



Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

Minute of the 222nd 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 25th June, 2015

Present: C. Carleton (Vice-Chairman), J. Crawley, M. Durkin, L. Hayworth, G. Mackie, A. Mackenzie, A. McKelvey, L. Morrison, K. Rand, J. Shearer, E. Smith, A. Snoddy

In attendance: SBC Councillors W. Archibald, S. Bell and G. Logan, L. Crichton (Minute Secretary) and PC D. Sorrell

Vice-Chairman C. Carleton opened the meeting by expressing his deep sadness on the passing away of Alasdair Stewart, the Chairman of the Community Council. Alasdair Stewart was passionate about Peebles and along the years made great contributions to the whole community. He will be very sadly missed by all.

1. **Open Forum:** There were no questions raised.
2. **Apologies:** F. Dalgleish, R. Tatler, S Haslam, SBC Cllrs C. Bhatia, K. Cockburn and G. Garvie.
3. **Minute of Meeting of 14th May 2015:** The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by L. Morrison and seconded by E. Smith. The minutes were approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman, C. Carleton.
4. **Welcome:** Tweeddale Youth Action
As there was no one present from the Tweeddale Youth Action the item was left for a later date.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - **Neidpath Corner:** An update on the situation from SBC had been circulated. Cllrs Archibald and Logan informed that the funding was now in place but that it was still undetermined when the agreed works will go ahead. In the meantime temporary traffic lights continue to be in place. The Community Council agreed to keep an eye on the developments.
 - **Clarification on procurement processes:** C. Carleton inquired if Scottish Borders Council had a standard tendering procedure on procurement processes (e.g. Chambers Institution development & consultation) but the Tweeddale councillors were not able to provide clarification on this.
 - **3G Pitch:** C. Carleton reported that an exhibition on the 3G pitch design proposals had been held on 12th June but that there had been very limited representation of residents from elsewhere than Craigerne Lane. Although the exhibition had been publicised residents around e.g. Victoria Park had not been informed. L. Hayworth commented it was very clear that the decision to have a 3G pitch in Peebles had been made; the question remained where the best place to have it was. Community Councillors said that the reasons for Peebles needing a 3G pitch have not been clearly explained and that the way the community will be consulted on the location of the pitch still remained an issue. C. Carleton had circulated a draft letter addressed to Scottish Borders Council in response to the consultation and it was agreed that this was a

fair and balanced reflection on the views of the Community Council. A copy of this letter will be sent to the Tweeddale Councillors.

ACTION: A. Snoddy

- **Chambers Institution:** C. Carleton asked for clarification on the current situation with the Chambers Institution. The fact that the Trust was being taken forward was considered positive and there were high hopes that it will at last benefit the community. However, it remained unclear e.g. how the transition from trusteeship to elected councillors was going to be done and there was also confusion and uncertainty if the process was a part of bringing all cultural trusts together. Cllr Archibald assured the latter was not the case, that the status of the building was complicated and that the building could not be easily passed on to anybody else. He went on to explain that all 34 elected Scottish Borders councillors were the trustees of the Trust and that the six Tweeddale Councillors formed a management committee. He noted that Scottish Borders Council had engaged Scottish Historic Buildings Trust to look into developing the building, arranging public consultation and looking into funding opportunities from various sources. This was agreed by the Full Council in their meeting in May and the Trust has now fully reverted back to Scottish Borders Council.
 - **Peebles in Bloom:** A. Snoddy explained Peebles in Bloom Awards which are conferred each Summer by Peebles Community Council to those residents and business folk who have created beautiful gardens and floral displays, in recognition of the time and effort that has gone into making Peebles such an attractive town. The Awards Presentation Night will be held on 20th August at the Burgh Hall where all Community Councillors are expected to be present. The Peebles in Bloom committee will consist of A. Snoddy, J. Shearer, K. Rand, E. Smith, F. Dalgleish and G. Rennie. A. Snoddy also gave each Community Councillor their designated area for judging.
6. **Police Report:** Not circulated (PC D. Sorrell promised to circulate the report first thing next day). PC D. Sorrell noted from the report that 25 parking tickets had been issued during the previous 6 weeks and there had been a few incidents of anti-social behaviour. PC D Sorrell appreciates the concern about inconsiderate parking in the town and is sorry Police Scotland does not have the resources to resolve the matter. Also lead had been reported stolen from the roofs of two churches and the Community Centre in Peebles. Overall PC D. Sorrell reported that despite the time of year with many visitors in town around big events like the TweedLove and Beltane the Police had no complaints and felt that all the different events had been very successful and well organised. Cllr Archibald noted the litter problem in the Meldons and asked also for the Police to keep an eye on the area.
- M. Durkin queried the Police's awareness of road closures around the Beltane as they didn't seem to have had the information of the length of each road closure. PC D. Sorrell replied that the Police always keep any roads at events closed for as short a time as necessary and therefore the exact time periods for each closure are not certain. It was agreed to inform both the TweedLove and Beltane organisers of this issue to make sure the information was better available in the future. A special thanks for the organisers of both events was also expressed as they were very well organised and run.

