

Innerleithen and District Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held 4th April 2022 via Zoom

Those present: Cllr Stuart Bell, George Brown, Jim Calder (Treasurer), Jackie Couchman (Minutes Secretary), Gordon Daly (Secretary), Daniel Davis Wood, Marshall Douglas (Chairman), Allan Johnston (SPEN update), Cllr Robin Tatler, Andy Weir

One member of the press was present.

Three members of the public were present including Julie Pirone (a candidate in the forthcoming SBC elections)

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Shona Haslam, David Pye, Colin Williams

Marshall Douglas welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Public forum:**

Co-option: Susan Meikle (a former member of the Community Council) had expressed a wish to be a co-opted member until the next election.

Proposed: Marshall Douglas Seconded: Jackie Couchman

Parking issues and proposals for a long-term solution: the lack of parking infrastructure, particularly for the growing number of mountain-biking visitors, has thrown up a number of challenges for the community and Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that this had been recognised and that discussions were ongoing. Real efforts are being made to develop short, medium and long-term solutions. A number of meetings have been held with Cllr Stuart Bell, Marshall Douglas and David Gordon (Community Development Trust) along with the South of Scotland Enterprise Agency, Sam Smith (Economic Development Officer, SBC), GO Tweed Valley and Emma Guy (Enduro World Series).

Short term (2022 summer season):

Parking, two potential field sites have been identified so far

- ***field off Traquair Road that has been used before***
- ***field off Leithen Road, just before the golf course***

Portaloos, near to mountain-biking trails

Funding for bike wardens is being sought

Appropriate signage to direct parking to town sites (particularly from The Ley) once alternative sites are up and running

Longer term, consideration has been given to parking provision (daytime and overnight) in Innerleithen and possibly Walkerburn. This would aim to incorporate toilet, shower and bike washing facilities. One potential site has been identified so far. It was felt that, given the right facilities, charges could be levied to make them more sustainable.

Marshall thanked Cllr Robin Tatler for his work in getting this underway and securing the input of interested parties.

Cllr Stuart Bell had been approached by a concerned, mountain-biking, constituent who highlighted the lack of provision of parking, toilets, showers, bike washing facilities, bike-safe lanes on roads and designated “walking only” routes. He felt there was a case to be made to secure adequate funding to build the much-needed infrastructure to cater to the needs of all.

Allan raised the issue of cycling on the pavements again. It was agreed that it was a small, intransigent, minority that was responsible; the same minority that don't respect the trails or the countryside.

ACTION: Andy to raise the issue of riding on the pavement at the next business community meeting to see if anything more could be done in getting a shared message out in a positive way. Ideas for a positive way of getting the message across welcome.

Power supply issues: Allan Johnston read out an update from SPEN (Scottish Power Energy Networks) which is appended to these minutes.

3. **Minutes of last meeting and approval:** the minutes were proposed by George Brown, seconded by Andy Weir.

4. **Notification of items of AOCB:** three items were flagged for consideration later in the meeting.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes:

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 is to speak to the Roads Department about this.

Morningside lighting: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that Alex Young, SBC, has proposed installing two, solar powered, columns in the vicinity, costing around £5,000 which Cllr Robin Tatler has asked Neil Pringle to procure via the Small Schemes fund. This should be done in the next few weeks.

Road to Caerlee Mast: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that he is waiting for SBC officers to pursue this with the owners involved.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to update on progress.

Victoria Park play area: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that the work previously outlined, to address the drainage issues and improve the park in general, was due to be done in Spring 2022.

Memorial bench: Gordon is communicating with the estate managers to establish an appropriate location.

ACTION: Gordon to progress.

Community flower beds: Gordon has hit a stumbling block in the funding application to the Platinum Jubilee Fund as he's struggling to establish ownership of the land. He's currently waiting on a reply from the appropriate land registry that may take up to 15 weeks. Cllr Robin assured him that there were other sources of funding that could be tapped into should this particular window of opportunity close in the meantime.

ACTION: Gordon to progress.

Bridge by Haughhead Stables: Cllr Robin Tatler is still waiting for feedback from Erica Niven, SBC, on proposed actions and timescale.

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

Back road debris: Cllr Stuart Bell confirmed that he had taken photographs and sent them to SBC officers, who are aware of the problems, much of which has been caused by water run-off resulting in debris from potholes, spread across the road. SBC officers are in contact with landowners to get the water problem addressed after which time the debris/pothole problem can be resolved (but not during winter months).

ACTION: Cllr Stuart Bell has chased the officers concerned and will forward their update when received (or hand over details to Cllr Robin Tatler if it's not forthcoming during his tenure).

Overnight parking in Hall Street Car Park: Cllr Robin Tatler confirmed that he had looked at the existing signage and agreed that the prohibition on sleeping or overnight parking was not obvious as the sign was quite wordy. This links to the need for positive signposting to appropriate locations for campervans.

ACTION: Cllr Robin Tatler to speak to Philippa Gilhooly to get the signage improved.

6. Scawd Law Wind Farm update: Colin had advised that there are no particular updates this month.

7. Swap and Share Shed: Gordon advised that the Co-op have agreed to a small shed being erected (behind the clothing banks) which would act as a storage facility for stock from which the shed would be replenished. He said that usage had risen, a reflection of the general squeeze on more people's resources. He also confirmed that FareShare, the food redistributor supplying this project, have less food to send which is very much a reflection of the supply/demand stretch in current times.

Marshall thanked the Co-op for all their help with this initiative and Gordon for continuing to oversee it.

