



Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

Minute of the 213th 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 11th of September 2014

Present: C. Carleton, G. Mackie, G. Rennie, E. Smith, A. Snoddy, A. Stewart (Chairman) and M. Tolhurst.

In attendance: SBC Councillors: W. Archibald, C. Bhatia, L. Crichton (Minute Secretary), PC D. Sorrell and Inspector T. Hodges.

1. **Open Forum:** Veitch's corner: Six representatives of local restaurateurs were present to express their concern over the planning application of the possible opening of a new restaurant/bar at the premises of the Veitch's corner. They felt that an approval of such an application would seriously affect the viability of local restaurant owners. There was no opposition to Veitch's being back in use but if this business was going to be yet another restaurant it would cause closures to others as there are already too many in Peebles. Each representative had already put in an official objection to the Council about the proposal but was there anything else that could be done? It was recommended that the restaurateurs contact the licensing board, planning department and economic development at SBC to discuss and voice their concerns and to get advice. The Community Council will also send in another letter of concern about the matter to support the concerns of the local community.

Action: CC

2. **Apologies:** L. Foster, A. Kubie, L. Morrison, SBC Cllrs: K. Cockburn and G. Garvie.
3. **Minute of Meeting of 14th August 2014:** Acceptance of the minute was proposed by A. Snoddy and seconded by G. Mackie. The minute was approved and signed by the Chairman, A. Stewart.
4. **Matters arising:**
 - **Tweed Island:** There was no development to report on the matter.
 - **Peebles in Bloom:** The Chairman thanked A. Snoddy for organising the successful project and for the assistance of G Rennie. The Presentation Evening with approx. 100 guests attending was enjoyed by all. As there was unfortunately nobody wishing to liaise with the Tweeddale Open Gardens coordinator in order to hold an Open Garden Day it was agreed this could not go ahead.
 - **NHS Borders consultation:** L. Morrison was not present to give a report or update on this consultation document
5. **Police report:** circulated. The Chairman introduced Inspector T. Hodges. The continuing problem of illegal parking was discussed and it was agreed that an important aspect was educating people about correct parking and that everyone present should also take this on in spreading the message. The Police will continue to address the problem when possible but do not have the resources needed to tackle the problem.
6. **Chairman's report:** The points he intended raising would be covered by Agenda items

7. SBC Councillors:

- **Cllr Bhatia:** The multi-use pathway from Peebles to Lyne has been approved in principle subject to one or two amendments and conditions. It was accepted that when ready this would be a great extension to the current path network.
- **Cllr Archibald:** The Tweeddale Area Forum has been successful attracting a reasonable number of public to each meeting. Cllr Archibald also forwarded to the secretary an SBC Community Recycling Centre Update informing of the upgrades which are being applied on a two phased approach at the Eshiels Community Recycling Centre, the first phase of the works having been carried out in July.

8. Reports for approval:

- **Treasurer's report:** circulated. The Chairman, A. Stewart informed that M. Tolhurst was standing down as Treasurer and thanked him for all his hard work. G. Mackie was appointed as the new Treasurer. It was agreed and minuted that the signatories would be Graham Mackie and Alasdair Stewart and Crick Carleton.
- **Bonnie Peebles:** As there were not enough members present it was agreed to postpone the appointment of a second representative from PCC to Bonnie Peebles to the next meeting.

9. **Special Topic: Neighbourhood Review:** Avril Murray and Margaret Wightman representing Bonnie Peebles were present explaining their deep concern over SBC's budget savings which were presented to PCC in the last meeting. They were clear that there simply weren't enough volunteers to take over what was required, that there were no new volunteers joining in and that the situation would end in Peebles looking totally unkempt and affecting the whole community. It was agreed that it was important to make the public aware of this crisis. The PCC will host a public meeting at the Burgh Hall and have SBC representatives present to inform the public of their plans. This meeting will have to be arranged in the very near future as SBC's new scheme will be up and running from April 2015. It was agreed that A. Kubie will liaise with Bonnie Peebles representatives to agree on a date for this meeting and also on how to approach local businesses and clubs to get the community involved.

Action: AC

10. **Planning report:** Had been circulated and the responses to planning applications put on the Community Council website. There being no adverse comments the recommendations as posted were approved
C. Carleton mentioned that J. Hedley, SBC Neighbourhood Area Manager, has some funds available for small projects on a first come, first served basis. The next full Council meeting will be held on 25th September.

11. Any other business:

- **Eshiels Recycling Centre:** An open day/consultation is planned to be held
- **Victoria Park:** A question had been raised on the website over surveyors who have been seen in Victoria Park and why. The matter is being looked into and information issued when appropriate.
- **Raising the profile of PCC:** Anne Snoddy will issue the rota for the stall in Sainsbury's on the 27th of September.

11. **Date for next meeting:** Thursday 9th October 2014 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.