

Innerleithen and District Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held 3rd May 2021 via Zoom

Those present: George Brown, Jim Calder (Treasurer), Jackie Couchman (Minutes Secretary), Gordon Daly (Secretary), Daniel Davis Wood (joined at 7.30pm), Marshall Douglas (Chairman), Cllr Robin Tatler, Colin Williams

One member of the press was present

1. Apologies: Cllr Stuart Bell, Andy Weir

Absent: Cllr Shona Haslam

Marshall Douglas welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Scawd Law Wind Farm update: Colin joined the meeting briefly and remotely. The timescale for submitting the application had clearly slipped as it was expected to have been made by now. Marshall advised that the plans were to be submitted by June and that a Fred Olson representative had been invited to attend the June Community Council meeting as there would be further consultation once plans are in. There was no further news on potential community involvement at this stage.

Colin left the meeting at this point.

3. Public forum: there were no members of the public present wishing to raise any issues.

Overnight Motorhome provision: Marshall had received couple of objections in principle of motorhome parking provision next to the cemetery.

4. Minutes of last meeting and approval: proposed by Jim Calder and seconded by George Brown.

5. Notification of items of AOCB: two matters were raised, to be taken later on.

6. Matters arising from previous minutes:

Morningside lighting/parking/access: Pre-existing single yellow lines along Waverley Road had been partly refreshed, hampered by illegally parked vehicles. A number of vehicles were habitually and persistently parked along the road which was unlikely to change without enforcement. Cllr Robin Tatler has spoken to both the Community Action Team and the police in this regard, but no action has been taken. An appropriate lighting solution for the path running on from Morningside has now been found and once funding has been found it can be implemented.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to take up the issue of illegal parking with the Community Action Team again as enforcement is clearly needed. Cllr Robin Tatler to look into funding for the lighting via the Small Schemes Fund.

Neighbour dispute: Cllr Robin Tatler reported that a site meeting is to be held with the landowner, Second to None, to discuss this issue. A new planning application adjacent to this site, 21/00634/FUL | may inform the conversation.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler is to arrange a site meeting.

Parking on Traquair Road: Double-yellow lines have been recently painted at the end of Traquair Road. Lack of enforcement was, again, the key issue.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to get the CAT (the Community Action Team) to enforce the regulations.

Road to Caerlee Mast: Cllr Robin Tatler reported that once explicit ownership has been established, encouragement, or if necessary, enforcement, would be rolled out.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to progress with Neil Pringle/owners.

B709 repairs: Shona wasn't at the meeting to advise on the stretch south of the A72. Jackie raised the issue of uneven pavements (that has been reported to SBC) particularly around the corner of Horsbrugh Street and the A72. Apparently one person has already fallen there and another has been using the road rather than the pavement (with a walker). The reply from SBC did not indicate that this was being treated with the urgency it merits.

ACTION: Cllr Shona Haslam to confirm work done/to be done to the B709 south of the A72. Cllr Robin Tatler to follow up on the uneven pavement to see if it can be expedited.

Victoria Park Play Area: Cllr Bell had advised that grass seed was due to be sown along the raised area running along the side of the football field to the new housing development. No specific progress was reported on the area to be assessed for drainage work by Neil Pringle's team.

ACTION: George/Robin to progress the issue of drainage.

Proposed speed signs on approaches to the town: posts have been installed for the three new interactive speed signs. The sign on the B709 had been positioned further north, taking account of the Community Council's representations. No commissioning date had been advised, but similar signs were now in action in Peebles.

Innerleithen swap and sharing shed: Gordon reported that, following easing of restrictions, use of the shed had risen which, whilst unexpected, he felt was a reflection of two key things; people moving around more freely and employment challenges facing some. A barbecue was planned for the last Saturday of May, in conjunction with Dave Hodgson of Innerleithen Youth Club (Tweeddale Youth Action) and with the support of the Co-operative store. It would be open to all-comers and it was hoped that a number of young people would engage with the event which was aimed to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for the swap and sharing shed project. Gordon has yet to publicise this event.

ACTION: Gordon to publicise barbecue on last Saturday of May.

7. Scottish Forestry Consultation, Elibank, Traquair, Caberston & Thornilee:

<https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/consultations/elibank-traquair-caberston-andthornielee> Marshall reminded everyone that details of this extensive project have been circulated. The consultation period has been extended until the end of May which gives time for comments to be fed back via Marshall.

ACTION: Marshall to consolidate comments and feed back accordingly.

8. Enduro World Series 2021: Andy had forwarded the latest committee meeting minutes to Marshall for information. Hilary had been in contact with the marketing manager (with whom she had a meeting scheduled) who was clearly keen to communicate with the community and share news as appropriate. Robin confirmed that the venue is likely to be moved from Victoria Park after further consideration had been given to size and potential damage to the football field. Craig Blackie (Neighbourhood Area Manager, SBC) is now also on the event's community committee. Robin confirmed that SBC was committed to help this event run smoothly in any way they could.

