

Innerleithen and District Community Council Meeting

Monday 6th March 2023

Present : Susan Meikle (Chair); Andy Weir; Sheila Daly; Gordon Daly (Secretary); Colin Williams; Ylva Dahsjo; George Brown; Cllr Marshall Douglas; Cllr Robin Tatler; Cllr Julie Pirone

Apologies : Lesley Johnstone; Daniel Davis Wood (Minutes secretary/Treasurer)

Absent : None

One member of the press was present

Administration

1. Welcome remarks from the chair
2. Attendance, apologies and absences noted above
3. Minutes of the previous meeting. Proposed: Andy Williams Seconded: Susan Meikle
4. Election of vacant office bearers. The position of vice-chair remains unfilled. It was decided to postpone this until the next meeting for a full complement of the CC.
5. Notification of any other competent business: B709 and the Community noticeboard

Business

1. Public Forum : No members of the public were present
2. New Business :
 - a. Keith Belleville and Fraser Edwards have asked the CC to access funding on their behalf. Any event that uses the funding must be organised by the CC directly. **Action:George will initiate the application and work with other groups to spend the £500.**
 - b. Robin noted that there have been historical issues with the parking on Waverley road. He suggested double yellow lines on both sides of the road. Issues with the architecture of the roads throughout the town have been accumulating on the TRO report and will be actioned when the budget becomes available. **Action: Robin will add the issue to the TRO report with Gary Haldane.**
 - c. There has been anti-social behaviour in Waverley Mills where young teens have banging on doors and windows. Residents are advised to call 0800 028 5711 or better to email asbu@scotborders.gov.uk with information on every incident throughout the town. Alternatively, if you require police attendance, please call 101. **Action : Julie will address this particular issue with the youth behavioural officer.**
 - d. Gordo from the Bike Shop on Leithen Crescent has ordered a new noticeboard.
3. Councillors' Reports :
 - a. Cllr Pirone
 - i.Cross-party members on the budget working group agreed SBCs budget.
 - ii.Issues with damp in housing in Innerleithen
 - iii.Anti-social behaviour issues
 - iv.Reports of problems with the lorries on the B709. Julie asks that if residents witness any problems, particularly if they have dashcam footage, to report to the police on 101.
 - v.Potholes have been repaired but have since opened up. Residents are advised to persevere with their diligent driving until the holes can be repaired again. **Action : Julie will contact the roads department to coordinate the repairs at their earliest convenience.**

- vi. There have been changes to the original design of Peebles High School; more open spaces, glass partitioning in the atrium, acoustic changes for children with hearing difficulties, among others. These can be read about on the website.
- vii. Halyrood School working to ensure that the redesign is fit for purpose.
- b. Cllr Douglas
- i. Marshall mentioned the logging lorries at the last CAT meeting. Police are also aware of the parking problem at the Ley. It is difficult for police to attend at the point problems are occurring.
 - ii. The budget went through with a cross-party working group. Everyone was pleased to keep the council tax rise to just 5%, less than half the rate of inflation, especially given the enormous pressures that the council is under. The Scottish Government allowed the council to refinance long-term debt from previous high school builds. This freed up a lot of money in the shorter term. There's no actual cash but it closes about £7million of the gap for this year.
 - iii. Temporary flood defences between Innerleithen and Walkerburn have been put in. This is an emergency measure to stem the river from cutting into the path. Long-term rectification will take considerable planning and implementation. It was difficult to come up with even this temporary fix because of the regulations from SEPA regarding any interference with the river. The council are aware of the issue and are working towards a permanent solution. **Action : Keep this on the agenda to allow monitoring.**
 - iv. Problems on the school bus (x62 which replaced the 362?). Times have been re-arranged and the bus is stopping at Peebles. Andy noted that there are 78 seats on the bus and 64 schoolkids get on the bus. Children frequently have to stand on the bus. He urged that the chartered bus service be returned. Changes to the timetable have been ineffective with the bus still being late in spite of having a half hour delay inserted at Edinburgh. **Action : Marshall - with the support of the other councillors - will restart the conversation with Borders Buses and the transport organisers.**
- c. Cllr Tatler
- i. Bridge to Haughhead stables is being looked at as part of Destination Tweed. They are developing a footpath from Berwick right through to the source of the Tweed. Haughhead bridge is part of that scheme. At the end of the multi-use path, they will straighten the route at the bottom of Traquair Road and Tweedbank Ley.
 - ii. The footbridge at Leithen Crescent has had a temporary measure put in to repair the defect. **Action : Robin to keep an eye on the repair and report that some of the equipment has been thrown in to the Leithen Water**
 - iii. The council are due to move the pole on Morningside. The solar panel on the current pole needs adjustment. **Action : Robin to progress**
 - iv. Nursery Park road surface will cost about £50k and is too significant to put through the small schemes budget. **Action : The councillors will speak to Brian Young of the Roads Department to ask if it can be brought forward into next financial year.**
 - v. Chambers Institution Trust. Councillors are keen to see representation from Innerleithen to the Trust. The restoration of the Burgh Hall looks spectacular and it will be re-opened again towards the end of April.
 - vi. Common Good Meeting on Wednesday at 3pm. Gordon will represent the council at this meeting. It will look at the use of the former playpark at the Memorial Hall, the installation of the cycle racks and garden planting.
 - vii. Hall St facilities. Robin met with Gordo, Coleen and Carmel. He agreed to chase up the funding for them. Also, Andy and Robin met with the football club to discuss the possibility of using those facilities. Some of the residents were not happy with that option. The biggest problem there is drainage. **Action : Robin to update the CC with any progress**
 - viii. Leithen Road cycling lanes. **Action : Robin will pursue this when resources allow**