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 Stuart Bell: nothing further to add.

Cllr Robin Tatler: confirmed that regular meetings were held with Sergeant Stephen Granger and he had been made aware of the particular parking issues over weekends and asked to patrol when possible.

Athletics facilities at Peebles High School: Cllr Robin Tatler has been at a number of meetings with both design team and athletics organisations locally. He is fairly confident that it has been possible to resolve a number of the issues raised as outlined by Colin and that the provision will be a lot better than at present.

Placemaking meeting: Cllr Robin Tatler reported on the meeting held on 22nd March 2022 (which Jackie attended part of), subsequently discussed at the Tweeddale Area Partnership meeting on 29th March 2022. There is to be a working group set up within Tweeddale Area Partnership to decide how to take forward “placemaking” in Tweeddale.

Funding: Neighbourhood Support Fund has opened with £147,288 available. There is also £80,000 available through the **Small Schemes Fund**.

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

22/00376/FUL | Change of use to form additional office space from retail unit and external alterations | Retail Unit And First Floor Offices 28 Chapel Street Innerleithen Scottish Borders EH44 6HN

22/00403/FUL | Extension to dwellinghouse | 18 Caerlee Mill Damside Innerleithen Scottish Borders EH44 6AB

22/00471/FUL | Part change of use from vehicle workshop to form gymnasium | J&K Business Units 2 Station Yard Traquair Road Innerleithen Scottish Borders EH44 6PD

22/00516/FUL | Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse and formation of new access | The Limes Traquair Road Innerleithen Scottish Borders EH44 6PD

11. Anti-dog fouling campaign: Jackie confirmed that Walkerburn Community Council are arranging for Rose Hogg, Dog Education Officer, SBC, to give a presentation (probably daytime and face-to-face, rather than online) to them. She had suggested that it be a presentation to both Community Councils as we share the same problems. Once a date has been set, members will be informed. A project with primary school children, held over during the pandemic, was still pending.

ACTION: Members to be invited to attend the joint presentation once a date has been set.

12. Correspondence:

Enduro World Series: Marshall had received information from Emma Guy about a town hall meeting as follows: The Enduro World Series returns to Innerleithen from the 2nd - 5th June this year. We'd like to invite the local community to join us at a Town Hall event on Thursday 14th April, at 7pm in the Union Club, Innerleithen, to learn more about this international mountain biking event.

You can submit any questions you have in advance of the event, either via the online form below, or at the [The Allotment](#).

Submit your question to EWS: <https://forms.gle/tWwntJ2fNMWrt8VU9>

For more information about the event: <https://www.tweedvalley.enduroworldseries.com/>

Should anyone be planning Platinum Jubilee events, EWS would be happy to promote it alongside the EWS event.

15. Thanks and Congratulations:

- ✓ A huge “Thank You” to Nashy for working hard over the past six and a half years to provide a reason for us all to walk/cycle to Cardrona for a cup of tea and a sticky bun. We wish you well in your future endeavours.
- ✓ Rachel Lauder final total for the Red Cross’ Ukraine Crisis Appeal shot up from the £950 reported last month to an astonishing £1,493.04. Very well done, Rachel.
- ✓ Congratulations to winners and finalists in the recent Scotland’s Business Awards held on 20th March 2022:
 - The Hub on the High Street – won “The Community Award”
 - Loulabelle’s – won “The Best Eatery”
 - Lou Lou’s Vintage Emporium - finalists
- ✓ There are many individual fundraisers amongst our townsfolk, two of whom were given specific mention this month:
 - Robyn Keddie raised £360 for The British Heart Foundation by having a chocolate-free March; no mean feat!
 - Jennifer Allerhand raised over £460 for the Ukraine Red Cross DEC Appeal by baking flapjacks!
- ✓ Douglas Couchman and Scott Forrest were congratulated on being members of Whitburn Band, 2022, winning the Championship Section at the recent Scottish Championships held in Perth Concert Hall on 13th March. Both started their banding careers at St Ronan’s Silver Band which has a well-established reputation for nurturing young talent.

15. AOCB:

Closure of Innerleithen’s Bank of Scotland in August 2022: a petition has been raised against the removal of mainstream banking facilities on our High Street. It’s available both online and in some businesses in the town. The lack of consultation about this closure has taken people aback and caused anger and disappointment, tinged with a realistic sense of inevitability.

November 2022 Centenary of The Memorial Hall: The Memorial Hall Support Group are seeking ideas on how best to commemorate this centenary, to be discussed at their next meeting on 17th May at 6.15pm.

ACTION: To be put on the agenda for discussion at next month’s meeting; bring along your ideas.

Changed speed limits: Jackie expressed concern about the recent changes to speed limits heading south, down Leithen Road, introducing extra speed limits of 40mph from the cattle grid, through the golf course, 30mph from the edge of the residential area to Kirklands and 20mph from Kirklands to the High Street. Effectively, the speed limit has increased for the short stretch from Kirklands to the last house before the cauld. This was not consistent with other approaches to the town. Local perception is that driver habits haven’t changed and that this remains a dangerous stretch. Traffic monitoring and enforcement have been requested on numerous occasions. Cllr Robin Tatler and Cllr Stuart Bell confirmed that this approach created a buffer zone, designed to reduce speed from 60mph to 20mph in a controlled way. The speed reactive signs collected statistics which, apparently, showed that there is a reduction in speed. Cllr Robin Tatler offered to send through the statistics which prove this.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Date of next Meeting:

- ✓ Monday 2nd May at 7.15pm via Zoom (the June 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