9. Police report: April report received and appended to these minutes. In the light of the recent spate of anti-social youth behaviour in the area, Jackie asked if there were any plans afoot to get alongside these young people and work with them rather than chasing after, and demonising, them. Cllr Robin Tatler said that he, Dave Hodgson and a Peebles CC representative were speaking to David Rourke of the Community Action Team with a view to taking the initiative to engage with the young people across Tweeddale. In addition, Hilary Scott had been speaking with David Rourke about these initiatives and there would be an article in the Peeblesshire News this week. Gordon was keen to speak to David Rourke about the planned barbecue as they were taking the same constructive approach.

Gordon raised the issue of telephone scams which seem to be rife and relentless at the moment. None of us are safe from the scammers, we all need to maintain a high level of vigilance. Gordon asked how we would go about declaring Innerleithen a "No Cold Calling" zone.

Gordon queried the legality of riding motocross bikes off-road locally as there were a number on the latest police report. Robin was concerned that there was an element of displacement, with those spoken to by police relocating to a different area. There are clearly safety issues and any instances should be reported via 101 in the usual way.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to keep the CC abreast of youth initiatives. Robin to speak to the Community Action Team regarding motocross bikes being ridden inappropriately. Jackie to continue to post Neighbourhood Alert information on Facebook pages. Gordon to contact Clovenfords' Community Council to see how they approached and implemented the stance of "No Cold Calling".

10 SBC Councillor's reports:

Cllr Robin Tatler:

Innerleithen Community Sports Hub: Robin confirmed that Live Borders was working on this in conjunction with the Community Development Trust and Vale of Leithen Football Club. Now that Live Borders Staff were off furlough and working again, discussions would be resuming.

Planning application 21/00382/FUL | Glenormiston pods: Robin confirmed that he had been approached by a number of residents that had issues with this application which was likely to go to the Planning Committee. Since the last meeting, Jackie had been invited to look at this site and discuss the owners' plans beyond the bare bones shown in the planning application. She had been impressed with what was planned and heartened by the open stance adopted by the owners. There were a significant number of objections to this proposed development; **Jackie urged anyone with concerns to speak directly to the owners who would be only too happy to arrange a site visit and**

conversation about what was envisaged. Marshall made it clear that although the CC were not campaigning for this they had submitted comments, but had highlighted that any road issues be subject to the guidance and recommendations of SBC professional officers.

14. Planning Report:

21/00552/FUL | Alterations to dwellinghouse and erection of garden shed | Glenquhair Peebles Road Innerleithen Scottish Borders EH44 6QX – comments invited.

21/00676/FUL | Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse and erection of detached garage | Teindside 45 St Ronan's Terrace Innerleithen Scottish Borders EH44 6RB – comments invited.

21/00634/FUL | Erection of industrial unit and associated works | Land South East Of Unit 2 Waverley Mill Traquair Road Innerleithen Scottish Borders – comments invited.

15. Anti-dog fouling campaign: Jackie confirmed that the bin at the bottom of Caerlee Steps had been removed and the vast majority of bins had now had their flaps removed. The original intention to continue fundraising to supply bags had been reviewed. In the light of the insatiable patterns of usage, existing funding (about a further 8,000 bags) would be exhausted then bag supplies would stop and a line would be drawn under it.

16. Correspondence: there was no specific correspondence that hadn't already been covered.

17. Thanks and Congratulations:

- ❖ Innerleithen Pharmacy have our thanks and congratulations for going above and beyond during this past year. Your help and support are invaluable and much appreciated.
- ❖ To all shops and businesses throughout the town; welcome back. We understand how important our support is to the viability and vitality of our High Street and will never take you for granted.

18. AOCB:

Parking for carers: an issue has been raised concerning the lack of ready availability of parking for carers in the community during busy periods. One carer was in tears after struggling to find appropriate parking during her shift. This delayed her to such an extent that she was unable to take her scheduled, much needed, breaks. Inconsiderate and illegal parking during the May Day Bank Holiday weekend was reported. This was discussed along with a number of possible ideas to alleviate this problem including a permit system and an extension to the existing “disabled bay” system. Cllr Robin Tatler felt that the best starting point to address this issue was to refer it to Philippa Gilhooly (SBC Traffic and Road Safety Leader).

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to refer this issue to Philippa Gilhooly for consideration.

Replacement Innerleithen “Welcome” signs: using the new St Ronan’s logo and livery are to be installed at each entrance to the town. Patrick Corley-Jackson has designed and procured the signs and Ross McGinn (Innerleithen Community Trust) has covered the necessary fundraising, planning and new positioning of the Traquair Road sign. Installation is anticipated between 3rd May and 7th May 2021.

Meeting closed at 8.16pm.

Date of next Meeting:

- ❖ Monday 7th June 2021 at 7.15pm via Zoom

Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month, except August, starting at 7.15pm in Innerleithen’s Council Chamber unless otherwise agreed. **Currently meetings are being held via Zoom.**

Chairman.....

Date