



# Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

Minute of the 209th 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 10th of April 2014

Present: M. Baete, C. Carleton, D. Horsburgh, A. Kubie, A. Snoddy, A. Stewart (Chairman), R. Tatler, M. Tolhurst, D. Wright

In attendance: SBC Councillors G. Garvie, S. Bell, K. Cockburn, and PC. D. Sorrell

Apologies: A. McKenzie, L. Morrison, G. Rennie, SBC Cllrs W. Archibald, C. Bhatia, G. Logan

1. **Open Forum:** no points were raised
2. **Minute of Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2014:** Acceptance of minute was proposed by A. Snoddy and seconded by R. Tatler. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman, A. Stewart.
3. **Matters arising:**
  - **Promotion of responsible dog ownership consultation:** muzzling, licensing and chipping were actions put forward for consideration.
  - **Rumble strips:** Cllr Cockburn confirmed that noise nuisance is still being investigated.
  - **Coffee morning:** M. Tolhurst will arrange for floats. A. Snoddy has made all necessary other arrangements.
  - **Field of Dreams:** a note of present status has been circulated
  - **Tweed Island:** a public consultation will be conducted during the coffee morning
  - **Eshiels CRC:** A. Stewart attended a site meeting which he found to be very instructive. Health and Safety matters dictate that the public should not be allowed to be near containers when they are being removed. Possible solutions put forward include the cordoning off of containers from the public when being moved or installation of a gantry where the public can be higher than the containers. These suggestions need costing and discussion on funding. It was mentioned that in general there has been a lack of coordination on the cessation of the green waste collection.
4. **Police report:** circulated. PC Sorrell stated that she is happy to receive feedback from the community councillors on any issues. With regard to dog fouling, she has spoken informally to dog owners to impress on everyone that they can report any dog fouling to her. It was mentioned that there is also a facility to report the same on the SBC website. PC Sorrell also stated that she has patrolled along the High Street to deter irresponsible parking. R. Tatler mentioned that it would be useful to raise awareness on forged £10 and £20 notes among the shop owners in Peebles.
5. **Chairman's report:** to be circulated. A. Stewart congratulated Cllr Garvie on his appointment as President of the Scottish Provost Association. He also mentioned that David Tawse has been elected as a baton carrier for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games.

## 6. **SBC Councillors:**

Cllrs Garvie and Bell described attendance at a cross borders councils meeting at which the following subjects were debated: development plans, further dual carriage way development for the A1, discussions on the feasibility of setting up transport nodes along the main road systems, collaboration on tourism development, further development of mountain biking centres and improvement of existing mountain biking facilities. Cllr Cockburn explained that he had attended a meeting on cycling safety along the A703. He thought more cycling friendly access to the town would be beneficial. Cllr Garvie confirmed that SBC was treating as a priority the need to provide more on and off road cycle routes in the town and as connections to the out of town cycle ways and that funding was being sought. Cllr Bell mentioned the planned international conference on mountain biking in November 2014 to take place in Cardrona.

Cllr Cockburn reminded the meeting that there are still funds available for training of child carers: at present this amounts to £90,000 per annum rising to £140,000. There is an under spend in the last financial year and people are invited to come forward with ideas to use these funds.

## 7. **Reports for approval:**

- Treasurer's report: circulated. It was agreed to appoint Donald Swanson to audit the accounts.
- Bonny Peebles: A. Kubie reported that a sign for the Northgate is about to be installed. Spring mulching is to take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of May. The Treasurer will arrange for suitable insurance to be in place. One mile of coins fundraiser to take place on 12<sup>th</sup> of April in Peebles High Street.

8. **Special Topic:** Community Resilience Plan – Jim Fraser and John Swanson presented a brief overview of the developments to date. Started in 2011 the plan will become a mainstream project with funding in place in June. Several communities have signed up to it. Funding has enabled the setting up of a messaging system using e-mail, text or phone communications to allow for rapid dissemination of warnings regarding severe weather, flooding, electricity outages and even information about missing persons. This system is due to go live within the next two weeks. In Peebles the plan needs more volunteers who could assist in a variety of ways, e.g. co-ordination of volunteers or helping to distribute hot drinks. John Swanson will distribute leaflets and The Bridge will be e-mailing all their member organisations. The Community Council will co-opt John Swanson for the sole purpose of the resilience plan as the public liability insurance will be handled through the Community Council. C. Carleton and J. Swanson will liaise regarding promotion of the plan through the community website and press.

## 9. **Planning report:** draft report has been circulated

- Draft LDP: the response from the Community Council will be listed with the officers' responses and presented to the full council with a fixed LDP decided around April 2015.
- The next public meeting of Vision for Peebles for 26 April 2014 has been postponed. The next two meetings are now planned for 7 June 2014 in the Burgh Hall and 6 September (venue to be confirmed).
- Peebles Community Trust: Following the AGM on 2 April, a new board has been elected with 5 members. First meeting to be held on 16 April 2014.
- Planning charette: to be further discussed with SBC on most suitable form of partnership
- Other issues raised: why is there a marked difference between affordable and other types of housing? How does the council deal with applicants who wish to forego paying "planning gains"? In case of non-compliance, is the council's enforcement too lax?
- Cllr Bell explained that developer contributions are a complex area. In Peebles demand for affordable housing is very high. The council may lead on aspects of design of large developments.

## 10. **Any other business:**

**Election update:** Cllr Garvie confirmed the result of the election. Nominations have been received from A. Stewart, Lesley Morrison, Derek Horsburgh, Alan Mackie, Lewis Foster and Eddie Smith.

**A72 action group:** waiting for Cllr Bhatia to supply the SBC information

**Licensing:** awaiting L. Morrison's report

**Peebles in Bloom:** note circulated

**Memorial Bench:** This is a project to commemorate 50 year of Peebles High School with a bench planned in front of the Chambers Institute. The Chambers Institution Trust is dealing with this. The Community Councillors agree in principle.

**Bin-the-Litter:** The event received excellent press coverage. Members of the public and Community Councillors as well as the management of SBC are warmly thanked for their help. Staff at the Eshiels CRC were most helpful to A. McKenzie. The Chairman thanked D. Wright for organising the event.

11. **Date for next meeting:** May 8, 2014 at 7 pm.

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