ACTION: A. Snoddy

7. **Chairman's report:** C. Carleton, Vice-Chairman, paid tribute to Alasdair Stewart, who had been a member of the Community Council for the past seven years, the last two as the Chairman, and wished to recognise Alasdair's huge contribution over the many years he worked for the common good of the community.
- C. Carleton also wished to acknowledge the hard and invaluable work of Amanda Kubie who resigned from the Community Council in April after having acted as Secretary to the Community Council for the past two years and being a member for six years.
- C. Carleton proposed that the vacancy of the Chair be discussed in private business at the end of the meeting. This was agreed. He noted that there were a large number of new members and encouraged them to take a full and active role on the Community Council.

8. SBC Councillors:

- **Cllr Logan** congratulated the organisers of the Beltane festivities for a fantastic and well-run event.
Cllr Logan reported on behalf of Cllr Cockburn that a paper on bus connectivity to Tweeddale West had been discussed at the Full Council meeting in May.
Cllr Logan also noted that the Common Good Fund had approved funding towards the repair of the Tweeddale Rover's clubhouse.
- **Cllr Archibald** reported on meeting Assistant Chief Constable Kate Thomson at the last Full Council meeting who had been informed of the rural crime and parking issue concerns in the Borders. When raising concerns over the operations of the new control centre in Bilston the Assistant Chief Constable had informed the council that the response times are expected to improve within the next few months once the control centre is properly up and running.
- **Cllr Bell** commented he would report under separate items on the Agenda.

C. Carleton pointed out that these meetings were a great opportunity to ask the Tweeddale Councillors about any matters. A. Mackenzie enquired if Scottish Borders Council was planning to build a new graveyard in Peebles and if so, where, as the matter was becoming critical. Cllr Archibald noted that the council officers were aware of the matter and suggested contacting Jason Hedley for further information. This was agreed.

J. Crawley wanted to know if the land at Dalatho Street (on which it is proposed to build a new bridge if the development at Rosetta Caravan Park goes ahead) is owned by Peebles Common Good Fund then how would that affect the sale of that land? Cllr Bell replied that if the developer gets planning permission to build a bridge there then the land would be subject to compulsory purchase.

ACTION: A. Snoddy

9. Reports for approval:

- **Treasurer's report:** circulated. G. Mackie advised that the organisers of the Gipsy Hill Race had donated £90 to the Community Council as a thank you for helping with the arrangements but with a request to use the donation towards a suitable sporting project. As the Community Council does not deal with such projects R. Tatler has proposed for the donation to be used towards the Peebles Mural project. This was agreed.
L. Morrison proposed having a bus rack erected at the Post Office bus stop which was considered a good initiative. It was discussed that funds for this could be applied from the Scottish Borders Council's Small Projects Fund.
- **Bonnie Peebles:** Community Councillors J. Shearer and A. Snoddy represent the Community Council on this sub-committee. Nothing to report.
- **Common Good:** L. Hayworth had circulated a report of the Common Good Sub-Committee meeting he had attended on 27 May 2015. He proposed to find out what the community would like to see the Common Good funds to be used for. Cllr Logan supported this idea commenting that although the Common Good could not support everything it would be advantageous to know what the community's priorities are. Cllr Archibald commented that as well as many youth organisations it would be good to see organisations/associations for older people also applying for the Common Good funds. It was noted that all documents connected with the Common Good Fund can be found on the internet at www.scotborders.gov.uk/committees.

