

Innerleithen and District Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held 3 July 2023

Present: Susan Meikle (Chair), Gordon Daly (Secretary), Daniel Davis Wood (Minutes Secretary; Treasurer), George Brown, Ylva Dahnsjo, Cllr. Robin Tatler, Cllr. Julie Pirone, Cllr. Marshall Douglas.

Apologies: Sheila Daly, Colin Williams, Andy Weir, Lesley Johnstone.

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: Daniel. Seconded: Gordon.
4. *Election to unfilled offices.* The office of Vice-Chair remains vacant. Given the absence of candidates for this position, it was resolved to allow SBC councillors to appoint a Chair *pro tem* in the event of Susan's absence. **Issue closed.**
5. *Notification of any other competent business (AOCB).* None.

Business

1. *Public forum.* No members of the public were present.
2. *New business:*
 - a. *AGM.* As IDCC is preparing to break, with no meeting scheduled for August, Susan suggested that we hold our AGM at the September meeting. This was agreed.

3. *SBC councillors' reports:*

a. Cllr. Tatler:

- i. *Road markings.* The road markings on Traquair Road are done and look good.
- ii. *BT Broadband infrastructure.* Residents of Waverley Place have complained about new broadband poles being installed where they shouldn't be. There have been similar issues in Peebles. Any feedback/complaints for infrastructure along these lines should be passed on to Robert Thorwin. In theory, the workers who install the poles should be contacting affected residents in advance, though sometimes they only do so after the work has been done. Cllr. Tatler's experience is that even after a pole has been installed, residents who are adversely affected can get the pole relocated if they reach out. In theory, too, the poles should not be put where there is an existing underground access (although water damage to ducting can change this) and the workers should be using existing poles wherever possible.

b. Cllr. Douglas:

- i. *Remembrance Sunday.* Cllr. Douglas met with Fraser Edwards (of the Church of Scotland) and Keith Belleville, to discuss the Remembrance Sunday arrangements this year. He has passed on details of necessary road closures to SBC officers. He has been advised that an application for a license shouldn't be necessary, as the planned commemoration event isn't a march, but only a gathering at the war memorial.

c. Cllr. Pirone:

- i. *Speeding at Traquair and Kirkhouse.* Another resident of Traquair has complained about speeding where the speed limit changes. Between Traquair and Kirkhouse. Pop-up bobby will be going back to this hotspot after having been successfully installed in Walkerburn. As no accidents have been recorded in this area, Police Scotland say that the data does not support additional action on their part; however, Cllr. Pirone will have a conversation with police about sending the van into the area. She will also pass on correspondence from the residents who have been affected by speeding, so that IDCC can record it in the minutes (see appendix).
- ii. *Tweedlove.* Cllr. Pirone conveyed public feedback about the management of recent events in Innerleithen to the organisers at Tweedlove situation. Hopefully this means that other events planned for August will address the concerns of the public on issues like traffic and marshals. She also conveyed the feedback to SBC's events planning and economic development teams.

4. *Matters arising from the previous meeting:*

- a. *Placemaking.* Susan attended two meetings in the past month. The first, via Zoom, convened a number of local communities to find out where they are with their placemaking plans, but did not offer an opportunity for Susan to explain IDCC's situation

with regard to resources in terms of people and time. She also attended the TAP meeting. She noted that Carmel from The Hub CIC is willing to meet with IDCC to see what can be started; Carmel has some feasibility studies on what projects to undertake. Another advice session is planned for 6 July at 6.00pm, online. It will be a peer learning event, to see how communities across Scotland have benefited from placemaking support. **ACTION: Daniel will attend on behalf of IDCC.**

- b. *WHP Telecoms*. The window for responses to the planning application hasn't closed yet, but it's important to keep an eye on this. **ACTION: Daniel will monitor responses.**
- c. *Littering*. Gordon reported that Sheila hasn't spoken to local take-out businesses yet, regarding the possibility of setting up bins outside their premises. **ACTION: Sheila will report back at the September meeting.** Gordon also noted that the littering at the top end of Traquair Road seems to have subsided a bit, though a lot of litter has still ended up in the flower beds. He recommended putting a big bin put there again. Cllr. Tatler said that Campbell Johnstone of the Eshiels depot is in charge of parks and bins and can arrange moving one. **ACTION: Gordon will write to Campbell to move the bin from outside the old bank to the corner of Traquair Road.** George noted that there were issues with some trees at Victoria Park as well. Cllr. Tatler said that Campbell would be able to help with this. **ACTION: George will contact Campbell to resolve this issue.**
- d. *Brodies Mill redevelopment*. Ylva reported that the Heritage Group met with design consultants in June, to discuss the concept design they have come up with. The consultants have the next bit of funding to work up details: Ylva says it is imaginative, using lots of different materials, and everything leads back to the stories the group wants to tell. Colour and innovation will be the guiding themes. Some early branding imagery has been completed and the architects have come back with some new drawings in recent weeks, all of which will be fed back to the design consultants. They are due to meet again with the Heritage Group at the end of July, and are open to meeting with IDCC. **ACTION: Ylva will invite a representative of Bright to the September meeting, to share progress with IDCC.**

5. *Standing items:*

- a. *Planning report*. Four planning applications were circulated. Members of IDCC expressed concerns about two applications to convert former retail premises on the High Street into short-term letting accommodations. These concerns were to do with the use of space and the impact of short-term lets on the character of the High Street, reducing the availability of retail space. **ACTION: Daniel will write to oppose these developments on behalf of IDCC. Members are also encouraged to submit responses as individuals.**
- b. *Police report*. The police report for May was circulated 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. Daniel advised IDCC that SBC has opened its fund for the maintenance of public paths, which allows up to £450. Anyone who has priorities for public path maintenance should email innerscc@gmail.com and Daniel will also coordinate funding applications with the activities of the Community Trust.

- d. *Wind farm updates.* Colin gave his apologies for this meeting, but advised IDCC in advance that there had been no further updates to give on Scawd Law or Leithenwater.
- 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 cycling on pavements has been very low throughout June, possibly due to a lot of wet weather reducing the number of cyclists in town. Cllr. Pirone confirmed that cyclists' attendance at planned events has also been lower than expected.

6. *AOCB:* None.

7. *Correspondence:*

- a. Correspondence was received from Valentins Kuksinovs of FLS, regarding the current consultation on forestry management in Tweeddale, and Lindsey Renwick of SBC, regarding the council's Draft Local Housing Strategy.

8. *Thanks and congratulations:*

- a. Susan, Gordon, and George all thanked the Community Trust volunteers who were working on cleaning up the memorial garden as this meeting was in progress.

9. *Forthcoming events:*

- a. None.

10. *Matters to be taken in private:*

- a. None.

NEXT MEETING: 4 September 2023, 7.15pm @ Council Camber, Memorial Hall