



Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

Minute of the 208th Monthly Meeting of the Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District held in the Old Council Chamber, Chambers Institution, Peebles, Thursday, 13th March 2014

Present: D. Horsburgh, A. Kubie, A. McKenzie, L. Morrison, G. Rennie, A. Snoddy, A. Stewart (Chairman), R. Tatler, M. Tolhurst, D. Wright

In attendance: SBC Councillors W. Archibald, K. Cockburn, G. Garvie and S. Bell, Insp M. Wynne and PC. D. Sorrell

Apologies: M. Baete, C. Carleton and SBC Cllrs C. Bhatia and G. Logan

1. **Open Forum:** There were no members of the public present.
2. **Minute of Meeting of 13th February 2014:** Acceptance of minute was proposed by M. Tolhurst and seconded by G. Rennie. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman, A. Stewart.
3. **Matters arising:**
 - **Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership Consultation:** Scottish Borders Council had made a detailed and informed response to this consultation and the secretary proposed that the Community Council respond in accord with this. The meeting agreed.
 - **Rumble Strips update:** Cllr Bhatia was not present to give an update on the noise and speed tests and Inspector Wynne had no knowledge of the speed test results. Cllr Archibald thought that the noise had diminished due to wearing of the strips.
 - **Coffee morning Saturday, 12th April:** A. Snoddy requested that donations for the tombola be brought to the next meeting. She specifically requested that alcohol should be avoided. Cake and candy donations to be brought to the rugby club on the morning of the 12th April.
 - **Field of Dreams:** This was taken in private.
 - **Tweed Island:** A sub-committee comprising A. Stewart, A. Snoddy and A. Kubie was formed with the intention of co-opting further expert members.
 - **Minor Injuries Unit:** A very positive response had been received from Mr C. Campbell, Head of NHS Borders, confirming that the MIU and treatment room would continue. The Chairman had replied to Mr Campbell requesting to be kept informed of all developments.
4. **Police report:** circulated. Insp. Wynne said that Police Scotland had identified a number of key priorities for the force in Scottish Borders these include:
 - Parking in urban areas
 - Speeding in rural districts
 - Anti-social behaviour, including underage drinkingPC Sorrell introduced herself and said that PC Burnside would still be present in the local area. The Police Station office will be open 9.00am – 5.00pm. Irresponsible parking is now a major concern. Insp Wynne confirmed that the traffic warden had left today having taken annual leave and voluntary redundancy. Chief Constable Sir Stephen House has given his assurances to SBC that there will be Traffic Warden cover up to the end of April so it is hoped that a relief warden will be supplied until then. A. Stewart will write to him. The police officers will only be able to stop dangerous parking and will not get involved in any disc parking scheme that SBC might introduce. The worst areas are the top of Old Town blocking the view of people exiting the vennel and cars parking on the pavement outside the Old Parish Church. Insp Wynne thought that it would be best for the police to maintain a high profile presence during this handover period.

5. **Chairman's report:** All members in 'lot 1' and all co-opted members who wish to stand for election should complete their nomination forms and hand these to the secretary or place in the ballot box at the post office by the closing date of 25 March. The Peeblesshire News has agreed to place an article in the 21 March edition. Please will all members who know of possible candidates encourage these people to come forward and submit nomination forms?

SBC are evaluating the possibility of transferring all Libraries and Museums to a 'Culture Trust' for administrative purposes. A period of consultation in which the Community Council will be involved will precede any decision.

He had written to both the Leader and CE of SBC expressing concerns regarding the 'arbitrary' withdrawal of the Traffic Warden provision by Police Scotland. Very comprehensive responses had been received echoing the Community Council's concerns but also illustrating the many legal and procedural hurdles to be overcome before SBC can take over this service.

He and Cllr Bhatia have discussed the formation of an 'A72 Action Group'. Cllr Bhatia will be asking the Roads Department for statistics and background information on which to determine policy and objectives for the action group.

A small sub-committee, of which he is chairman, has been formed to consider ways of making the Area Forum more inclusive and of greater interest to the public. Two of the quarterly meetings will be held outwith Peebles and will have content of particular interest to that locality in which it is held. It has also been agreed that the number of presentations by SBC officers will be reduced and these will be available on the SBC website instead. Representation by other third party groups and organisations may be included to extend the experience and input to the discussions.

6. **SBC Councillors:**

Cllr Archibald: Community Council representatives to have a 'hands up vote' to express opinions at the Area Forum before elected members take a vote on any issue.

Cllr Garvie: To become more energy efficient all street lamps will be replaced with LEDs. More information is available on the SBC website. With regard to waste collection and the site at Eshiels, Martin Tolhurst had asked SBC officers for more information on the origin of their published figures but officers had felt unable to comment. Cllr Garvie advised that the Tweeddale Councillors had had a meeting at Newtown St Boswells and had agreed that a meeting should be held at Eshiels with officers and representatives of Innerleithen and Peebles Community Councils.

Cllr Bell: A commercial concern has been set up to provide waste collection. The social enterprise initiative was not found to be viable. L. Morrison advised that Tweed Green will be running workshops on how to compost garden waste. It was thought that it would be beneficial if SBC were to provide large heavy duty sacks for the transporting of garden waste. It is still unclear what will be allowed to be taken to Eshiels or if private people will be allowed to take waste in commercial vans and trailers. Councillors confirmed that staff are to be instructed that this will be acceptable.

7. **Reports for approval:**

- Treasurer's report: circulated. Friends of Jubilee Wood assets have been transferred to Venlaw Community Woodland.
- Bonnie Peebles: minutes to be circulated on receipt. The forms to include the Treasurer of the Community Council as a signatory to the account had been signed and returned to the Bonnie Peebles secretary.

8. **Special Topic:** Common Good Fund Accounts – report circulated. M. Tolhurst thought that SBC officers and the Common Good Fund working group did a good job in managing the Peebles Common Good fund particularly since it is diverse and prone to special and sometimes unmerited "interests". However he remained concerned that some aspects of income and expenditure were not transparent; in particular services provided by SBC in exchange for income from CG assets. This was not an issue where CG assets remained within SBC's control but as recent reports suggested that the services might be contracted out the question of income became more relevant. M Tolhurst had asked SBC a year ago to identify the income from the Tweed Fishing licences which could be substantial without as yet a response. It was agreed that the Secretary would raise both issues with the CG Committee at their next meeting.

9. **Planning report:** Circulated

- Cloich wind farm amendments to application – advice of the committee was to continue to object to the development as the changes do not adequately address the concerns raised. A majority of members agreed to send this response. Draft LDP – deadline for submission of response to SBC is 31 March – M. Tolhurst is dealing with this; members to read and send comments to him.
- Innerleithen Road development: this is outside the LDP and whilst the Community Council did not wish to be entirely negative it was felt that there were a number of issues to be addressed and a response to this effect detailing the issues would be made.

10. **Any other business:**

Walking Festival: D. Wright asked the Community Council if it would be supportive of the town hosting a walking festival in 2017. It was agreed that he should ask Eddleston Community Council if it was interested in being part of the festival and if so, further discussion would take place. The main problems were the time commitment for those involved and the raising of funds.

Pebbles Mural: R. Tatler advised that this would be on the end wall of Pennels Close. The artist is ready and funding applications will be submitted with a launch due in April to coincide with the 'Creative Places' award.

Skate Park: L. Morrison advised that funding applications would be submitted by July but that the formal support of the project by the Community Council was sought. A unanimous vote of members gave this support.

11. **Date for next meeting:** 10th April 2014 at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.04pm

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