

**Innerleithen and District Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held 3rd January 2022 via Zoom**

**Those present:** Jim Calder (Treasurer), Jackie Couchman (Minutes Secretary), Gordon Daly (Secretary), Daniel Davis Wood, Marshall Douglas (Chairman), Cllr Robin Tatler, Andy Weir, Colin Williams

No members of the press were present.

No members of the public were present.

**1. Apologies:** Cllr Stuart Bell, Cllr Shona Haslam

**Absent:** George Brown

Marshall Douglas wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**2. Public forum:** no members of the public were present.

**3. SBC Dog Education Officer Rose Hogg:** deferred to a future meeting.

**4. Minutes of last meeting and approval:** the minutes were proposed by Gordon Daly, seconded by Daniel Davis Wood.

**5. Notification of items of AOCB:** no items were flagged for consideration later in the meeting.

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

**B709 Parking Issues:** Cllr Robin Tatler had spoken with both the Community Action Team (CAT) and the Community Police Officer about measures that can be taken to discourage parking at the entrance to The Ley. He had also spoken with Emma Guy and Philippa Gilhooly, SBC, about these issues. Responses to his request are awaited. Jackie observed that the “No Parking” bollards along the road by the cauld had been effective but that a number of them had been moved or broken. She felt it was worth replacing them.

**ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to progress with all parties approached.**

**Morningside lighting:** Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that the project has all the relevant permissions in place and is just awaiting the provision and installation of equipment by SBC officers.

**ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to progress.**

**Road to Caerlee Mast:** Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that a site meeting had been held just before Christmas. The land doesn't belong to SBC and it is hoped that the landowner will agree to do something about it and that it doesn't need to become a legal issue. Another issue identified is the potential danger, for both cyclists and motorists of off-road cyclists coming down from the mast at speed. Cllr Tatler confirmed that the “Give Way” line at the exit point is to be renewed and appropriate cautionary signage to be erected.

**ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to update on progress.**

**Victoria Park play area:** Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that funding has been identified to address the drainage issues and that the tendering process had begun. He also acknowledged that the car park had drainage issues and hoped that these could be addressed within this project. Jackie noted that, a few days ago, the charging point, whilst in use, had had a car that had not been plugged in occupying one of the clearly marked, designated spaces next to it. The car park had been empty at the time so it was not a capacity issue. Cllr Tatler hadn't received any other complaints about this but noted it.

**ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to update on progress.**

**Memorial bench:** Gordon requested that this be carried forward.

**ACTION: Gordon to speak to the appropriate estate managers.**

**7. Flower beds at the top of Princes Street:** Gordon said that Alex Smithson (Edible Garden) was designing the Princes Street flowerbeds and that Neil Pringle (SBC) was to confirm ownership of the adjacent wall which may influence the design.

**ACTION: Gordon to progress.**

**8. Swap and Share Shed:** Gordon reported that this is being well used and that they had been gifted a large consignment of turkeys from Sainsburys in Peebles (which were distributed between Innerleithen and Walkerburn). He also reported vandalism to the shed, perpetrated by High School teenagers (not yet identified, but CCTV footage may prove useful here). Shelves had been torn off walls and food thrown around which had caused a significant

amount of cleaning, disinfecting and remedial work for volunteers. It had been reported to police (and now has an incident number) so Gordon is hopeful that something will be done about it. The next day, the same thing had been done and three young people were in/by the shed when Gordon arrived. They denied wrongdoing. Gordon reported this second incident to the police.

Gordon also mentioned vandalism at the Edible Garden at the school which had closed the facility whilst it is made safe, clearing shards of glass etc. Marshall had noted the sports car (parked over a long period of time opposite the toilet block in Hall Street) had been vandalised and Jackie reported further vandalism of the toilets had been drawn to her attention by an SBC operative. This cluster of incidents suggested a worrying trend developing locally.

**9. Scawd Law Wind Farm update:** Colin confirmed that the application was due to be submitted by the end of 2021. This has been delayed as they are looking to establish a different access route, taking deliveries away from the A72. No further updates were available yet.

