

Innerleithen and District Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held 7th June 2021 via Zoom

Those present: Jim Calder (Treasurer), Gordon Daly (Secretary), Marshall Douglas (Chairman), Cllr Robin Tatler, Colin Williams, Cllr Stuart Bell, Andy Weir, Lisa Purves (EWS)

One member of the public and one member of the press were present

- 1. Apologies:** Jackie Couchman (Minutes Secretary), George Brown, Cllr. Shona Haslam
Absent: Daniel Davis Wood.

Marshall Douglas welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 2. Public forum:** Chris Clark attended to discuss three issues of concern

1. The need for the town to have free public toilets. They need to be easily accessed and not cause distress when the 30p doesn't work. She informed the chair that last week some tourists had visited the town and had to ask The Allotment to use their toilets. She also mentioned that she had visited the SBC's facilities at Coldingham Beach which were free to use and that she would like to know why some Borders toilets are free whilst others are not. Robin Tatler began by congratulating Chris on bringing a very positive argument to the CC. He went on to describe various forms of facilities across the borders, both free and paid-for. He pointed out that nothing is free and that the costs of maintaining the toilets were much greater as a result of the pandemic. He suggested that the Community Trust could be approached to consider maintaining the toilets but that they would have to find funds put towards this. Cllr. Stuart Bell mentioned that Cllr. Tatler had opposed a motion that he had put forward at a budget meeting to increase the funding to open more toilets specifically to address the increase in need as a result of the pandemic.

2. The need for a proper rubbish bin at the Red Bull car park. She cited GlenKinnon which has a large bin and seems to be relatively litter free. Stuart observed that the council had refused to empty the bin at GlenKinnon. A local resident had the imagination to obtain an extra bin which they leave at the carpark and, when the residential bin lorry is due once a week, they wheel it back to theirs and the council collect two bins. The Red Bull car park is owned by Forest and Land Scotland so the council will not collect a bin from there. Robin wasn't aware of any issue there regarding rubbish at the Red Bull car park. He added that a larger problem to the town is the issue of limited parking and it would be helpful at a later date to discuss possible sites for additional parking. Stuart Bell agreed that there were many challenges regarding parking in the town. He thought that the initiative of the Tweed Valley Tourist Consortium to have the site between the cemetery and Iron Mountain for an overflow car park made sense. Andy Weir added that Forestry and Land Scotland have a strong policy NOT to provide bins on their property preferring to encourage people to take their rubbish home with them.

3. The proposal of an Aire in Innerleithen to facilitate the disposal of toilet waste and grey water. Marshall stated that the developers who are looking into the Aire, have decided not to proceed with the site next to the cemetery this summer. They will use the field next to the cemetery for parking but not for an Aire. There are ongoing consultations on this. Stuart pointed out that the Aire would require planning permission and the timescale to obtain planning permission would mean that it would not be accessible this summer

Chris responded that she would like see Robin and Stuart challenge the SBC policy of not collecting litter from FLS owned property.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler agreed to challenge the council on their policy of rubbish collection. He reiterated that there were costs involved in the provision of public toilets across the Borders and stood by his decision to oppose Cllr Bell's motion but said that he would ask the question again.

4. Enduro World Series - Lisa Purves: Lisa thanked the chair for the invitation to come along to explain the updates from the EWS on some of the things that businesses and the community can expect to see in the upcoming events. The main event runs from Thursday 30th September until Sunday 3rd October. Teams and other support will arrive on site round about 26th/27th. They had originally looked at Victoria Park to host the event but have since decided to use the field beyond the Health Centre with car parking in the field between Iron Mountain and the cemetery. If anyone wants to have more information about the arrangements for the event, please let Lisa know. Lisa assured Gordon that she would raise the locals concerns about the proximity to the cemetery with the planners and directors to ensure that they did everything they could to address it. There is a proposal for a town hall event (online) on Monday 23rd August. Businesses and residents will be invited to submit questions ahead of time and to raise any concerns at that point. Marshall confirmed that the CC would be happy to publicise details of the event when they're confirmed. Local businesses on the high street will receive an information pack on what's happening and how they can make the most of the event. There will also be a royal mail doorstep drop for local residents.

5. Also, a new website launched on Tuesday (<https://tweedvalley.enduroworldseries.com>). It will include everything from event schedule, FAQs and practical information. This will be a hub of information for the event as well as the newsletter that can be signed up for.

Lisa Purves agreed to report back to the CC regarding proximity to cemetery – Lisa’s update:

“There will be no overnight camping in the Cemetery field and pedestrians will be directed to use access points that take them directly onto the cycle path, therefore pedestrian footfall through the field entrance should be minimal.

EWS will also ensure that we communicate to the local residents on when we expect the car park entrance to be at its busiest - mornings (approx 8am - 10am) and later afternoons (approx 4pm - 6pm), on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. “

4. Scawd Law Wind Farm Update : Colin had to leave early too so this item was considered here. Colin reminded the chair that they had attended a meeting on the 17th May with the developers to discuss the development but also the potential for community ownership. Ross McGinn from the Community Trust was involved in that meeting. Should the project get planning permission, the timescale is likely to be 6/7 years from now. These discussions were separate from the planning permission process. Marshall gave an update that surveys have been carried out and that formal planning applications will be launched. Julia agreed to have an online meeting with the CC on Wednesday evening. She’ll go through what stage the process was at now. Stuart Bell intimated that the planning application would be tabled in August.

Colin left at this point.

