

Newcastleton & District Community Council
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting Tuesday 14th February 2017

Present: Scott Wilson(Chair), Joan Robson, Gary Cuthbert, Shaun Turnbull, Barbara Elborn, Margaret Elliot PC Allan Patterson (part), SBC Councillors Davie Patterson and George Turnbull, in attendance 3 members of the public.

Apologies received from Laura Paterson (Vice-Chair), Gordon Steele, Cllr Ron Smith, Adrian Downey, Dean Thomson

1. **Minutes** of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record, proposed GC, seconded ME
2. **Police report December 2016**
 - a. Report of males shooting near to Blink Bonny; organised shoot had been taking place.
 - b. Call to Whisgills regarding possible animal cruelty involving horses SSPCA attended and are dealing
 - c. Anonymous call regarding male driving a tractor along Hermitage Street with dog sitting in driver's seat, traced and made aware of possible issues.
 - d. Call to D'Mainholm all gates into fields from main road to Whisgills had deliberately been opened during night to allow sheep out.
 - e. Report from Leahaugh of an accident between cyclist and motorcyclist, cyclist sustained minor injuries.
 - f. Theft of horse box and horse tack from Greenholme farm overnight, Ifor Williams twin axle horsebox and tack combined value of £4500 taken, enquiries are ongoing.
 - g. Report of a sheep worrying incident at Whisgills farm, Black Faced ewe lamb killed.
 - h. Holmfoot at junction for Roadhead, motorcyclist failed to stop for Police then fled across fields, Owner/Rider subsequently traced and charged with road traffic offences.
 - i. Further neighbour issues at Whisgills.
3. **Police Report January 2017**
 - a. Vehicle seized in Newcastleton, driver with Revoked Driver's License and no insurance, report submitted.
 - b. 7th Jan Fly tipping at Steel Road in entrance to forest, possibly blue Ford Transit, no reg. In rubbish left was a collection bag for Air Ambulance, van was in village later in week.
 - c. Report from Newcastleton of male feeding sheep sensing a bullet pass him, statements have been noted but no further actions yet.
 - d. Report of two males in car chasing a group of youth in the village. Parties traced, nothing untoward.
 - e. Anonymous report of male driving without holding a current driver's license. Traffic attended, male produced a valid Irish driver's license.
 - f. Anonymous call regarding possible drink driver, SID entry placed.
 - g. Complaints to Moss place regarding dispute over use of disabled parking space, parties spoken with.
 - h. Whisgills householder let dogs out and discovered six sachets of rat poison had been placed in their garden. Poison has been taken to SASA in Edinburgh for analysis.
 - i. Sheep found dead at Clerkleap, possible dog attack.
 - j. Whisgills report of male driving deliberately at neighbour swerving at last minute, male traced and charged, reported to Fiscal.
 - k. Whisgills male reported for breaching bail conditions, male traced and held for court.
 - l. Call to Post Office regarding two suspicious males who enter the shop and appear to check out security. **EVERYONE ASKED TO REMAIN VIGILANT, REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIONS**
 - m. Domestic incident reported at address close to village, followed by second call alleging assault, enquiries still ongoing
4. **General**
 - a. Air weapons amnesty is now finished any unwanted weapons can still be handed in, however full details will be required and they will be sent for destruction.
 - b. Police attended village a couple of times with the speed gun, warnings handed out.
 - c. Morning spent at school start time; parents spoken to about inconsiderate parking
 - d. SBC emailed about getting zig zag lines re painted.
5. **Matters arising from previous meeting**
 - a. **Dykecrofts sign** reinstatement – SBC provided image of old sign which read Dykecroft Information Centre; this was no more thus sign redundant. Cllr Paterson sought to find out if sign could be

reinstated as just **Dykecrofts** as this was used locally for directions and it would be helpful to have it reinstated.

- b. **Broadband update**; superfast now operational within heart of village. Discussions prior to Christmas with Callum Kerr MP had resulted in a BT upgrade within the exchange to provide more lines and increased capacity. If residents were subscribing their broadband via a superfast provider (not all providers can provide superfast) then there should be no issue with all householders upgrading to receiving the new service. Thanks, were passed to CK for his help.

