

Innerleithen and District Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held 5th July 2021 via Zoom

Those present: George Brown, Jim Calder (Treasurer), Jackie Couchman (Minutes Secretary), Kate Dagg (South of Scotland Enterprise), , Gordon Daly (Secretary), Daniel Davis Wood, Marshall Douglas (Chairman), Ed Shoote (Scottish Cycling), Cllr Robin Tatler, Jo Wawrzyczek (South of Scotland Enterprise)

No member of the press was present

1. Apologies: Cllr Stuart Bell, Cllr Shona Haslam, Hilary Scott (Press), Andy Weir, Colin Williams

Marshall Douglas welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Mountain Bike Innovation Centre Project: Ed Shoote, Scottish Cycling, apologised for the lack of recent updates. March's announcement of £19million funding for the Borderlands Deal as a whole (which included this project), gave the green light to working on the full business case for this project. Some of the less obvious parts of this phase of work are running in the background. This includes establishing the necessary legal entities and governance framework. Whilst Whiteburn, the current owners, have put Caerlee Mill up for sale, this isn't seen as particularly changing anything for the project and it is still the preferred location of the Innovation Centre and to which they're fully committed. The project team maintains a good working relationship with Whiteburn whose timeline on the conversion/sale of the building may not be in step with the project's. Ed is hopeful of making an announcement soon.

The Innovation Centre project is looking to create jobs, and for the centre to have commercial use in conjunction with Edinburgh's Napier University and South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE). This would include lab space for prototyping, making bike equipment, product development and biomechanics (tying into a gym). In addition to the labs, an event space is envisaged (including catering and café facilities) with the remainder given over to teaching space (possibly Edinburgh Napier and Borders College) and office space (playing to the ongoing demand for hot-desking provision).

March's funding announcement has moved the Bike Park element of the project into a "procurement of operator" phase with a view to appointing a partner to invest in, design, build and operate this facility. Various staff changes at Forestry Land Scotland have delayed progress as new staff get up to speed. The Golf Club have been consulted but are awaiting the design before commenting further. This project is also seen as creating jobs and attracting businesses whilst also building on the local infrastructure (parking, toilet/changing/bike washing facilities).

Kate explained how all Borderlands projects have a delivery partner. SOSE is the delivery partner of the Innovation Centre and Bike Park project. The funding flows from the Scottish and UK Governments, through Local authorities to SOSE and to the project itself. SOSE is responsible for due diligence and project monitoring. It comprises a team of 7 people, including property specialists, construction specialists and project managers. The complexity of this project will need further resource (once the final business case has been approved by Government) which is an indication of the opportunities it presents and its importance to SOSE and the Borderlands Growth Deal partners. Kate offered to provide a list of contacts for the project should further questions arise.

Ed, Jo and Kate were thanked for the update and left the meeting at this point.

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

4. Minutes of last meeting and approval: one slight amendment was noted, to the ACTION point under item 2. which should read "...stood by his decision to oppose Councillor Robson's motion (seconded by Councillor Bell) but said that he would ask the question again."

The minutes as amended were proposed by Marshall Douglas, seconded by Jim Calder.

5. Notification of items of AOCB: one matter, concerning an enquiry received about the repair to a broken headstone, was to be taken up outwith the meeting.

6. Matters arising from previous minutes:

The need for a proper rubbish bin at the Red Bull car park: Cllr Tatler had been in contact with Ross Sharp-Dent, Waste Manager, SBC, about the possibility of arranging a rubbish/pick up facility. Initial discussions were encouraging.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to progress with Ross Sharp-Dent.

Toilet facilities across the Borders: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that it is cheaper to maintain the toilet facilities at St Mary's Loch free of charge rather than clean up the mess of people not using the toilets if there is a charge. The Coldingham Bay toilets are free of charge at the moment because there is a fault on the mechanism. All other SBC maintained toilet facilities are currently charged. He acknowledged that this is an ongoing issue. Jackie Couchman raised the issue of the limits this can place on people's lives when toilet facilities are not freely available. Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that those with a medical need can get a radar key in order to be able to access disabled toilets (which are always open).

Morningside lighting/parking/access: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that an appropriate, solar, lighting solution for the path running on from Morningside has now been found and once the local householder is in agreement a small scheme project can be raised in order to fund it, although there may be other technical challenges to the implementation of the identified solution. He remarked on overgrown foliage in the vicinity (which Jackie confirmed she had previously reported).

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to progress this with the local householder before following through on funding and implementation. He will also contact Neil Pringle to pursue clearing the foliage and checking the falling material from the deteriorating wall along this path.

Road to Caerlee Mast: Cllr Robin Tatler reported that ownership has been established and a discussion with the owners was yet to be had.

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

B709 repairs: the uneven pavement at the top of Horsburgh Street, running into the High Street, has now been repaired and is much safer. SBC were thanked for getting this done and any similar areas would be flagged for similar remedials as and when identified.

Victoria Park Play Area: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that the report on this was awaited from Malcolm Clapperton, Ground Engineer.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to progress with Malcolm Clapperton.

Innerleithen swap and sharing shed: Gordon reported that the barbecue had been postponed until further notice due to covid restrictions.

Police report:

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler had nothing further to report on the initiative to provide diversionary activities for young people. Gordon had yet to follow up with the police, Sergeant Stephen Granger, on the cold calling initiative.

Parking for carers: Cllr Robin Tatler had an extensive discussion with Philippa Gilhooly (SBC Traffic and Road Safety Leader) about this issue. Whilst "Disabled" parking provision can be agreed and marked out, there was no mechanism to provide for mobile carers to be granted particular parking allocation.

