

Innerleithen and District Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held 1st November 2021 via Zoom

Those present: George Brown, Jim Calder (Treasurer), Jackie Couchman (Minutes Secretary), Gordon Daly (Secretary), Marshall Douglas (Chairman), Cllr Shona Haslam, Hilary Scott (Press), Cllr Robin Tatler, Andy Weir, Colin Williams

No members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Stuart Bell
Absent: Daniel Davis Wood

Marshall Douglas welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Public forum:** no members of the public were present.
3. **Minutes of last meeting and approval:** the minutes were proposed by Gordon Daly, seconded by George Brown.
4. **Notification of items of AOCB:** a couple of items were flagged for consideration later in the meeting.
5. **No Cold Calling Zone proposal:** further to the decision taken at last month's meeting, Gordon confirmed that he had been in touch with PC Nick Walker (the Scottish Borders contact for the No Calling Zone scheme, based in Kelso) to pilot this scheme in Angle Park. Gordon had requested 100 surveys, to be distributed to residents, seeking their support with making Angle Park a No Cold Calling Zone. Following the established process, a majority decision in support of the scheme would trigger the distribution of household packs including stickers and signage.

Andy and Colin joined the meeting at this point.

6. **Scawd Law Wind Farm update:** Colin confirmed that whilst there is no specific update, he anticipated that the developers, following the public exhibition, would be preparing their application.
7. **Police report:** October report received and appended to these minutes for information. Jackie posed the question of how the police intended to disseminate the contents of their report to the public. Their monthly report is 14 pages long, far too long to be put onto a noticeboard. It contained information about various police initiatives and some useful public information, for example a new "159 Fraud Hotline" and specific details about the setting off of fireworks. Hilary was invited to report on the Community Council concerns about the way the police disseminate information to the public.
8. **Planning Report:** 21/01577/FUL | Erection of dwellinghouse | Garden Ground Of 8A Miller Street Innerleithen Scottish Borders EH44 6QS. *Jackie declared an interest as the adjacent ground floor flat is jointly owned and run by her and her husband as a private residential tenancy with a long-term tenant in the property. Jackie was concerned that a portaloo had already been put on the site (just a few feet from her tenant's bedroom window). Whilst not illegal, it was inconsiderate. She intended to discuss the planned development with her tenant before deciding on the appropriate course of action, but noted that an objection had already been lodged by neighbouring Traquair Road residents. Her main concern, as a landlord, was to safeguard the interests of her tenant.*
9. **Anti-dog fouling campaign:** Jackie confirmed that no further bags had been requested by, or supplied to SBC, but that they were under pressure elsewhere. She felt that experience had shown that the bags were being appropriated for personal use, not just on the odd occasion of need, and didn't propose further fundraising to provide bags at this stage. There was a hope of resurrecting a pre-covid planned stencilling project in conjunction with the school, but this was parked until such time as the circumstances allowed for it.
10. **Correspondence:** no specific correspondence to note.

11. Remembrance Sunday – Wreath laying at Innerleithen & Traquair War Memorials: Jackie relayed locations and timings from an Innerleithen Church of Scotland e-mail.

ACTION: Jackie to lay wreaths at both Traquair and Innerleithen war memorials on behalf of Innerleithen & District Community Council. Marshall to arrange the purchase of the wreaths.

**There will be services around the parish on Remembrance Sunday, 14th
November 2021. Collection for Poppy Scotland.**

10am Traquair Kirk.

Conducted by Rev. Jim Wallace.

10:45am Traquair War Memorial.

10:45am Walkerburn War Memorial.

Conducted by Rev. Fraser Edwards.

11:30am Innerleithen Church with St Ronan's Silver Band.

Conducted by Rev. Fraser Edwards.

12:30pm Innerleithen War Memorial.

12. Thanks and Congratulations:

- ✓ A big THANK YOU to all those community-spirited people helping, through the medium of the Innerleithen Online Facebook page, to reunite lost items with their rightful owners and to act as the eyes and ears of the community in reporting things as they arise including straying animals and closed roads.
- ✓ Thanks were given to Sharing Shed volunteers for all their work behind the scenes to keep this initiative on track.
- ✓ Ongoing gratitude was expressed for the volunteers cultivating flower beds in the town at the top of Traquair Road and for Gordon's co-ordination skills.