**10. Police report:** Marshall confirmed that the December report had been delayed and is not due to be issued until 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that the regular meeting of police and councillors is due to take place on 5th January. Jackie suggested that all noted acts of vandalism be highlighted as a cluster. Andy suggested that it may be a good idea for the police to flag the vandalised car opposite the toilets with a “Police Aware” sign.

#### **11. SBC Councillor’s reports:**

##### **Cllr Robin Tatler:**

**Placemaking Process and Planning:** Cllr Tatler encouraged attendance at a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm to learn more about the Placemaking Planning Process.

**Tweeddale Area Partnership Meeting:** The next meeting is to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm.

**Common Good consultation:** a brief meeting was held about this before Christmas. Ross McGinn has raised several points that have been taken up by Kirstie Robb (SBC).

**Tweed Valley Trails’ clearance/reopening:** Cllr Robin Tatler said there had been a lot of feedback regarding the storm damage and the need to re-open trails and he acknowledged the scale of the task. He confirmed that a tree on the back road, reported by Marshall as leaning at an unstable angle, was being dealt with by Philippa Gilhooly.

**12. Planning Report:** nothing outstanding.

**13. Anti-dog fouling campaign:** Jackie confirmed that further bags had been requested by, and supplied to SBC, but that as fast as they were put out, they were being taken. Andy had noticed a huge improvement on Waverley Road since the bin had been repositioned along from the dry cleaners. He felt it was time to celebrate what had been achieved as it had made a real difference.

**ACTION: All dog owners to do their civic duty and pick up after their dogs.**

#### **14. Correspondence:**

**(i) Common Good Consultation:** this survey is open until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

“Overview:

This consultation seeks your views on the Common Good registers for the former Burghs of the Scottish Borders.

All former Burghs have a 'Common Good' which comprises the land, buildings, art, artefacts and funds which were owned and managed by the Burgh Council on behalf of the residents of the Burgh. The Burgh system was extinguished in 1975 but the assets owned by the Burgh at that date continue to be owned by the Common Good, which is administered by Councillors who sit as Common Good Trustees.

Following an investigation of the assets held by Scottish Borders Council, we have prepared a draft asset register for each former Burgh. We have considered title deeds (for land and buildings), museum records and old Burgh minutes. Where an asset was donated to the town, prior to 1975; where it was purchased from Common Good funds; or where it has historically been used by the people of the town as a public asset, we have determined that the asset should form part of the Common Good.

However, we are seeking your views on whether you think any additional assets should be included on these registers, and if so, why. You may also have further information on the assets noted. Or you may think that an item on the register is not Common Good.

Once we receive your comments, we will consider the evidence available and determine, at a meeting of each Common Good Sub-Committee, whether any assets should be added to the register (or removed). We will then publish the final register within 6 months of the closing of this consultation.

Please note that if any additional information comes to light after the publishing of the final register, the register can be amended to include newly identified assets.”

Ross McGinn and Ted McKie have been invited to comment as they have a wealth of knowledge in this area. Marshall has a meeting arranged with Ross to explore this further.

**(ii) Common Council Scheme:** Scottish Borders Council set up a Working Group in 2019 to review the current Scheme for Community Councils. The proposed, amended, Scheme has been circulated for comment by Friday 18 February 2022.

**15. Thanks and Congratulations:**

- ✓ Thank you to the Sharing Shed Shepherds for all their work over the Christmas period to keep the supplies moving (current throughput is around 1.5 tons of food per week).
- ✓ Congratulations to those responsible for getting a proportion of the mountain bike trails back up and running after the storms.
- ✓ Particular mention to the Tweed Valley Trails Association <https://www.tweedvalleytrails.org/> who have done a sterling job in channelling mountain bike trail action.
- ✓ There is also a debt of gratitude owed to Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland <https://dmbins.com/> for working with FLS and trails associations to keep the mountain biking community informed of the reasons for trail closures, timescales and clearly articulating the safety issues.
- ✓ Thank you to our mountain biking community for adhering to advice to stay away in the aftermath of Storm Arwen in the interests of safety and ongoing restoration work.

**15. AOCB: None**

*Meeting closed at 7.52pm.*

**Date of next Meeting:**

- ✓ Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 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 .....