

Innerleithen and District Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held 6th December 2021 via Zoom

Those present: George Brown, Gordon Daly (Secretary), Marshall Douglas (Chairman), Cllr Shona Haslam, Isabelle Truscott (Press), Cllr Robin Tatler, Andy Weir, Cllr. Stuart Bell, Daniel Davis Wood, Emma Guy (EWS), and three members of the public.

1. Apologies: Jim Calder, Jackie Couchman, Colin Williams
2. Public Forum
 - (i) B709 Parking Issues raised by John Paterson primarily about concerns at the Ley. Emma Guy for EWS highlighted the work that they are doing to alleviate issues with a shuttle service to events, and the efforts of the Tweed Tourism bid team to solve parking issues with signs and bollards at the Cauld. **Cllr. Robin Tatler agreed to pursue the issue with the Police Community Action Team** and look at discouraging parking by using bollards or reflectors. Cllr. Shona Haslam referred to the long-term infrastructure investment that is planned for Innerleithen with the bike park and innovation centre, which will help the situation in the future. Cllr Stuart Bell commented that the parking may be a road safety issue, and **Cllr Tatler agreed to speak to Philippa Gilhooly at SBC.**
 - (ii) Allan Johnston asked Emma Guy if the responsible cycling signs that are provided by EWS will be replaced after cleaning. Emma confirmed that they will be replaced, but doesn't yet have a date.
 - (iii) Allan Johnston reported on Electricity Supply Issues in the area following the recent storms, mentioning that there had been a loss of supply in Walkerburn and along the back road to Yair. Continuing talks with SPEN over the power supply and plans for an aerial inspection of the line were also mentioned. Representatives of the Community Council and Walkerburn CC are meeting with SPEN on the 7th December for an update. At the suggestion of Cllr. Stuart Bell, it was agreed to include representatives from Clovenfords CC as part of their area is also effected by the same supply issues.
 - (iv) Emma Guy referred to the closure of forestry paths in the area following the storm, and it was agreed that Forestry Land Scotland should be encouraged to open the trails again as soon as it is safe to do so as many local businesses are affected by the closures. Andy Weir mentioned that FLS are holding webinars that can be accessed by local businesses to hear about their strategy.
3. **Minutes of last meeting and approval:** the minutes were proposed by Gordon Daly, seconded by George Brown
4. Notification of items of AOCB: - None
5. Matters arising from previous meeting

No Cold Calling Zone proposal: Following the established process, a majority decision in support of the scheme has triggered the distribution of household packs including stickers and signage. Gordon reported that he will liaise with the police over distribution of the material.

Remembrance Sunday – Wreath laying at Innerleithen & Traquair War Memorials: Jackie laid the wreaths at both war memorials on behalf of the CC.

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. He also mentioned that a site visit is planned to examine the road. Another issue regarding mountain bikers use of the road was also highlighted with potential safety issues raised by local residents concerned at bikers exiting the road at speed.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to update on progress.

Victoria Park play area: The tendering process has commenced, and work should start in the spring.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to update on progress.

Memorial Hall User Group:

Cllr Tatler confirmed that the hedge removal is included in the council's planned works.

Tweeddale Area Partnership Meeting: Robin confirmed that the Placemaking Planning Process is complex and a separate workshop will be held on that topic in the week commencing 10th January to ensure a good understanding.

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. George stated that the land is owned by Traquair Estates, and **Gordon agreed to contact the Estate Factor to discuss a possible stone bench being erected.**

6. Community Flower beds (Update Gordon Daly)

Gordon reported that the community trust team are going to take over the maintenance of Princes Street Gardens from SBC and that a design is being worked on. The ownership of the wall is to be checked. **Gordon will update the CC on progress.**

7. Swap & Share Shed (Update Gordon Daly)

Gordon reported that the shed is proving highly successful, and that funding has been received through Tesco Community schemes. The possibility of building an additional shed for storage is being looked at.

8. Scawd Law – No update

9. Police Report – Circulated with these minutes

10. SBC Councillors Report

Cllr. Stuart Bell:

Stuart reported on the extent of power outages from Innerleithen eastwards towards Yair Bridge with numerous properties having no power for up to a week. It was agreed that a representative of Clovenfords CC be invited to attend our scheduled meeting with SPEN.

Cllr. Shona Haslam:

Earlier discussion of storm damage etc, had covered most of Shona's intended report but she wished to add that anyone with extended loss of power would be entitled to compensation of £70 for every 12 hour period.

Cllr. Robin Tatler:

Robin reported on the following issues:-

- (i) Victoria Park – Holes in playing surface have been repaired.
- (ii) War Memorial – New rails erected around the base of the memorial.
- (iii) Area Partnership to meet on 18th January 2022

11. Planning Report (Copy applications previously circulated)

12. Anti -dog fouling campaign – SBC Dog Education Officer – Rose Hogg to attend next month’s meeting.

13. Correspondence - None

14. Thanks & congratulations

- (i) Local Business Award Winners – Loulous, Loulabells and the Hub for winning awards in Scotland’s Business Awards.
- (ii) Jean Wilson, for organising the replacement of the railings around the base of the war memorial, and to Dave Barbour for doing the work as well as the Ex Standard Bearers association for providing the funds.
- (iii) The Innerleithen Civic association for the wonderful display of Christmas Lights in the town making Innerleithen one of the best displays in the Borders.
- (iv) Thanks and best wishes to former Peeblesshire News reporter Hilary Scott for all of her support in helping publicise the work of the council.

15. AOCB – None

Date of next meeting: 7.15pm 3rd January 2022, Online zoom meeting

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