13. Matters arising from previous minutes:

Light pollution at Caerlee Mill development (1): whilst measurements had confirmed that the light levels are within the acceptable levels on an objective basis, there was still work to be done to satisfy the residents. Jackie expressed sympathy with the residents and felt that part of the problem was the design layout of the site, with scant front gardens leading to street lights positioned very close to properties.

Trailhead Café on Traquair Road: it was noted that any representation in support of, or objecting to, a planning application was not weighted according to whether it was made on behalf of an individual or a group, such as the Community Council. Representations tended to be made if objections were raised. It was noted, however, that sometimes comments in support of an application were equally important.

Cllr Shona Haslam joined the meeting at this point.

Light pollution at Caerlee Mill development (2): Cllr Shona Haslam reported that Whiteburn are doing all they can to resolve the situation and she has just been made aware of the intended installation of "proprietary visors". These are on a 3-4 week lead time and, once installed, it is hoped will address the residents' concerns.

Cllr Robin Tatler joined the meeting at this point.

Morningside lighting/parking/access: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that the details of proposed low-level lighting are still being confirmed. He also confirmed that the lighting column nearby, obscured by a tree is the responsibility of the landowner. Neil Pringle has surveyed the wall which runs behind Leithen Crescent, running into Leithen Mills. The rendering has deteriorated to the point of giving concern. This wall formed part of the Mill and, as such, is the responsibility of individual adjacent householders. Jackie believed that some have already taken responsibility for their stretch of wall and stripped off the render and/or had it repointed/re-rendered.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to progress.

Road to Caerlee Mast: Cllr Robin Tatler reported that Neighbourhood Services are in touch with the owners and that they are being reminded of their responsibilities.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to update on progress.

Victoria Park play area: the intention is to use developer contributions to fund the work needed and that it is intended to carry this out January/February 2022 at the earliest.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to update on progress.

Demolition of steading and farmhouse: Daniel is seeking clarification of rights of way around the site once redeveloped.

ACTION: Daniel to update.

Footbridge between Princes Street and Leithen Mills: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that additional signage is to be put up to clarify why horses are not to use the bridge at present.

Memorial Hall User Group: had advocated the removal of the leylandii hedge at the end of the car park. This was agreed with the proviso that there needed to be something to mark the end of the tarmac area and start of the landscaped area to prevent vehicles from straying onto the grass. It was felt that this should be chime with the proposed revamp of the Memorial Garden which is a work-in-progress.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to arrange for Neil Pringle to remove the hedge.

Weed management: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that manual weeding and spraying had been carried out in Innerleithen today. Cllr Shona Haslam posed the issue of whether or not to use glyphosphate for weedkilling, a topic of conversation throughout The Borders.

14 SBC Councillor's reports:

Cllr Robin Tatler:

Tweeddale Area Partnership Meeting: The next meeting is to be held on 2nd November. Two main things to be considered are the Placemaking Planning Process and the Roads Programme. Jackie confirmed that she would not be going to the meeting, partly because the documentation sent out was far too extensive to be able to sensibly digest and prepare for the meeting. Robin confirmed that the Placemaking Planning Process is complex and a separate meeting may be held on that topic to ensure a good understanding.

ACTION: Robin to feed Jackie's comments back to those concerned.

Cllr Shona Haslam: had nothing further to update on.

15. AOCB:

Flower beds at the top of Traquair Road and Princes Street: Gordon said that Spring bulb planting of the raised bed at the top of Traquair Road was planned for 11th November followed by a meeting with Neil Pringle (SBC) to discuss the possible transfer of responsibility for maintaining some, or all of the flowerbeds at the top of Princes Street. Gordon was thanked for his contribution.

Memorial bench: Gordon relayed a request that had been made of the Community Council for a memorial bench near the cauld. After discussion it was deemed necessary to establish ownership of that land to put the applicant in direct contact for negotiation about the suitability, possibility and authority.

ACTION: George to investigate the land ownership (via Innerleithen Community Trust). Gordon to liaise with the golf club and the applicant to explore options.

Pure Utilities: Marshall confirmed that a request had been received for access to the portacabin at Leithen Workshops to confirm there was no water supply (in spite of assurances there was none).

Meeting closed at 8.01pm.

Date of next Meeting:

✓ Monday 6th December 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