

# Innerleithen and District Community Council

## Minutes of the meeting held 5 June 2023

**Present:** Susan Meikle (Chair), Gordon Daly (Secretary), Daniel Davis Wood (Minutes Secretary; Treasurer), Sheila Daly, Colin Williams, Andy Weir, Lesley Johnstone, Cllr. Julie Pirone, Cllr. Marshall Douglas.

**Apologies:** George Brown, Ylva Dahnsjo, Cllr. Robin Tatler.

**Absences:** None.

No members of the public were present. One member of the press was present.

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### Administration

1. *Welcome remarks from Chair.* Susan welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised attendees of the fire safety procedures for the Memorial Hall.
2. *Attendance, absences and apologies.* These were noted as above.
3. *Minutes from previous meeting.* Proposed: Colin. Seconded: Daniel.
4. *Election to unfilled offices.* The office of Vice-Chair remains vacant. Given the absence of candidates, it was decided to leave the office vacant. In the event of the Chair's absence, the councillors will appoint a temporary Chair until the Chair returns.
5. *Notification of any other competent business (AOCB).* Sheila raised one item.

### Business

1. *Public forum:*
  - a. *Parking and public behaviour at cycling events.* Although no members of the public were present at the meeting, correspondence sent to IDCC in advance raised concerns around this issue. A member of the public wrote to complain about the management of a recent cycling event arranged by Tweedlove, particularly with regard to parking and cycling on pavements. The letter drew a contrast between this event and the smoother, more effective management of events organised by EWS.

Cllr. Pirone said that councillors can act on complaints like this one, but it is also vital for such complaints to be fed back to the event organisers directly from the public. The organisers should be considering the management of parking and public behaviour as

part of their event plan. Cllr. Pirone has already raised with SBC the need for a council-wide policy on events, particularly as they grow in size and frequency, so that no event organiser can be in doubt about the need for things like marshals and the consideration that is owed to residents. In the absence of a policy, however, complaints can only be raised with the organisers, and when the organisers hear directly from the public, they don't have to rely on hearsay. Cllr. Douglas agreed and said that Tweedlove experienced similar issues with a recent event in Peebles, and have acknowledged that the traffic management there needed improvement. That said, he noted that Tweedlove have previously organised many successful events in the area and have made particular efforts to prevent cycling on pavements. He added that another event in August will be managed by a larger organisation, based in Glasgow, so will hopefully have more resources to devote to parking and cycling on pavements.

Andy said that the complaint received by IDCC should be added to the growing list of complaints about parking facilities in Innerleithen. Without absolving Tweedlove of their responsibilities as event organisers, he said that there is only so much an organiser can do when parking in Innerleithen is so limited. Colin pointed out that Tweedlove taped off a large section of the Leithen Vale football pitch so that the junior years could use it: this could be a potential parking facility if needed. Similarly, Victoria Park was used for parking during the band competition last weekend: this, too, could be a temporary facility. Andy and Colin agreed that there should be expectations that organisers meet basic standards for traffic management, but also that we as a community need to consider where we would prefer to have events taking place. **ACTION: Cllr. Pirone will feed back the complaint to SBC. Gordon will feed it back to Tweedlove on behalf of IDCC.**

## 2. *New business*

- a. No new business was raised.

## 3. *SBC Councillors' reports*

### a. *Cllr. Douglas:*

- a. *Tweeddale Access Panel.* The panel will meet in the Burgh Hall in Peebles, at 7pm on June 13. The police will be in attendance to address issues of public concern, but anyone who wishes to raise an issue should contact council officials in advance, by Friday, June 9. Placemaking is also on the agenda.
- b. *Local infrastructure.* This is still being looked at by The Hub CIC, who are working on the refurbishment of the Hall Street toilet facilities with part-funding from SOSE. A related committee is also looking into solutions for parking in town.
- c. *Remembrance Sunday.* There were issues last year when the police did not close the roads around Innerleithen and Traquair. Cllr. Douglas has spoken to the roads department to get the appropriate permissions in place this year. He will meet with representatives of Innerleithen Church of Scotland next week to make further arrangements.