Wild camping: Jackie asked if anything was being done to address the issue of human excrement being left in the vicinity of The Cauld, presumably by "wild campers"? Cllr Robin Tatler said he'd raise this at this meeting with Sgt Granger and also with the Community Action Team.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler.

7. Enduro World Series 2021: Cllr Robin Tatler said there was nothing major to report from the last meeting other than the event manager, Paul Mcgrail, had been encouraged to attend local Community Council meetings (Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Peebles) with an update. Marshall stated that Lisa Purves had confirmed that they would not be pursuing overnight camping provision in the field next to the cemetery for this year.

8. Scawd Law Wind Farm update: Marshall reported that there were no further updates since last month. The intention was to set up a community liaison group including two representatives from the Community Council. It was agreed that Colin and Marshall, having been involved thus far, and willing to continue, would be our two representatives.

9. Police report: June report received and appended to these minutes. Jackie is concerned that there is a disconnect between community and police. This is in direct contrast to the recent past where the Community Council has always had a good relationship with local police officers over the years. She feels that there is currently no effective police liaison with Innerleithen. Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that a decision was taken a while ago that there would be no police presence at any Community Council meetings. Jackie highlighted the fact that "Within the Selkirk Sheriff Court Jurisdiction there were 16 parking tickets issued in June." She found this surprising and disappointing, given

the issues over illegal parking raised within Innerleithen alone, and reiterated that there seemed little point in having parking restrictions if they were not enforced.

Speeding on Leithen Road: there are ongoing concerns about speeding on Leithen Road, particularly in the light of the current, temporary, 20mph limit and stretches of the road where the footpath is narrow (narrowed further by overgrown hedges). Mobile speed camera monitoring and prosecutions were requested. There are further concerns about the speed of cars coming through the golf course between the bridge, north of The Cauld, and the cattle grid. These concerns were passed to Sgt Granger for comment. The lengthy response received, outlined police priorities and concluded that no resource would be allocated, as there is no statistical information to support it. Jackie felt that preventative action was preferable to consequential action. The possibility of handheld speed cameras was mooted some time ago, but Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that this was in abeyance.

ACTION: Jackie to raise the issue of speeding on Leithen Road with Christine Graham, MSP.

10 SBC Councillor's reports:

Cllr Robin Tatler:

Footbridge between Princes Street and Leithen Mills: this bridge, rooted in local history, is currently deemed unsuitable for horses and is deteriorating as a consequence, putting its continued use at risk. The proposal was to prohibit horses from being allowed across the bridge. Jackie expressed concern that the horseriding community was under represented in these sorts of conversations. The bridge is, after all, part of the "shared use" path? Horseriding routes have been compromised in recent times by increased mountain biking activity and route options limited. The alternative to using this bridge is along the main road, not the safest for horses (nor, potentially, invalid vehicles)? Consideration should be given to strengthening the bridge to make it multi-user usable.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to ask Neil Pringle to look into the possibility of strengthening the bridge.

Area Partnership Assessment Panel: a community-based panel (of six people yet to be recruited) would determine the distribution of Community Fund funds. The aim was to streamline the process (no councillors involved) and for this panel to assess applications and put recommendations to the Area Partnership meetings.

Innerleithen town sign on western approach along the A72: Cllr Robin Tatler thought the new town signs looked very good, but this particular one wasn't as prominent as the previous one and that maybe the positioning could be improved. The signs' locations (apart from Traquair Road, of necessity) were unchanged from previously and neither time, nor budget, allowed for a review. Jackie felt it was unlikely that this would be revisited but thanked Robin for his feedback.

11. Planning Report: applications circulated for comment:

21/00870/LBC | Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse | Teindside 45 St Ronan's Terrace Innerleithen Scottish Borders EH44 6RB

21/00897/FUL | Erection of dwellinghouse with garage/plant room and formation of new access | Land North Of Pirn View Leithen Road Innerleithen Scottish Borders

21/00898/LBC | Ground work to Lade to facilitate new dwellinghouse | Land North Of Pirn View Leithen Road Innerleithen Scottish Borders

21/00962/FUL | Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse | Leithen Bank Leithen Road Innerleithen Scottish Borders EH44 6HY

12. Anti-dog fouling campaign: Jackie confirmed that an additional 6,000 bags had been supplied to SBC during the past month. It was decided to review this after the summer break.

13. Correspondence:

Scottish Borders Council is considering entering in to a lease agreement with The Hub Community Interest Company for the former public toilets in Hall Street, Innerleithen.

Comments made in writing are invited by 27 July 2021. You may do this by:

- completing this form
- emailing your comments to communityengagement@scotborders.gov.uk, or
- posting your comments to:

The Communities & Partnerships Team, Scottish Borders Council, Newtown St Boswells, MELROSE TD6 0SA

14. Thanks and Congratulations:

- ❖ Thanks were offered to all the unsung heroes and heroines throughout the town. Of particular note were:
 - all the public-minded residents and visitors who take the issue of litter and dog poo disposal seriously
 - all those enhancing our local environment with plants and flowers (in baskets and outwith)
 - all those running and supporting local businesses
 - all those running or supporting local fundraisers
 - all those spreading kindness, goodwill and positivity throughout the town and beyond

WE SALUTE YOU!

15. AOCB: No items were considered under this heading.

Meeting closed at 8.14pm.

Date of next Meeting:

- ❖ Monday 6th September 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