

Innerleithen and District Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held 7th March 2022 via Zoom

Those present: , George Brown, Jim Calder (Treasurer), Jackie Couchman (Minutes Secretary), Daniel Davis Wood, Marshall Douglas (Chairman), Cllr Shona Haslam, Allan Johnston (SPEN update), Cllr Robin Tatler, Andy Weir, Colin Williams

One member of the press was present.

Two members of the public were present, both candidates in the forthcoming SBC elections: David Pye and Julie Pirone

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Stuart Bell, Gordon Daly (Secretary)

Marshall Douglas welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Public forum:

Athletics facilities at Peebles High School: Colin shared concerns held by the Peeblesshire wide Moorfoot Runners Club (of which he is a committee member) regarding the planned athletics facilities at the new Peebles High School. The worry was that in the current shared plans the like-for-like facilities would miss the opportunity to provide the Peeblesshire-wide, fit-for-purpose hub that was warranted. The club has a proud history of honours on local, national and international stages and is keen to influence available investment to optimise the athletics facilities for the benefit of all. Gregor Nicholson (Moorfoot Juniors Coach) attended a meeting last week organised by the architects with the design team. The intention was to write to each of the Community Councils covered by the geographic area which will be served by these facilities, namely Peeblesshire, seeking their support. Cllr Robin Tatler and Cllr Shona Haslam endorsed the approach being adopted by Moorfoot Runners and committed to continue lobbying on their behalf accepting that budget and footprint would be key considerations. Cllr Robin Tatler also spoke of other work going on, looking at sports facilities based in Peebles, that currently involved football, rugby and cricket representation and expressed his desire to encourage wider participation in the process, including athletics.

(i) Power supply issues: Allan Johnston shared a comprehensive update from SPEN (Scottish Power Energy Networks) which is appended to these minutes. Allan has developed a good, open and honest, working relationship with senior management at SPEN and made a plea for the press to refrain from using inflammatory terms in reporting the matters discussed.

ACTION: Allan to continue to liaise with SPEN for regular updates and communicate issues arising as appropriate.

(iii) Parking on the B709 in the vicinity of The Ley: further to previous discussions, John Paterson had reported further instances of dangerous parking and had asked whether measures could be taken to address this (such as reflective bollards or notices on windscreens). Cllr Robin Tatler advised that the Roads Department had been asked to look at this and he was awaiting their feedback. Any dangerous parking should be reported to the police via 101. Both the Community Action Team (CAT) and Sergeant Grainger had been made aware of the need to monitor this area.

(iv) Logging lorries on B709: Ross McGinn questioned why logging lorries were using this road as a main route and pointed out the damage it was causing. Jackie reflected on discussions from a few years ago when, having reinforced the bridge at the Heriot junction, the road had no weight limit restriction. She also recollected that the practice of travelling in convoy was not condoned by the logging transport authority. Cllr Shona Haslam pointed out that the logging companies made significant contributions towards repairing roads damaged by the lorries and that significant work was done to the B709 in recent months using monies from this source with further work to be done.

ACTION: Cllr Shona Haslam to ask the Roads Department to remind the logging companies that travelling in convoy wasn't permitted.

(v) Leithen Road car park: Ross McGinn reported damage sustained by a car, blocked in by large campervans, that had been compelled to bump down the kerb in order to exit the car park. He queried the suitability of this car park for such large vehicles. There is currently no signage at the car park regarding its use.

ACTION: Cllr Shona Haslam to speak to the Roads Department about this.

(vi) Bike washing at The Cleikum Mill: Marshall had received a number of complaints about mud across the pavement at The Cleikum Mill from significant bike washing activity at the front the building. Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that there was a need for short, medium and long-term solutions to provide facilities for visitors in

general and mountain bikers in particular as discussed at the last meeting. These were actively under development currently.

At this point in the proceedings Marshall welcomed two particular members of the public to the meeting, both of whom were candidates in the forthcoming SBC elections. He expressed the desire that, should they be elected, they would work together with Innerleithen & District Community Council as effectively as the existing councillors had done.