5. Minutes of last meeting and approval: proposed by Gordon Daly and seconded by Andy Weir.

6. Notification of items of AOCB: no matters to be taken later on.

At this point, Stuart asked the chair if the meeting was now quorate (having a minimum number of community councillors - 4 - to carry out safe decisions). The chair affirmed that this was correct, and that the meeting was quorate.

7. Matters arising from previous minutes:

Morningside lighting/parking/access: Cllr Tatler said that the type of lighting had to be identified and a small scheme will be allocated. He has reminded the CAT and the regular Police Scotland to take action. He suggested that the only way to get progress on this is for people to be ticketed who have parked illegally.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to confirm that this has been completed.

Road to Caerlee Mast: Cllr Robin Tatler reported that he had spoken to Neil Pringle and established who the owner is. He still has to establish the plan so that he can address whose responsibility it is.

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

B709 repairs: Robin has followed up on the uneven pavement. The work has been agreed, only a start date has to be decided. Robin consulted the Schedule of Works and there was only a 500m stretch north of the golf course evident. This is scheduled for July-September. There was nothing to the south.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to confirm the schedule for this work to be completed.

Victoria Park Play Area: Neil Pringle has employed an expert to do a technical exploration of the area. They will report back once results are available

ACTION: Robin to progress results.

Innerleithen swap and sharing shed: Due to continuing Covid restrictions, the BBQ at the shed has been postponed until Saturday 3rd July

ACTION: Gordon to progress.

Scottish Forestry Consultation, Elibank, Traquair, Caberston & Thornilee: Cllr Stuart Bell noted that there was no response from Innerleithen or Clovenfords on the consultation. This is likely to be approved fairly quickly. Marshall confirmed that no negative responses had been received.

Police report: Robin has raised the issue of motocross bikes with the CAT. There were only a couple of calls about it. Discussions are continuing to find some diversionary activities. Gordon has contacted the secretary of Clovenfords Community Council who said that they would send the contact details of the person who originally set up the project but no reply to date. Cllr Bell said that he would email their contact details.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to report back on decisions about diversionary activities. Gordon to contact Clovenfords' Community Council to see how they approached and implemented the stance of "No Cold Calling".

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.

Welcome Signs: These have now been installed. Thanks to Ross McGinn and Patrick for the designs.

8. Police Report: circulated. No comments.

9. SBC Councillors' Report:

Cllr Shona Haslam – Report emailed to Chair in advance of the meeting:

Innovation Centre: Brodies Mill has been put on the market. Cllr Haslam has been in touch with the Innovation Centre team and the seller. Borderlands growth deal has been signed off on March 18th. The final business case for the Innovation Centre is being finalised. All parties are hopeful of a positive conclusion and working towards this aim.

Cllr Stuart Bell

Innovation Centre: Cllr Bell observed that he had seen a number of social media post that had been sceptical about what's happening with Brodies Mill as a consequence of Whiteburn advertising the property. He added that it would be helpful if the press were to report Cllr Haslam's assessment that there was an intention to come to an agreement with Whiteburn that Innovation Centre part of the bike park to be located there. Cllr Haslam, Cllr Tatler and Cllr Bell had conversations with the golf club about the challenges and opportunities of the location of the uplift part of the bike park and its relationship to the golf club. The golf club were constructively engaging in that conversation.

Whiteburn Drainage pipe: The grass has been sown on the Whiteburn drainage pipe through Victoria Park. It looks like it will be adequately landscaped.

Cllr Robin Tatler

Wild Camping: We would encourage campers to take their litter and their tents home with them. There was a tent at the confluence of the Leithen and Tweed. If it's on private land it is the responsibility of the landowner rather than SBC to remove anything that's leftover. SBC will remove litter from land that's theirs. However, we would encourage the message that, if people come to wild camp that they take home what they bring with them.

Lack of bus stop at the Union Club: If people wanted to put a bus stop there, it will cost £8000. The CC will put out a message to ask the public if they want a bus stop to be built there. There is very little money to cover it, but it might be possible to fund it through a small scheme. This is only for road markings to be installed.

Area Partnership Meeting: Next Tuesday 15th at 7pm. Build Back A Better Borders fund has opened for applications from non-constituted and constituted groups (£5000-£15000) and a fast-track process for £1500.

10. Planning Report: planning reports have been circulated.

11. Anti-dog fouling campaign: Just had to buy another 2000 bags which have been supplied. There is a constant drain on the fundraising with people taking many more bags than they need. Andy Weir suggested that a post on facebook to let people know the costs of these bags and also to let them know that if this situation continues, they will

lose this important resource. Cllr Bell added that a positive consequence of this project is that the town is much cleaner. It was raised as a problem for years with the CC and it would be a shame to lose it.

16. Correspondence: Emma Guy responded to the issue of the Aire They have had discussions with FLS and are looking at the Red Bull car park and Cardrona as a locations of overnight facilities. Cllr Bell stated that the council are also looking at Peebles. Walkerburn CC would also like input on this issue to as their community also use the cemetery.

17. Thanks and Congratulations:

- ❖ All civil-minded residents for the recent efforts to clean up our town.
- ❖ Ross McGinn and the Community Trust for getting the new welcome signage in place, and Patrick Coreley-Jackson for his design work.
- ❖ Bonnie Innerleithen for the fantastic spring display of tulips. The summer planting is now in and should provide another great display for games week and beyond.

Rotary club for the four benches that are now in place along the cycle path

Meeting closed at 8.16pm.

Date of next Meeting:

- ❖ Monday 5th July 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