from the Newlands Centre who is looking for donations of old laptops, tablets and the like that can be refurbished. The Chair agreed to put a note out on Facebook and had hesitated to do so in case of a conflict of interest with another organisation.

**20mph Speed Limit:** The Chair advised that it had been reported to him that the

statistics were showing the overall speed through the village had reduced since the 20mph speed limit was introduced although he had already queried this.

**Bank of Scotland Account:** The Chair advised that his application to have the Secretary and Rosalind Birchall as signatories on the Bank Account had failed as he had been notified he need to make a full application not a part application which he agreed to take an action this week to do.

**Covid Vaccinations:** The Treasurer made the meeting aware of a discussion he had seen on the Facebook page regarding where responsibility lay for ensuring people received notification of their appointment for the Covid jab as it would appear that some people have fallen through 'the net' between Scottish Borders and Lanarkshire. The Chair suggested those unsure should ring the Covid hotline number but he had been assured any issues were now sorted.

**EU Citizenship:** Chris Lewin brought attention to the Deadline date for EU Citizens to receive settled status in the UK which has been announced as 30 June. He reported that the application is free and would make mention of this date on the Facebook page and Website.

**Potholes:** Councillor Heather Anderson told the committee that Peebles CC had reported 2159 potholes in their roads from 14 Feb to date!

**Introduction to CCs for Community Councillors:** The Secretary told the meeting that she had received a number of copies of the booklet, Introduction to CCs for Community Councillors, prepared by the Berwickshire CC Forum. She would scan the document and email out to everyone plus drop off the hard copies with the Chair at his home for the Committee to collect as they wished. The Secretary also suggested that the contents of the booklet might be discussed at the next meeting.

**Dog Poo:** Finally the Chair had to report that he had been made aware that incidents of Dog excrement found on the pavement round Broughton were once again becoming an issue.

**10.03.21**

**Date of next Meeting – 7pm, Monday, 19 April, 2021, via Zoom.**