3. Scawd Law Wind Farm update: Colin advised that Fred Olen have set up a liaison group with invited parties including Community Councils and Innerleithen Community Trust. The intention is for the group to meet every 2-3 months or as necessary. A virtual meeting had been held on 16th February 2022 and the minutes of that meeting are appended to these minutes. Whilst neither Colin nor Marshall had been able to attend the meeting, Ross McGinn was there in his capacity of chair of Innerleithen Community Trust. Colin picked out a few points of note, namely the proposed access point to the site which was now from the B709, the revised layout (for 8 turbines) and the provision of integrated mountain biking routes within the plans. Colin emphasised that this proposal was still at the pre-application stage.

Colin left the meeting at this point.

4. Minutes of last meeting and approval: the minutes were proposed by Daniel Davis Wood, seconded by Andy Weir.

5. Notification of items of AOCB: one item was flagged for consideration later in the meeting.

6. Matters arising from previous minutes:

B709 parking issues: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that a meeting had been held with stakeholders and proposals were being finalised for the short-term. A further meeting is to be held this week with a potential medium-term solution in the frame. Whilst unable to give much detail at this stage, Robin assured the meeting that this issue had been taken up as an action with momentum. The intention was for this initiative to be driven by the community and for ownership to reside with the Community Council and the Community Trust once funding sources and a route map ahead had been established.

Morningside lighting: Cllr Robin Tatler is still working with officers to find a cost-effective solution. The solution put forward was, at £20,000, unaffordable. Robin is hoping to find a simpler, affordable, solution prior to the election.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to progress.

Road to Caerlee Mast: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that he is waiting for SBC officers to pursue this with the owners involved. In the meantime, he confirmed that the “Give Way” is to be made clearer, particularly for those coming down the hill, to raise awareness of traffic priorities at that junction.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to update on progress.

Victoria Park play area: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that £130,000 funding has been agreed in the budget last week to address the drainage issues and improve the park in general. There is a reserve list for playpark budgets and Caddon Court has a £60,000 project on that list, too.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to update on progress.

Memorial bench: in Gordon’s absence this was carried forward.

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

Community flower beds: Gordon has lodged the funding application to the Platinum Jubilee Fund, but had been led to believe all funds were spoken for. Cllr Robin Tatler thought there may still be funding available and urged Gordon to get in touch with SBC officers as, should this funding be exhausted, they were looking at alternative sources of funding.

ACTION: Gordon to clarify funding position with SBC officers.

Bridge by Haughhead Stables: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that the bridge is SBC’s responsibility, part of Erica Niven’s remit. Robin is waiting for SBC officers to come back to him with proposed actions and timescale.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to progress and give updates as appropriate.

No cold-calling zone: Marshall confirmed that Gordon has now issued the “No Cold-Calling” packs.

Back road debris: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that Cllr Stuart Bell has taken this up with SBC officers, but has no details of what has been agreed.

ACTION: Cllr Stuart Bell to progress and update.

Yellow lines at the Traquair Road/A72 junction: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that this would be done in the next few weeks as weather permitted.

7. Swap and Share Shed: No update in Gordon's absence.

8. Police report: Marshall confirmed that the February Police Report (appended) had been received in time to circulate with the agenda.

9. SBC Councillor's reports:

Cllr Shona Haslam:

Planning issues: Cllr Shona Haslam reported that she's been dealing with a couple of planning issues in Innerleithen.

Abandoned vehicles: Cllr Shona Haslam reported that she had been dealing with some abandoned vehicles on the edge of Victoria Park. One has now been moved. There is also an abandoned motorhome that is in the process of being removed.

Peebles High School: Cllr Shona Haslam urged residents to express their views on the new High School via the planning portal. The application was registered on Monday 21st February 2022 and details can be found here: <https://eplanning.scotborders.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=R7N65LNTI2J00&activeTab=summary> Both Shona and Robin were happy to discuss any concerns or comments raised and take them back to the developer. Shona pointed out that the developer is the same as had built Jedburgh Community Campus which has been shortlisted for "The Best Building of the Year in Scotland" architectural award.

