

# Tweedsmuir Community Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7pm, Tweedsmuir Village Hall & via ZOOM

### Present:

Lesley Mason (Chair), Frances Leckie (FL, Vice Chair) Debbie Cullen (DC, Secretary), Mark Cullen (MC, Treasurer),Carolynn Hoy (CH), Eric Small, (ES, Scottish Borders Council), Drummond Begg (DB, Scottish Borders Council) and one member of the public.

### 01.06 Welcome and Apologies

No apologies received.

### 02.06 Minutes of the last meeting

It was noted that Mark Cullen, Treasurer, was omitted from the record those present at the May meeting.

### 03.06 Matters arising not covered in the agenda

- Response from SBC re: Planning enquiry – SBC have responded to **LM**.
- Contact details for Access Officer – obtained. **LM** reported that a new Head of Service to commence in post soon and suggested that in view of this to postpone contact with department for a few weeks.
- Contact with the Community Policing Team – PC Carsley had contacted and offered to attend the July TCC meeting. **DC** informed PC Carsley that no meeting is held in July. Awaiting an alternative date for PC to attend.
- Response from Scottish Water re: collapsed building on road to Talla. Scottish Water acknowledged receipt of the information and to make an assessment of this asset.
- Citizens Advice Service – monthly sessions will not be continuing in Tweedsmuir. Dates for sessions at Skirling Village Hall - 27<sup>th</sup> June, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 22<sup>th</sup> August and Broughton Village Hall - 12<sup>th</sup> June, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 14<sup>th</sup> August. Appointments for these sessions and or to arrange a telephone consultation can be booked by contacting 01721 721722.

### 04.06 Planning applications

None received.

### 05.06 Treasurer's Report

The reports for April and May can be viewed at -

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/April-Report.pdf>  
<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/May-Report.pdf>

A reporting regarding microgrant expenditure can be viewed at - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Micro-Grant-May-Report.pdf>

**MC** reported that –

- an independent examiner for the TCC Accounts, prior to submission to SBC is still being sought.
- TCC renewed the zoom license in April at a cost of £150. This is recognised to be a valuable community resource used by other community organisations including the Community Company, Upper Tweed Community News, and the Village Hall. Given the cost of the license as a proportion of TCC’s income TCC may need to consider whether, going forward, it can solely fund this purchase or seek a contribution from these other users.
- **LM** raised the issue of SBC’s Pathways Grant and the need to develop plans to enable application for the next tranche of available funding. Maintenance work on the old Drove Path running alongside the Toll House was identified as a potential project.
- An application for funding for publication and distribution of Upper Tweed Community News (UTCN) across Skirling, Broughton and Tweedsmuir areas has been submitted to Ventient Windfarm and will be considered at the Autumn Panel meeting.

It was agreed that £80, from the former SBC Covid 19 budget to be spent on costs associated with publication and distribution of the next edition of UTCN to Tweedsmuir residents.

#### **06.05 Grant applications**

None.

**LM** reported that initial discussions are taking place with Whitelaw Brae and Foundation Scotland regarding the Community Benefit Fund associated with this windfarm.

#### **07.06 Police report**

**DC** reported that Police Scotland have informed that no report was produced for April. The report for May can be viewed at -

<https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Tweeddale-East-and-West-May-2024.docx>

TCC have been made aware of a number of break-ins and thefts primarily from agricultural/forestry buildings in and around Tweedsmuir. Residents are reminded of the need to make sure buildings are secured and any suspicious activity reported to the Police.

#### **08.06 Scottish Borders Councillors’ report**

**ES** reported that much routine council business is being suspended due to the forthcoming Election. This will particularly impact upon the progress of any legal issues.

## **09.06 Community Action Plan (CAP)**

A meeting of the CAP Steering Group took place on 9<sup>th</sup> May where progress against the first year's priorities were reviewed.. The main points of discussion/action will be available shortly.

**LM** reported that a grant application to the SSE Windfarm Fund is being prepared to fund the continuation of the Community Development Manager post for a further 2 years.

## **10.06 Destination Tweed**

**LM** reported that meetings involving key partners are now taking place monthly, with numerous strands and associated project groups taking forward this significant project. The establishment of a 5G Hub at the Crook is also progressing supported by monthly meetings.