- d. *Vandalism*. There has been a bit of vandalism at the top of Horsburgh Street, where a bench was shifted around. SBC have removed it so that it can be adapted and bolted down. Additionally, vandals have dug up some grass in Princes Street Gardens and installed a makeshift bike ramp using a drain cover. This has been removed and levelled over.
  - e. *Road markings*. A resident of George Street has complained about new disabled parking lines being painted in George Street, in front of a property where a former resident who was disabled is now deceased. SBC will investigate the situation and amend the lines if necessary. Usually, however, such deaths need to be reported to the SBC roads department so that the lines are not renewed.
- b. *Cllr. Pirone:*
- a. *Small schemes funding*. There is a bit of funding to address issues of concern in Innerleithen, such as potholes and drop kerbs, so we should see progress on these issues soon.
  - b. *Community Speed Watch Scheme*. A working group has been established between the police and SBC, to consider how the scheme will operate and what training is involved. The working group will meet next week.
  - c. *Tweed Valley Trail*. There are plans for a trail running the entire length of the Tweed Valley and out to Eyemouth. A recent report was produced and published, and will hopefully be endorsed by the full council.
  - d. *Eddleston multi-use path*. The multi-use path from Peebles to Eddleston will be officially opened next week, with a celebratory barbecue. Once open, this will mean that there is a continuous path all the way from Walkerburn to Eddleston.
  - e. *Funding for public projects*. There is a conversation underway, also involving Innerleithen Community Trust, about the memorial garden and how to get funding to do something with it. Cllr. Pirone will contact Poppy Scotland to see if they will contribute to its rejuvenation. Per a request from Susan, she will also look into the rejuvenation of the flower beds near the memorial in Traquair. In addition, Cllr. Pirone reported that there is now a form available from SBC to connect community councils to funding that they are eligible for, so that SBC takes on the burden of identifying funding sources rather than individuals.
- c. *Cllr. Tatler:*
- a. Cllr. Tatler gave his apologies for this meeting.

4. *Matters arising from the previous meeting:*

- a. *New noticeboard at The Bike Shop*. An invoice for the new noticeboard has not yet been received. **ACTION: The Bike Shop will forward the invoice for the noticeboard.**
- b. *Horse-riding*. Andy reported that FLS is unlikely to undertake new work to improve trails for horse-riders on FLS land. FLS is under acute pressure at the moment with several projects to oversee in Glentress, so he is certain that upgrades to local horse-riding trails

will not be a priority for action. Daniel is still awaiting SBC feedback on land ownership searches for land along the multi-use path, for the installation of mounting blocks. He last heard from SBC in early May. **ACTION: Daniel will write to SBC for an update.**

- c. *Placemaking.* Gordon has reached out to Kenny Harrow, but has not received a response. However, there is a placemaking meeting scheduled for June 6, involving community councils from across the ward, convened by Crick Carleton. **ACTION: Susan and Gordon will attend the placemaking meeting; Colin will also attend if possible.** Susan said that the problem faced by IDCC is that there is a limited number of people to do things that are necessary to take advantage of the placemaking opportunities. She asked whether we should use social media as an appeal for help. **ACTION: Susan and Gordon will confer again on this issue after the placemaking meeting.** Sheila said that it might be best to pitch it as a short-term contribution to public life, rather than being involved directly with IDCC. Cllr. Douglas emphasised that people don't need expertise or qualifications to do this, just ideas and a vision of how the community might develop. Placemaking schemes can release funds for professional consultants to do the more intensive work. Cllr. Pirone said that a form of placemaking was already happening through the actions of IDCC, the Community Trust, and The Hub CIC, but this is a decentralised and not entirely collaborative form of placemaking: the key is to get people together so that nobody is doubling-up on ideas and so that all participants can share resources such as consultants. Colin said that you can see an example of progress in West Linton, where funding for a sports facility upgrade has been received by conceiving of the project as a whole-community facility rather than an upgrade for facilities belonging to just one type of sport, or just one age range. Something similar would happen with placemaking, by conceiving of projects as beneficial to all.
- d. *WHP Telecoms.* Colin pointed out that WHP Telecoms have submitted a planning application for the telecommunications mast near the top of the Minch Moor, on the Southern Upland Way. It is not a very impressive application, with blurry graphics and no rationale given for the rejection of five alternative locations for the tower. Daniel said he wrote directly to WHP Telecoms to express IDCC's disapproval of the plans, and appealed for help from TVTA and the Borders Rangers, but received no responses. Cllr. Pirone said that Walkerburn Community Council has been having a similar conversation about this planning application. She said that although she agrees that mobile phone masts are necessary infrastructure, this one is particularly badly located and is to be built following outdated guidance. **ACTION: Daniel will issue a formal objection to the proposal on behalf of IDCC, and will renew contact with TVTA and the Rangers. Gordon will put a notice on social media to alert the public to the proposal and invite them to give feedback. All concerned individuals are encouraged to submit their own objections.**
- e. *Brodies Mill redevelopment.* Ylva gave her apologies for this meeting and was therefore unable to provide an update on the Brodies Mill redevelopment.

