



Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

Minute of the 221st Monthly Meeting of the Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District held in the Old Council Chamber, Chambers Institution, Peebles on Thursday 14th May 2015

Present: J. Crawley, A. Kubie, L. Hayworth, G. Mackie, L. Morrison, K. Rand, A. Snoddy, E. Smith, A. Stewart (Chairman) and R. Tatler

In attendance: SBC Councillors W. Archibald, S. Bell, C. Bhatia and K. Cockburn, L. Crichton (Minute Secretary) and PC D. Sorrell

1. **Open Forum:** Residents from the east side of Edinburgh Road wished to understand why surveyors had been seen on the side of Venlaw Hill that is behind their houses., the development application of which has been rejected by the council planning committee and which has not been included in the LDP; why also were the developers allowed to keep on putting in applications despite a previous negative decision? The Chairman commented that no planning application had been put in and that the Community Council was not aware of any activity around the land. Cllrs Bhatia and Bell noted that the surveyors may have been gathering information to appeal against the LDP which the developers have the right to do if they e.g. wished to have the boundary of the LDP changed. However, it was emphasised that for any development to proceed it has to have an application. The Chairman noted that the Community Council had objected to the last application and would do so again, assuring the residents that the Community Council will have a look at the Reporter's document to see if there is any reference in the LDP to this matter and thanked the residents for raising it.

As there were some residents present to express their views on the subject of Rosetta Caravan Park Development which was to be discussed in item 10 on the Agenda (Special Topic), the Chairman decided to bring this item forward to be taken next.

2. **Special Topic:** Rosetta Caravan Park Development

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Community Council was planning to arrange a public meeting on the subject but that prior to this the Community Councillors had agreed to meet the Tweeddale Councillors at the beginning of June to discuss how to handle the matter. The residents expressed their concern that momentum had already been lost as nothing seemed to be happening fast enough and voiced their deep disappointment at the lack of progress. L. Hayworth pointed out that by approving the Planning in Principle the council was able to retain the control in the local community rather than the developer going directly to the Reporter to complain. This created a significant opportunity for the local community to oppose the development but this should be done properly, focussing carefully on each issue of this application to build a strong case against it.

On the question of ownership of the land where the bridge would be built Cllr Bhatia said it seemed to be owned by the Common Good Fund but this was not quite clear and the matter was being checked.

The Chairman, A. Stewart, concluded that the issues of e.g. affordable housing must be tackled and that to double the number of houses mentioned in the LDP was not acceptable. He assured the residents that the Community Council was committed to opposing the development and that a public meeting will be arranged as soon as possible. The Chairman thanked the public for coming to the meeting and raising their concerns.

3. **Apologies:** C. Carleton, F. Dalgleish, M. Durkin, S. Haslam, A. McKelvey and J. Shearer, SBC Cllrs G. Garvie and G. Logan
As time was pressing on the Chairman decided to take the Police Report next on the Agenda.

4. **Police Report:** not circulated. PC D. Sorrell promised to send a copy of the report immediately after the meeting. She noted from the report that there had been 1 ticket issued for illegal parking, a few cases of anti-social behaviour and several complaints of the manner of driving of some young drivers. PC D. Sorrell also commented that although there had not been any incidents of break-ins in the Peebles area she wished to alert all residents to maintain vigilance. It was noted that disturbances at Kingsmeadow's car park were still ongoing and that the Police were targeting this area. The need for dedicated, time limited delivery bays was brought up again. E. Smith drew attention to the Court House's rear windows which had been smashed and PC D. Sorrell promised to look into this and into the continued disruption of bus services due to illegal parking in the Northgate.

5. **Minute of Meeting of 9th April 2015:** The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by E. Smith and seconded by A. Snoddy. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman, A. Stewart.

6. **Notice of Motion:** The Chairman informed the meeting that G. Rennie was unfortunately not prepared to be co-opted due to other commitments, feeling that he couldn't currently support the Community Council in the way he wanted. He had informed the meeting, however, that he would gladly be of assistance if needed and was happy to help with Peebles in Bloom.

7. **Matters Arising:**

- **Neidpath Corner:** Cllr Cockburn commented that there was currently nothing to report on the matter and that as far as he was aware there was no figure for the cost of wall replacement but he promised to check this.

ACTION: Cllr Cockburn

- **Hill Race:** R. Tatler noted that there had been 67 runners taking part in the Hill Race on 13th May and thanked everyone who had helped at the event. Donald Swanson BEM had presented the prizes.

8. **Chairman's report:** The points the Chairman intended to raise would be covered by Agenda items.

9. **SBC Councillors:**

- **Cllr Bell** reported that a consultation on the proposal to invest in a 3G Pitch in Peebles had been held. Council officers considered the representations from this, re-costed the proposal and then recommended that the work should not proceed to get planning permission from the identified site on Craigerne Lane. Officers have now brought forward revised proposals comprising 3 alternatives:- sites at Craigerne Lane and a site at Victoria Park. Scottish Borders Council officers had informed him earlier that day that an exhibition will be arranged for 12th June 2015 on the design proposals and that discussions will be held in advance with key stakeholders. The Chairman agreed with A. Snoddy to bring this to C. Carleton's attention who was not present at the meeting.