## **11.06 Consultations**

- The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) – see agenda for details.

## **12.06 Items for information**

- **SBC Digital recycling kit.**  
Scottish Borders Council has launched a brand-new suite of digital tools designed to make it even easier for Borderers to stay on top of their waste and recycling and can be accessed here.
- TCC has been notified of plans for several areas of native woodland forest planting –
  - At Talla Reservoir, involving 9.51 hectares of land surrounding the reservoir, a map can be viewed at <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Talla-Draft-Woodland-Design.pdf>. This new woodland will link up woodland on neighbouring properties, joining up habitats and creating wildlife corridors. It is anticipated that planting would take place towards the end of 2024 and would involve a team of planters hand screefing the soil to create a better condition for the saplings. The team will then plant the trees with vole guards and stakes to protect them, which will take place over a couple of days. Access to the reservoir for recreational purposes should not be affected, and we will exclude existing access routes from planting.
  - At Megget Reservoir, involving 6.13 hectares of land surrounding the reservoir involving a programme of work similar to that proposed for Talla, outlined above.
  - at Wychwood (located two miles south of Broughton towards Tweedsmuir on the east of the A701). The scheme proposal will be part-funded by the Destination Tweed project, who are delivering an environmental top-up grant designed to improve the amenity and environmental value of the landscape surrounding the Destination Tweed trail.

Anyone wishing for more details or to comment on these plans please contact **DC**.

### 13.06 Forthcoming Events

Info about forthcoming events can be found at <https://www.tweedsmuir.scot/events/>

### 14.06 Any other business

- A resident raised concerns regarding the speed of traffic on the A701 and the numerous accidents that had occurred over recent years.

It was noted that when raised previously SBC had informed that there are insufficient numbers of properties adjacent to the A701 to warrant a reduction in the speed limit. There would also be a reluctance to introduce a reduced speed limit where there is little likelihood of effective enforcement. This was confirmed by **ES**, who acknowledged that whilst accidents had taken place, unless involving fatalities are unlikely to be taken into consideration re: reviewing speed limits.

**LM** reported on a meeting that had taken place in Tweedsmuir with Philippa Gilhooly (PG), Traffic & Road Safety at SBC regarding the potential for pedestrian warning signs at the Crook. Whilst it may not be possible to obtain permanent signage, it maybe possible for SBC to provide signage to be used on specific occasions e.g. when events are taking place.

The potential to develop an active travel route between the Crossroads and Village Hall and ultimately the Crook was also discussed. It was acknowledged that any pathway will need to be done in sections dependent upon securing the necessary permissions and finance. **PG** to consider options to inform further discussion.

It was noted that the planned 5G hub has the potential to collect data re: traffic volumes and speeds which could be used to support a case for a reduction in the speed limit through Tweedsmuir.

- A resident expressed concern regarding the vehicle parked on the A701 at Rachan, particularly in the dark. After discussion it was agreed that TCC would contact Upper Tweed Community Council (UTCC) re: this issue.
- **MC** reported that he and **LM** are undertaking training in how to use thermal imaging cameras, used to detect heat loss from homes. Consideration will then be given to how they might be used within the community.
- **DB** informed of a Hustings ahead of the General Election on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 from 7pm until 9pm on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June in the Burgh Hall, Chambers Institution, Peebles. The seven candidates standing in the Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale Constituency have confirmed their attendance. They will each have a few minutes to present their views and then respond to questions. All within the Constituency area are welcome to attend.

**Action:** **DC** to contact UTCC re: potential road safety issue at Rachan.

**16.06 Date of next meeting**

**Please note there is no meeting in July.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024.

**If you have any agenda items, please contact the secretary**

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[www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk) Contact: [Tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:Tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com)

Chair: Lesley Mason Vice Chair: Frances Leckie

Treasurer: Mark Cullen Secretary: Debbie Cullen Councillor: Carolynn Hoy

Resilient Communities Coordinator: Lesley Kirkwood - [resilienttweedsmuir@gmail.com](mailto:resilienttweedsmuir@gmail.com)