

**Innerleithen and District Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 via Zoom**

**Those present:** Marshall Douglas (Chairman), Cllr Stuart Bell, Gordon Daly (Secretary), George Brown, Cllr Shona Haslam, Cllr Robin Tatler, Daniel Davis-Wood, Andy Weir

One member of the press were present  
Two members of the public were present

**1. Apologies:** Jim Calder (Treasurer), Jackie Couchman (Minutes Secretary), Colin Williams.

Marshall Douglas welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. The Food Foundation:** Heather Wild began with her presentation about the plans of The Food Foundation in Innerleithen. A couple of months ago, The Food Foundation ran into some trouble but since then have managed to obtain a grant to open the kitchen back up. They have been able to take over a lease of the Memorial Hall and will be able to create a 'Sharing Space'.

This will be a place that they can run their neighbourhood projects from but where they can also invite other community groups to use. It's in the former Council Contact Centre. Part of it is to be used for their 'Neighbour Food Project' which is an online marketplace for small and local food businesses. In order to kick this off, they had the community fair on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October in the Memorial Hall. Their first collection will be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>. Daniel queried operating times and community contact of the project and was told that there would be a booking system for community groups. The neighbour food project will be in the space from 4pm until 6pm on a Thursday with all the produce from the various local producers waiting to be collected by customers. The market is open online from Wednesday to the following Tuesday and shopping is collected on the Thursday at the 'Sharing Space' in the Memorial Hall.

**3. Public forum:**

**(3.1) Light Pollution Update:** Shona confirmed that the SBC environmental health team went out and found that the light pollution was within acceptable levels. Shona had a meeting with Whitburn too and they are working closely with the residents. The lights are dimmed to 70% between the hours of midnight and 6am. Shona has asked affected residents to get in touch. Marshall has heard from the residents who were at the last meeting to say that they are still unhappy.

**ACTION: Shona will continue to work towards a positive outcome.**

**(3.2) Trail head cafe on Traquair Road:** Gordon Bain stated that Jackie had written a personal letter in support of the cafe. However, Gordon would have liked a letter of support from the Community Council themselves. He is currently putting in an appeal for planning permission for the cafe and a bike wash at the site on Traquair Road. Stuart Bell asked to be reminded of the planning application number (21/00836/FUL). Stuart complemented Gordon on his bike wash effort at the EWS. Gordon is in talks with the planning committee. Elected Councillors are unable to comment on particular applications. Marshall wished Gordon the best of luck with his appeal. Andy, too, confirmed his support for the bike wash

**ACTION: Gordon will continue with his efforts to bring teas and coffees (and eventually a bike wash) to Traquair Road.**

**(3.3) Power Outages:** Since the last meeting, Allan Johnston has been in communication with SB Energy networks under Mr Climey. Jacqui hosted the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September. Allan raised that issue that previous promises of improvement have been missed and moreover been replaced by a deterioration in the network. SPEN gave a short presentation of what the problem is. There is a 22kv overhead line network connecting Innerleithen and Walkerburn and the outages have been the result of transients such as bird strikes or wind conditions. Connection by re-routing the supply via the Peebles side also has its difficulties. SPEN are carrying out continuing work on the hundred or so transformers on the Yair line of which fifty are being replaced. They are also putting new electronic switches in to reduce which should help reduce the length of shut-down as a result of transient faults.

SPEN are planning to install a new underground cable from Yair Bridge to Innerleithen and then back down to Walkerburn by 2023. This will mean that we will have a dual system, with the existing overhead one backing up the new system. This is a huge project and investment but they are confident that it will be signed off. They are also discussing putting an underground cable from the Peebles end too which should result in a much more resilient network. Allan encouraged residents to continue to report any shut-downs and any damage to property as a result of them. SPEN have offered in the past to supply surge-protectors for instance.

**ACTION: SPEN to give regular briefings to the CC with the next one being in December at some point.**

**4. Minutes of last meeting and approval:** proposed by Daniel Davis-Wood and seconded by George Brown.

**5. Notification of items of AOCB:** none.

**6. Matters arising from previous minutes:**

**Morningside lighting/parking/access:** Robin has had a meeting with the householder nearest to where the lights are needed. The householder who owns the wall where the lighting would be fixed to is very happy. While he was there, Robin also noticed that a nearby lighting column was obscured by a tree. Robin has also asked Neil Pringle to investigate the condition of the masonry and report back to him.

**ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to confirm the specifications and put it forward as a small scheme. Also, the tree needs to be cleared from the lighting column.**

**Road to Caerlee Mast:** The owners have been advised that it is their responsibility to maintain the access there.

**ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to continue to obtain a response from the owners (George added that there is another column obscured by a tree there).**

**Victoria Park Play Area:** Robin shared the reports with the CC and noted that the council are looking to use developer contributions to fund it. It is a large piece of work.

**ACTION: Robin to progress.**

**Speeding on Leithen Road:** Councillors have raised this issue at the meeting with Sgt Granger. He is aware that this is a location where the CC would like to see 'pop-up Bobs'.

**Camper vans parking in Victoria Park:** Robin has raised this with CAT who are now aware of it.

**Cold calling initiative:** Gordon reported that he had been in touch PC Nick Walker who is happy to meet with us to discuss the plan. He suggested that we confine the implementation to a small area such as a street or residential scheme. The CC decided to focus on the area around Angle Park. He also sent a leaflet describing to process of a no cold-calling scheme (attached)

**ACTION: Gordon Daly to contact Nick with our decision on the area and discuss obtaining signature and materials.**

**Demolition of steading and farmhouse:** Daniel has submitted his concern but no response as yet.

**ACTION: Daniel to progress.**

**7. No Cold-calling:** Discussed above.

**8. Scawd Law Update:** No further update on this. This is a 4/5 year project. It will be kept as an open item on the agenda.

**9. Police Report:** has been circulated.

**10. SBC Councillor's reports:**

**Cllr Robin Tatler:**

**Bridge across the Leithen:** There are no plans to strengthen the bridge at the moment but SBC at looking at signage to discourage horse riders from using it.

**ACTION: Robin to progress.**

**Tweeddale Area Partnership:** meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. There will be a report on the proposed road programme.

**Memorial Hall User Group:** We had a meeting of the Memorial Hall User Group who are planning to make further improvements to the kitchen. The hedge around the noticeboard is has become overgrown. The group would like that hedge removed and replaced by a fence.

**ACTION: Robin has asked Neil Pringle to give a proposal for the fence and thereby Robin will move for small-scheme funding.**

**Community Engagement Officer:** The Tweeddale locality has a new CEO. Her name is Hannah Lachlan and she would be delighted to hear from any community organisations. Her role is to help with capacity issues. She will intend to visit CC meetings at some point.

**Cllr Shona Haslem**

**Mountain Bike Innovation Centre:** No further update

**Cllr Stuart Bell**

Stuart met with Chris Ball earlier in the day who mentioned that the advertising value equivalent of the EWS was about £1.8 million. Stuart thought that the EWS was a great success, particularly this year’s location. Some businesses in the town thought that it was a success also, the economic benefit being focused on the hospitality sector.

**11. Planning Report:** All circulated.

**12. Anti -dog fouling campaign – Update:** Still going on, bags are still being purchased. Thank Jackie for contributing to that.

**13. Correspondence:**

Marshall received correspondence from a resident in Chapel St. Complaining about anti-social behavior of youths at the back of the Masonic Hall. This has been passed to Sgt Granger.

Another complaint about the cycling and parking during EWS. This has been passed to the organisers so that they are aware of it for future years.

Lastly, a complaint from a resident regarding the amount of grass that’s growing out of the pavements in Innerleithen. Shona interjected that SBC are in talks with community groups about the use of weedkillers and glyphosphates (the only realistic solution). Some communities are coming out quite strongly that they don’t want the council to use weedkillers. Perhaps the community of Innerleithen would like to say whether they’re happy for the council to use glyphosphates or whether they’d like to look at other measures.

**ACTION: Robin to pass this on to Neil and Craig Blackie to investigate.**

**14. Thanks & congratulations (standing item):**

**Book on Caerlee Mill:** Fraser Simm has produced a new book on ‘The History of Caerlee Mill’ It’s available to buy at Lou Lou’s Vintage Emporium

**Enduro World Series EWS:** Marshall noted that ‘despite the weather this was a very happy event’. Robin pointed out how the organisers responded well to the challenge of the weather. Marshall continued to say that the site was ideal.

**The Ruickbie Clock:** Made in Innerleithen over 150 years ago by a clockmaker on the High Street, it has been given back on permanent loan to the community by Mr & Mrs Chris Taylor. It is now in situ at the council chamber in Innerleithen. The family who donated it contacted Marshall and Ross McGinn. It is almost fully working apart from it doesn’t strike the hour properly. The owners have undertaken to investigate the possibility of a full repair.

**15. AOCB:** none

**17. Matters to be taken in private:** none. *Meeting closed at 8.20pm.*

**Date of next Meeting:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> November 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 .....