

Newcastleton & District Community Council
Minutes of ORDINARY MEETING
Tuesday June 12th @ 7:00 pm Village Hall

Present: Scott Wilson, Laura Paterson, Barbara Elborn, Joan Robson, Greg Cuthbert, Ian Nichol, Gordon Steel, Lyndsay Patterson. SBC Councillors Davie Paterson, George Turnbull, Watson McAteer, 2 members of public

Apologies: PC Allan Patterson, Gary Cuthbert, Shaun Turnbull, Margaret Elliot, Adrian Downey,

POLICE REPORT

MAY - Alarm call to Redheugh, key holder was contacted and had attended, all was in order, NO Police attendance. Alarm call to Newcastleton Health Centre, Police cancelled prior to attending, all was in order, system had been activated accidentally. Single vehicle accident involving a motorbike on the B6357 near to Saughtree, rider suffered minor injuries and was taken to Hospital by Ambulance Service. Call to a juvenile having been assaulted at play park, enquiries are still ongoing. Issues with resident of Moss place throwing an item into Caravan Park and wandering around site at night. Hellimed attended to an injured Horse Rider, no Police notified but were not required to attend. Call regarding two youths drinking within the park and throwing bottles. One vehicle motorcycle accident at cattle grid near to Saughtree, minor injuries to rider. Reported dispute between neighbours, attended and spoke to those involved, currently with Council mediation officer.

JUNE - Old WW2 mortar shell found near to Twislehope, Army disposal unit attended and carried out a controlled explosion.

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

2. Matters arising:

- a. Eildon Housing – positive meeting. Actions need following up. Minutes to be circulated and response requested.
- b. **Flooding update SEPA – Consultation submission sent**
Concerns persist that the Lakes need attention, and this will lapse again with no actions taken before any meeting/feedback on consultation. SBC team to be contracted to pressure Buccleuch Estates in to action to resolve before autumn winter period.
- a. **Small Schemes – Ettleton Cemetery** site progress duet o internment planned works delayed but will be actioned asap thereafter.
- b. **Douglas Square/ War Memorial clean up** – works planned pre-Festival weekend, no reconnection required for water to the fountain.
- c. **Speeding measures - road markings north/south village** were now apparent so works expected imminently. SBC had confirmed that the community request for smiley face LED slow signs would be actioned.
- d. **Newcastleton School** – had received generous donation from Richard Henderson which would be used to create a STEM laboratory for the children. The CC congratulated him on his recent award in the Queens Birthday Honours of Companion of Honour a letter would be sent.
- e. **Meeting with Tracey Logan CESBC & Shona Haslam Leader SBC** - number subjects covered; Hawick High School/implication of transport for families and children because of local parents choosing Langholm Academy for their children. No.8/Youth funding – proposal now submitted, awaiting SBC response. Road closures; timing of this impacting on business and community. Development plan proposals. All agreed the meeting had been worthwhile and SBC undertook to respond to the CC on all issues raised.
- f. **School bus to Langholm update** D&G have agreed to take the 70-seater bus, BUT there are more than 70 pupils travelling. Those joining the bus at Canonbie will be collected via another service. This will operate for 1st weeks of term to see how things pan out. Fares will be published within 2/3 weeks, hopefully before the end of term. There will be an increase from last year, but we understand that parents are expecting this. They will be announced

once approved by D&G, and Transport Scotland. The community council wishes to thank Langholm Academy, Dumfries & Galloway Council and Telfords coaches for working with them to try to solve this situation. It is not finally concluded but a workable solution has been found to accommodate pupils in the short term. Parents are reminded that as they have chosen to place children at a school outside the catchment it is **THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO GET THEM TO/FRO SCHOOL**. If there is any blame to be attributed, it should be put at the door of HHS and not those trying to solve the mess that has left our children and families in this situation. The Community Council has done what it can to help village families we need to see how the arrangements pan out and hope for the best, we cannot do any more.

3. **PLANNING**

- a. Community Council Stakeholder event – feedback ref planning raised with SBC in this meeting were emailed; dark sky policy, forest extractions right to join the public highway protocols given impact on roads within our catchment, clarity on the rules governing planting on private and public estates as one has tougher rules than the other, what processes are in place to account for private planning in the flood prevention measures? The conservation status and why this continues to impact on homeowners when status was conferred as a planned village not the houses within the village.
- b. **18/00686/FUL** Change of use of land (optional locations) to site 2 No glamping units for holiday let Land North West, East & South East Flatt Farmhouse no objections
- c. **18/00693/FUL** Plot 2 Land South East Old Smithy Cottage Steele Road Newcastleton Scottish Borders Erection of dwelling house (change of house design previously approved 09/01307/AMC) no objections
- d. Invite to attend Pine Burns wind Farm Reporter visit; 14/6/18, no attendees.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM/COMMUNITY ISSUES**

- a. Grass cutting – SBC’s decision to cut every 20 days not 10 had impacted badly on areas of importance in the village. Cllrs were asked to request preference be given to both graveyards, the play park and all the squares to prioritise these sites for every 10 days. The volunteers were doing what they could but with no where to put cuttings this was an issue. Support was sought from SBC as to how this might be addressed. Local company contacted for help also.
- b. **Public toilets update** - would ask SBC for a meeting but it should be noted that the CC had absolutely no intention of taking over the running of the public toilets provision. Suggestions given to install payment for showers and a bike wash had not been listened implemented so little prospect of a positive outcome.
- c. **SoSEP/Borderlands** Response – submitted by NDCT and CC
- d. **CBR-** communities meeting feedback – CC members attending
- e. **Road Closures** – B6399 @ Saughtree Grain resurfacing was in action. SBC was asked for explanation as to why traffic lights had been installed on the Smiddy Brig and for how long these were to be in place. No notifications had been received.

Open questions

- a) Flowers for the square would be planted this year but not thereafter, community to fund
- b) Overgrown trees on Hawick road, landowner to be asked to cut down overhanging branches to the roadside as this was now considered hazardous.

5. **Correspondence**

- a. **Battles/ Great War fund** – Greg investigating
- b. **Democracy Matters Consultation** – local public services debate all asked to respond <https://www.ideas.gov.scot/local-governance-review/>
- c. CC had attended the **SBC CC Networks AGM**, nothing to report
- d. CC had responded to **digital skills resources** request from SBC – needed, will be included in the Buccleuch House upgrade

e. **Youth/travel** – SBC responded, no extended travel services envisaged, misunderstanding regarding the school bus ownership and usage. CC would write to SBC so that officers were aware that this is SORN'ed and was NEVER used.

f. Leaflets ref **National Park** and others for Buccleuch House.

6. Dates of forthcoming meetings:

July no meeting

Aug 14th AGM & ordinary meeting

Sept 11th Area Partnership meeting

Sept 18th CC ordinary meeting

Oct 16th CC ordinary meeting

Nov 13th CC ordinary meeting

Dec 11th CC ordinary meeting

7. AOB

Happy Holidays!