

**Newcastleton & District Community Council**  
**Minutes of ORDINARY MEETING**  
**Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm Village Hall**

**Present:** Scott Wilson, Barbara Elborn, Shaun Turnbull, Joan Robson, Greg Cuthbert, Gordon Steel, Ian Nichol, Margaret Elliot, Adrian Downey, Lyndsay Patterson, Gary Cuthbert, SBC Councillors Davie Paterson, George Turnbull, Watson McAteer, Rachel Norris. 2 members of public

**Apologies:** Laura Paterson, PC Allan Patterson

1. **Police report March:** Call to B6399 regarding a car which had gone off road into burn near to Whitrope. Vehicle traced it was the red Micra reported in suspicious circumstances in South Liddle Street in last month's report. Driver had left the scene and did not report the incident, vehicle was recovered by Police due to possible pollution issues in burn, when traced cautioned and charged with road traffic offences. Report of an abandoned vehicle near to Singdean, traced and all was in order. Report of persons being assaulted in Montagu Street/School playground, as result of enquiries a male has been cautioned and charged with two assaults, and a report submitted to Procurator Fiscal. **APRIL:** Report of personal documents having been stolen/gone missing from address in the village, on attendance documents were traced and all was in order. Report of single vehicle accident on B6399 near to Shankend, vehicle skidded on black ice, no injury no further Police involvement. Theft of Scrap metal from outside a container at Holme Foot, vehicle registration passed and is from Newcastle, I had stopped the same vehicle the previous day in the village and noted details of the operator/driver, he was informed that he could not uplift scrap in Scotland without a license, obviously he took a lot of notice, enough evidence to carry out follow up enquiries with Northumbria.

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting (Mar 2018)** were accepted as a true record of the meeting, proposed by GC seconded by SW

2. **Matters arising:**

- a. **Flooding update** Gail Donald/SEPA had provided a summary report detailing the process undertaken ref flood warning signals. The flood which occurred on Jan 24<sup>th</sup> (show field highest ever) had still not been reviewed but would be addressed as part of the next meeting to review the proposed flood prevention plan for the village expected to be late summer. River bank planting/Whithaugh side – this was reviewed with Duncan Morrison/SBC Flood team who was unaware that the planting had taken place and would investigate this as part of the new flood models to ensure that it was helping and not hindering any flood prevention measures now and, in the future. This would also be reviewed again in the summer.

Although not in the NDCC catchment the banking at Hartsgarth and at various parts between the village and Hawick was being badly eroded with gravel shifting. Hartsgarth had been particularly badly impacted over the winter with powerlines damaged. A meeting with a Gail Donald and Duncan Morrison would be requested to walk the banking to assess what could be done.

It was also noted that a further tracking station should be included in the flood prevention planning on the Liddel Water further up the valley. SEPA had explained previously about the expense of monitoring a new station but the CC felt this should be considered as part of the development planning. This would be raised in the summer meeting,

- b. **Ettleton Cemetery** – further investigation to identify the source of the water was required. This had been volunteered by the local SBC team, but permissions needed to be sought. The CC would pursue and report back.