10. Special Topic: Peebles Provost

A report had been circulated on the recommendations of the sub-committee chaired by Cllr Cockburn. C. Carleton noted that public consultation on this matter was going to be arranged. He went on to comment that the Chairman of the Community Council should not be confused with that of an Honorary Provost which was more of a ceremonial post. In the short-term, however, the Chairman of the Community Council could act as Honorary Provost. Whilst there are not many events where an Honorary Provost would represent the community clarity needs to be made

around the role of an Honorary Provost and the events they would be representing in. It was agreed to propose to the sub-committee to draw up the questions for consultation on Facebook. A. Mackenzie was chosen to represent the Community Council on the sub-committee together with A. Snoddy.

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.

- **SESPlan:** C. Carleton noted that the SESPlan2 (South East of Scotland Strategic Plan) was now open for consultation. This document will provide the strategic context for the development of the next SBC Local Development Plan. Cllr Bell explained that Scottish Borders Council had opted into this plan which is a partnership of six member authorities including Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, Fife, Scottish Borders and West Lothian. He commented that this area was a power house of economic growth in Scotland and strongly encouraged the Community Council to take the opportunity to look into the SESPlan2's strategic options which cover 25 years – when an 18% increase in population is anticipated along with a 25% increase in housing - giving thoughts and indications on what should be tackled.
- SBC has applied for the 2016 Scottish Rural Parliament to be held in Peebles. Attendance of 400 people is expected.
- We need more business parks in Peebles - where would we put them?
- More walking and cycling routes should be developed. There is only one Youth Hostel in the Scottish Borders, at Kirk Yetholm.
- **Rosetta Road:** C. Carleton reported on the meeting between the Tweeddale Councillors, SBC officials and the Community Councillor representatives on 3 June 2015 which had been a very productive meeting. He commented that an update was needed on transport and connectivity studies as the bridge to be built by the developer will not resolve traffic problems in the area. The next step is to arrange a public event in September to update residents on the development.

12. **Any other business:**

- **Eddie's Eyes:** Eddie presented some photos on illegal parking which continues to be a problem. Priorsford foot bridge surface appears to be breaking up and some screws are missing. It was agreed that A. Snoddy will pursue the matter with Scottish Borders Council.
ACTION: A. Snoddy & E Smith
- **Community Councillor achievements and successes:** It was agreed to discuss the achievements of the Community Councillors at the next meeting when a representative of the Peeblesshire News is present.
- **Beltane donation:** The Beltane Committee has asked the Community Council for a donation towards the Beltane Festival. It was discussed that the Community Council did not have funds to give out as donations and that any grants or proceeds the Community Council received from coffee mornings etc. were used on actual workings of the Community Council. It was agreed to send out an email circulation to all Community Councillors to ask for views and comments on the matter.
ACTION: A. Snoddy
- **Relocation of East/West Brigs Wards to Selkirk:** As Cllr Bhatia was not present it was agreed to move this item to the next meeting.
- **Health and Social Care Integration Consultation:** As Cllr Bhatia was not present it was agreed to move this item to the next meeting.

- **Tweeddale Area Forum:** Cllr Archibald asked the Community Councillors to consider a new member for the Tweeddale Area Forum to replace Alasdair Stewart who regularly represented the Community Council.
- **Fire and Rescue Service Questionnaire:** It was agreed that A. Snoddy will fill in the Fire and Rescue Service's Questionnaire on their services and circulate it with the Community Councillors before submitting it.

ACTION: A. Snoddy

- **Scottish Heritage Angels Awards:** Historic Scotland, in partnership with some other authorities, has launched a new awards programme to celebrate the contribution of volunteers across Scotland who work to protect, understand and value the historic environment. Should anyone wish to nominate a group or an individual for this award please contact A. Snoddy.

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

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.