6. Planning there were no local applications to review

- a. **Pine Burns Wind Farm** Major concerns outlined which might impact on the community:
 - i. transport and access during any construction build; HGV daily loads only using the B6399 were estimated as 148 total trips daily from Hawick to the access site. In the event this prove to be the case then access for emergency, school, commuters, fuel and shopping would be greatly inhibited and have a huge impact on many who relied on the single-track road for access.
 - ii. complete disrespect of the community stating out of date information and publishing a hugely misleading profile of the community. This aspect will be challenged in the formal response by the NDCC
 - iii. The Community Benefit Fund has errors regarding the boundary of benefit
 - iv. The proposed Community Ownership plan does not provide for any financial support in order for us to seek professional help in determining if this is a viable option for the community to consider.
 - v. Both these documents operate under English legislation
 - vi. Pine Burns refers to meetings with the community but have not attended any CC meetings and failed to attend this meeting but were scheduled to attend in order to answer community concerns, no apologies had been received.

- b. **Planning correspondence** had been received in respect of consultations and community engagement in the period since the last meeting:

- i. Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership seeking views of the CC and any members of the public about where we live, what we like and dislike and what could be changed. **Open meeting to be held in village hall Feb 22nd between 3- 6:30pm.** Agreed that the CC would provide the feedback from the community consultation undertaken by the new Trust which was used to form the development plan, and comments ref the benefit of the conservation status and its limitations locally. Contribute views via online survey www.scotborders.gov.uk/ourplace

- ii. **Places, People & Planning** consultation from Scottish Government; 20 new proposal to improve local planning guidance contribute online. <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/planning-architecture/a-consultation-on-the-future-of-planning/>

- iii. **Draft supplementary guidance: Renewable Energy** - view online at www.scotborders.gov.uk/renewables. Any comments can be made up to Mon 17th April.

- iv. **Public Consultation on Draft Supplementary Guidance: Housing** received. Comments now closed but Newcastleton and surrounds was not considered as part of the review.

- v. **Upgrade to Base Station Installation upon existing Airwave mast at Newcastleton Golf Club.** The CC provided a letter of support for this application and was seeking further news of upgrades planned towards Hermitage or Hawick. Cllr Paterson agreed to take forward.

7. Public Forum/community issues

- a. **Muckle Toon Media E&L Advertiser Project**, representatives attended the meeting to share their plans for creating a community interest company to take over the title. This would continue to be published as a newspaper with future efforts to include social media platforms. They recognised the need to have more editorial content covering local issues, the environment and events. Help was sought from the community to support the project. NDCC welcomed the initiative as the E&L had given much support to the Holm over the years and it would be missed as a vehicle to reach wider markets if nothing replaced it. They were advised to put a notice in the Clatter to seek views, and comment as well as encourage contributing writers and photography. A list of community groups

would be provided and attendance at the Business Forum AGM (Feb 28th) would enable them to share their plans with the business sector to seek further support.

- b. **Small schemes suggestions;** replacing the seat and info panel at Ettleton cemetery was considered Armstrong Clan responsibility. Resurfacing the road to the Golf Course and improving the Pagoda with marketing materials were proposed. The agreed repaint of the village signage entering both ends of the village had still not been actioned.
- c. **Pagoda clean up** – this would be undertaken over coming months with replacement glass and general wash down and brush up need. ST to review

8. Correspondence

- a. **Community Empowerment Act** – anyone wishing to know more about this could attend the Hawick Community Council meeting on March 13th. Attendance at either NDCC or UL&HCC had been declined due to expense.
- b. **Fanna Hill Forest Scoping**
- c. **Community Council insurance** – now underwritten by Zurich, been renewed as last year; no cover available for any community events. Each one had to seek their own liability cover and be managed by the organisation running it.
- d. **Forestry Commission Scotland – Newcastleton Forest Plan consultation.** Open meeting would be held at Buccleuch House from 3pm-8pm on March 1st. Anyone welcome to review the proposals and give feedback. FCS would also be attending the next CC meeting to follow up on any concerns and to share proposals.
- e. **Hats for Maggie's** – raising money for Maggie's Cancer Care Centres
- f. **Snowdrop Festival** Kailze Peebles 26th Feb dawn till dusk
- g. **Scottish Civic Trust My Place Award**, nominations open www.myplaceawards.org.uk
- h. **Mainstream Equality Consultation** open till Feb 27th can be found on SBC web site.
- i. **Campaign for Borders Rail** – preview briefing extending the line newsletter. Clear support for the reinstatement via the village including many facts to support the extension of the line.

9. The date for the next meeting – Tuesday March 14th, 7pm village Hall

The chair thanked all those in attendance and closed the meeting.