- c. **Street ownership** – Cllrs would seek update given request was Nov 2017
  - d. **Douglas Square/ War Memorial clean up and road markings north/south village** – no progress given weather but would remain on agenda until concluded
  - e. **Localities bid fund** – Copshaw Cutters bid had been successful which was welcome, but the CC still had major reservations regarding the process, budget spent promoting and officers time spent managing by SBC. Members and the community were encouraged to respond to the questionnaire so that lessons could be adopted for future rounds <https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/>
  - f. **Buccleuch Estates** meeting to be re-scheduled for May or June focus on tree planting issues.
  - g. **Timer lorry survey** would now be conducted using the CCTV on the forecourt which captured all traffic to/fro the site.
  - h. **Nursery equipment update** – feedback from the school indicated that progress was underway which was welcomed. A meeting scheduled with the school would cover this and other challenges.
  - i. **Community Empowerment/SBC Community Council Network/Local Area Partnership** format. Views were sought from Cllrs as to their position on the new format and the apparent disdain that SBC officers gave to the concerns raised by the CCN regarding the structure and the format of the new Area Partnership meetings; no matters other than those decided by SBC could be debated or discussed in the new format. The new format was felt to be completely contrary to the spirit of new Community empowerment act and considered a detrimental step in community engagement in the Borders. Decisions regarding funding, road budgets, policing, fire service, education and other social service issues were now no longer discussed. With only 5 meetings per year instead of 12 this gave no opportunity for CC's to discuss matters important to them which was cause of major concern to CC's who valued the opportunity to debate and challenge SBC on decisions. Cllrs advised that they were unaware of the level of concerns felt by the collective of CC and that they were also concerned about the new format. It was acknowledged that the focus of the meetings (each element of the locality plan) were important but that time was also needed to debate key issues of community concern. Cllrs would seek clarity from SBC officers as to what process and steps were being taken to address community concerns.
  - j. **School bus/HHS** – parents were still seeking clarity on what might happen to students now going to Langholm ref their travel arrangements. Cllrs advised the CC to write to Donna Manson for clarity.
  - k. **Mobile Mast feedback** – clarity regarding commercial platforms of the new masts was still sought as this was expected as a condition of the planning being granted. Cllrs to investigate and report back
3. **Planning** - Application for new anemometer mast at Windy Edge 18/00253/Full, no objections
4. **Public Forum/Community issues**
- a. **No8/youth funding** – Cllrs still to respond with details on future funding of youth programs in the community. The CC stressed the importance of these given that we now had local youth workers who had engaged with the community children and it was important that this work did not stop.

- b. **Public toilets** – letter read out complaining about maintenance of gent’s facilities. Cllrs required to chase report from SBC as well as report poor presentation of facilities locally.
- c. **Traffic Calming measures** currently in village and welcomed. CC will write to SBC advising how impactful these have been and request permanent placement of facility.
- d. **Pot holes** – repairs to B6399 welcomed BUT damage had occurred to drains with new kerbing causing water to flow right across the new surface which would undo all the good work if not rectified. It had been reported Greg to follow up. Further reports of potholes recorded at Whitchester Lane, Henry Street.
- e. **Bottle bank** – had been cleared fully but was immediately covered in loose bottles which looked like they had been dumped from a skip or large bin. Members of the public and businesses who use this facility are reminded that it is currently a free service to place bottles in the skips BUT if it is abused and contractors or local workers forced to clear up after abuse, this will likely be reviewed.
- f. **Drinking Water** – unfortunately the CC was not able to challenge Scottish Water about the taste of the local supply. This was their domain and regularly checked. Individuals should take this up directly with SW

## 5 Correspondence

- a. Consultation seeking views on the update of The Licensing (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 received
  - b. Approved draft rules regulating the functioning of libraries; the online consultation can be found at <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/librariesconsultation>
  - c. Milesmark & Baldrige Community Council, Dunfermline Wildlife Information Leaflet and Poster which aims to encourage local people to help Wildlife.
  - d. B6357 Newcastleton to Canonbie Road letter from D&G, there will be further closures once they announce their workplans
  - e. The Health and Social Care Partnership consultation on the Scottish Borders Physical Disability Strategy, A Fairer Borders for People with a Physical Disability or Long-Term Condition and their Carers: Draft Strategy, Easy Read and Online Survey can be found on this web page. [www.scotborders.gov.uk/physicaldisability](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/physicaldisability)
  - f. Meeting with Rachel Hamilton MSP ref Community Challenges April 27<sup>th</sup> 1pm
6. **Teviot & Liddesdale Area Locality Committee Meeting April 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 Hawick Town Hall theme: Our Economy, Skills and Learning, all welcome**
7. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday May 8<sup>th</sup> 7pm village Hall.