ACTION: A. Snoddy

Cllr Bell told the meeting that the protective fencing on the south bank of the river Tweed by the fishing platform had not been approved by the council officers as the safety assessment and cost around the fencing indicated this was not a sensible decision to take forward. Cllr Bell said he would explain the situation to the resident who had brought it up.

Cllr Bell pointed out that the Scottish Rural Action were inviting bids from local authorities to host the next Rural Parliament meeting which will be held in October 2016. The Scottish Borders Council officers have decided that Peebles is the most feasible place to hold the meeting in the Borders and are officially supporting Peebles. He inferred that there would be huge economic benefits to the town if Peebles was chosen. The Community Council agreed to

support this proposal by contacting the council officials and to encourage other community groups to support the application.

ACTION: A. Snoddy

Cllr Bell also mentioned a showcase event which will run in Holyrood on 3rd September 2015 where towns will have an opportunity to show what they can do. He suggested to R. Tatler that this may be something the Development Trust would be interested in taking part in.

- **Cllr Archibald** told about the Programme of Planned Revenue and Capital Works for 2015/16 for the Tweeddale area which includes all the road and bridge works to be carried out in the area. A copy of this programme can be obtained from the council.
Cllr Archibald reported on the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership meeting he had attended that day, noting a significant drop in consumption of alcohol and a huge decline in alcohol and drugs misuse amongst youths aged 14 to 16. Overall, he said, a very good picture was emerging.
- **Cllr Bhatia** drew the meeting's attention to a report which was being put forward to the Full Council on 21st May on the Chambers Institution Trust, recommending reverting the Trust to sole council control. The report can be found on the Scottish Borders Council's web site under Council minutes, agendas & reports.
- **Cllr Cockburn** reported that the working group on parking had reached a point where it was starting to make recommendations to the council on Borders-wide parking issues, including considerations to de-criminalise parking. He noted that the implementation of these recommendations could, however, take as long as 18 months despite trying to move forward as soon as possible. In response to L. Morrison's inquiry if the group were considering making part of the town traffic free at certain times of the day he replied that they were not considering this and emphasised that the working group was tackling issues across the Borders, not in individual towns. He also noted that the group was focussed on trying to solve issues of vehicle parking and was not considering cyclists, e.g. cycle paths, in its remit.

10. Reports for approval:

- **Treasurer's report:** G. Mackie advised that a report had not been prepared for April but that there was nothing special to report. He proposed an honorarium of £30 to be paid to the Independent Examiner of Accounts; this was seconded by L. Hayworth. This will be donated to Peebles Rugby Club as requested by the Independent Examiner.
- **Bonnie Peebles:** Minutes of the Bonnie Peebles meeting held on 29th April 2015 had been circulated. The Chairman wished to know if the Community Council had informed the Scottish Borders Council insurance division of Bonnie Peebles's planning of works of 2014/15. The Secretary will check if this was done.

ACTION: A. Snoddy

- **Common Good Fund:** There was nothing to report.

11. **Planning Report:** A draft report had been circulated. The responses to planning applications had been put on the Community Council website. There being no adverse comments the recommendations as posted were approved.

The Chairman proposed that the Community Council should review regularly, e.g. quarterly, with the Tweeddale Councillors any major planning issues which may arise. This was agreed and quarterly meetings will be set up.

ACTION: A. Snoddy

- **Survey Monkey Poll on Cloich Wind Farm:** The results of the poll which was run through the Community Council's Facebook page were circulated with the comment that there was no clear yes or no given to the survey. The Peeblesshire News will be running a survey in the newspaper on Friday 15th May
- **Veitch's Corner:** The Secretary, A. Snoddy informed the meeting that based on her conversation with the PR person at Costa Coffee a franchise will definitely be opening in Peebles but when was still uncertain.

12. Any other business:

- **Eddie's Eyes:** Discussed earlier on with Police report.

- **Peebles Provost:** Cllr Cockburn, who chairs a working group investigating the possibility of bringing back the Honorary Provost position in Peebles, reported on the recommendations of the group. These recommendations include suggestions of:
 - Reconsidering the constitution of The Peebles Community Council.
 - Changing the name of the Community Council's Chairman to Honorary Provost.
 - Making sure the position of the Honorary Provost would not diminish the existing roles in the community.
 - Arranging a public consultation/survey through the Peebles Community Council's Facebook page and the Peeblesshire News.

It was agreed to have this matter as a topic on the Community Council's Agenda for June. A. Snoddy will circulate a copy of the working group's report to everyone.

ACTION: A. Snoddy

- **Scrutiny Committee:** Cllr Cockburn confirmed that matters of planning could not be considered on the Scrutiny Committee. He commented that the committee had currently many ideas and concerns it was going through but that new ones were always welcomed.
- **Facebook:** A sub-committee to handle Facebook responses was formed consisting of A. Snoddy, F. Dalgleish and R. Tatler.
- **Peebles in Bloom:** A. Snoddy reported that there was going to be a Presentation Night on 20 August 2015 to give awards for the best gardens in the area and requested help in the task of walking around designated areas to view gardens seen from the roads. Also Secret Gardens, ones which cannot be seen from the streets, need to be nominated.

13. **Date for next meeting:** Thursday 11th June 2015 at 7.30 pm at the Burgh Chambers.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

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