## 5. *Standing items:*

- a. *Planning report.* No planning applications were received prior to this meeting, including the application from WHP Telecoms which Colin noticed in the *Peeblesshire News*. **ACTION: Daniel will write to SBC to investigate the lack of communications.**

- b. *Police report.* No police report for May was received prior to this meeting.
- c. *Treasurer's report.* There is no further progress on Daniel's efforts to become a signatory to the bank account.
- d. *Wind farm updates:*
  - a. *Scawd Law.* Colin forwarded the minutes from the latest meeting of the Community Liaison Group. He said that the applicants are focusing on replying to responses from consultees.
  - b. *Leithenwater.* No updates on the Leithenwater development.
- e. *Campaigns updates:*
  - a. *Anti-dog fouling.* Daniel said that new bags are becoming a matter of urgency after an increase in dog fouling around St. Ronan's Primary School. **ACTION: Daniel will liaise with Marshall to release new funds for dog waste bags.**
  - b. *Cycling on pavements.* Daniel noted that the temporary signage against cycling on pavements has gone up around town. He had intended to report that this signage kept cycling on pavements at a low rate, which it appeared to do until the Tweedlove event. Outside of this event, the rate remains low.

6. *AOCB:*

- a. *Littering.* Sheila has noticed an increase in littering around town. It is especially a problem around the top of Traquair Road, mostly because the dog waste bin doesn't have the same capacity as the bin it replaced. Sheila observes that most of the litter is generated by take-out food which comes from approximately ten High Street premises offering food to go. She said that although the packaging of this food is often biodegradable, that doesn't help much with litter and the High Street needs a new bin. She also wondered if take-out businesses couldn't offer customers a bin outside their premises. Susan said that they will not do this because they will have to pay for additional waste collections. Sheila and Colin asked whether it would be possible to reinstall the larger bin on the High Street. Cllr. Pirone said that any new bin will have to come from somewhere else, as the council will not fund an additional bin. She also asked about how waste collection is treated at events. Andy suggested that events organisers might arrange a competition-based "fun" litter-picking outing *before* an event, so that they feel they have a stake in keeping the town clean. **ACTION: Daniel will give Susan the map showing the locations of all the bins in town. Susan will identify possibilities for the relocation of a bin to the High Street. Sheila will approach the take-out businesses and ask them to put a notice in their shop, requesting that customers dispose of their litter responsibly. Sheila will also approach the Coop about additional waste collections from its bin, which is usually overflowing at the end of the weekend.**

7. *Correspondence:*

- a. Correspondence was received from: Nicola Bissett of the Tweed Forum, regarding the Tweed Catchment Management Plan; Lindsay Renwick of SBC Housing,

regarding the Draft Local Housing Strategy; and Samantha Eliot of SBC Traffic Management, regarding the provision of public signage for the 20mph scheme.

8. Thanks and congratulations:

- a. George proposed thanking the Piping Society for organising their event at the weekend.

9. Forthcoming events:

- a. None.

10. Matters to be taken in private:

- a. None.

NEXT MEETING: 3 July 2023, 7.15pm @ Council Chamber, Memorial Hall