Cllr Robin Tatler:

Roads budget: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that provision had been made in the budget, approved last week, including:

- ✓ 200 metres of Damside
- ✓ Drainage works in Leithen Road (Drovers Way)

ACTION: Tweeddale works programme to be shared with Community Council members.

Vale of Leithen Football Club: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed discussions were ongoing with the club to try and help in the face of recent horrendous challenges. This includes considering a reduction of leasing costs to reflect the work undertaken by the club themselves.

10. Planning Report: the following applications were circulated for comment since the last meeting:

22/00204/FUL | Erection of replacement dwellinghouse and erection of workshop and garden room | 7 Angle Park Innerleithen Scottish Borders EH44 6PG

22/00071/FUL | Change of use and external alterations to form bakery and hot food takeaway from shop | 47 High Street Innerleithen Scottish Borders EH44 6HD

21/01577/FUL | Erection of dwellinghouse | Garden Ground Of 8A Miller Street Innerleithen Scottish Borders – status "Withdrawn"

11. Anti-dog fouling campaign: Jackie had nothing specific to report, but had been in touch with both Peebles Callants (through Malcolm Bruce) and Walkerburn Community Council (through Lesley Thornton) with a view to sharing our experiences in trying to tackle this problem. No further work had been done with the school since the start of the pandemic, although the shelved project to get children involved in monitoring and stencilling was ready to roll out. Andy shared the outline of a project of marking dog poo, with luminous (biodegradable) paint that his wife had been involved with in Edinburgh. Jackie confirmed that this approach had been considered early on in the project and maybe now was the time to revisit it. This is a universal and persistent problem with no easy solutions. The intention was to keep it on the public's radar, constantly seeking new ways of addressing it.

ACTION: Each responsible dog walker and citizen to be encouraged to remove dog poo from the pavement and to keep our streets clean and clear.

12. Correspondence: no specific correspondence to note.

13. Annual Accounts and acceptance of Code of Conduct: The audited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021, were presented and unanimously agreed (copy appended). All present agreed to accept the Code of Conduct (an annual requirement).

14. AGM/Election of Community Councillors: Marshall explained how the pandemic had knocked usual dates and processes off course and proposed the following plan of action:

6th June 2022 – AGM (noted that this is the weekend of the EWS event)

July/August 2022 – hold election of all Community Councillors

5th September – first meeting of newly elected Community Council

15. Thanks and Congratulations:

- ✓ Rachel Lauder was hugely commended for her initiative to raise funds for the Red Cross' Ukraine Crisis Appeal (at the time of writing sitting at just over £950 after two days, smashing her £100 target). Still time to donate up until Saturday 12th March at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rachel-lauder4>
- ✓ Congratulations to The Hub on the High Street for putting on and promoting the recent “Dirty Harry” concert in The Memorial Hall which was enjoyed by many.
- ✓ Good luck to The Pipe Band for “The Comeback Concert” on 30th April 2022 at The Memorial Hall. Tickets available now, see posters at Band Hall and elsewhere for details or order online at www.buytickets.at/innerleithenpipeband/641851
- ✓ Well done to St Ronan's Silver Band for their new RonanBuzzers group which looks great fun and introduces a new generation to the joys of making music.
- ✓ Congratulations to Durty Brewing for getting their planning application approved for a micro-brewery and visitor centre in the heart of Innerleithen. A welcome addition to our local business scene.

15. AOCB:

Overnight parking in Hall Street Car Park: George reported instances of campervans parking throughout the weekend in the car park in spite of a notice to the contrary. He asked that signage be improved to make the criteria for parking much more obvious. Cllr Robin Tatler said that ideally the alternative, legitimate, overnight parking locations should be signposted from Hall Street and this was part of the current exercise looking at parking and other facilities.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to address this.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Date of next Meeting:

- ✓ Monday 4th April at 7.15pm via Zoom (the May meeting format/location would be decided at that time with consideration given to a transition period maybe involving some sort of hybrid virtual/face-to-face 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