Matters arising from the previous meeting

- a. Horse riding. **Action : Andy will contact Kate Jarvis**
- b. Warm Spaces. Young mothers and toddlers learning how to cook at the Church. **Action : Daniel will elaborate at next meeting**
- c. Scottish Power Energy Networks have purchased two petrol generators for the community. They are held by Ross McGinn as part of the resilience equipment and will be used to assist people with vulnerabilities from this winter onwards. **Action : Gordon will attend a meeting with SPEN on Friday to discuss the route for the upgraded cabling between Yair and Innerleithen. He will also pass on the thanks of the Community for this resource. George will determine how the public can access these with the CTrust**

- d. Placemaking has stalled somewhat since the previous meeting. The CC have to determine what the community wants to spend this money on. Therefore, a community event will be organised to gather that information from residents. There is funding available to hire consultants to help progress the developments. **Action : Gordon will re-initiate communication with all the stakeholders and will contact Kenny Harrow to discuss funding for a leafleting campaign to assist with gathering the information.**
- e. Mountain Bike Innovation Centre Issue closed
- f. Brodies Mill development The Caerlee Mill Heritage Group met Paul Cathrow of SoSE to discuss the most recent designs for the MBIC (as brought to the 6 February IDCC meeting by Ed Shoote). There will be various levels of public access to the building, with the grounds, and ground floor (including a café) will give full access to the public, and the first floor will be accessible for special events, workshops and exhibitions. Paul also confirmed that SoSE will fund the contracted exhibition designers Bright until May 2023 so they can identify the most expensive elements of the new art and heritage interpretation for the mill and apply for external funding to deliver it eg National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Caerlee Mill Heritage Group has finalised the design brief for Bright, and a moodboard of ideas. They will continue to provide direction and content for Bright. **Action : Ylva to carry on reporting this to the CC**

Planning Report

A notification from the council's licensing department looking for representations for Dirty Brewing Ltd of 4 Traquair Road. Observations should be lodged with the clerk of the licensing board no later than 24th March **Action : it was agreed that Daniel should offer the support of the CC to the project by emailing the licensing board.**

Police Report

Circulated with these minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Carried forward until next month's meeting

Wind Farm Updates

- a. Scawd Law Moved to discussion in private
- b. Leithen Water no update

Anti-dog fouling

There is money available to purchase bags for the dispensers. **Action : Daniel will purchase some when he returns**

Cycling on the pavement

Daniel has shown by his investigation that there is little evidence to support that there is a problem with cycling on the pavement, 0.8% in February. **Action : issue closed**

AOCB

SPEN Gordon will be attending a meeting at the Traquair Arms on Friday.

Correspondence

Circulated

Thanks and Congratulations

A special thanks goes to Gordo from the Bike Shop for his provision of the noticeboard. Thanks also to the council for their swift action to bolster the path between Walkerburn and Innerleithen

Date of next meeting

Monday 3rd April Memorial Hall 7.15pm

