



# Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

## Minute of the 215th 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 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2014

Present: C. Carleton, D. Horsburgh, A. Kubie, G. Rennie, A. Snoddy, E. Smith, A. Stewart (Chairman) and R. Tatler

In attendance: SBC Councillors: S. Bell, K. Cockburn and G. Garvie, L. Crichton (Minute Secretary), F. Dalgleish

1. **Open Forum:** A member of the public raised her concern over the newly laid surface of the Priorsford footbridge. She stated that the new surface was dangerously slippery in cold weather and also that in rainy weather water gathered into puddles on top and that there was real concern for people getting hurt. Cllr Garvie agreed that the recent re-surfacing of the bridge was poorly done and promised to take the matter up with council officers to have the work redone.
2. **Apologies:** L. Foster, G. Mackie, L. Morrison, SBC Cllrs: W. Archibald, C. Bhatia, G. Logan and PC D. Sorrell
3. **Minute of Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014:** Acceptance of the minute was proposed by E. Smith and seconded by D. Horsburgh. The minute was approved and signed by the Chairman, A. Stewart.
4. **Matters Arising:**
  - **Veitch's Corner – Update:** C. Carleton advised that the application for change of use of Veitch's corner had been considered and approved by SBC planning committee. As it is a listed building the applicant is expected to upgrade and take care of the external face of the building.
  - **Eshiels Recycling Centre:** Cllr Bell explained that the petition to reinstate the service of green bins had been passed to the Full Council by the Petitions Committee with no recommendations. Cllr Bell read a motion passed by the Full Council on 30<sup>th</sup> November, which had been published in the local press. The tenor of this motion was that green waste collection will not be reinstated but that the elderly will be given support to cope with their green waste. The Chief Executive has been instructed to produce a report.
  - **Parking in Old Town and High Street- update:** Cllr Cockburn reported that the working group dealing with parking is making good progress with a lot of good suggestions coming through. He said that the group was considering the Borders as a whole and he would report the results once the group had completed its work.
  - **Neighbourhoods Review - update:** A. Stewart read through the main points of J. Hedley's/SBC's report which had been circulated. SBC is reviewing the project to refocus on specific aspects of the service and it acknowledges the fact that the same volunteers cannot keep on doing more and more. A. Stewart expressed his hope that the matter will be properly sorted so that Peebles doesn't end up looking unkempt.
  - **Dog fouling – update:** There was nothing to report on the matter.

5. **Police Report:** circulated. A. Stewart flagged the new drink driving laws which come into effect on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and that it was important to make sure everyone understands and knows the new limits.

6. **Chairman's report:** The Chairman wished to change the order of agenda to co-opt Fiona Dalgleish. Proposed by A. Stewart and seconded by A. Kubie, F. Dalgleish was unanimously co-opted. The Chairman highlighted the Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network's (SBCCN) meeting which was taking place the same evening, attended by G. Mackie from the Peebles Community Council. There were two items on the agenda which were of particular interest, 1) the legal status of the community councils and 2) discussion of possible additional provision to pay for expenses of community councillors attending seminars/conferences. He mentioned that two members had attended the first Rural Parliament and that a national Community Council website had been introduced by COSLA. The Chairman also called for any interested residents to join the community council and reminded members of the Community Council's next table display to be held at Tesco's in the New Year.

7. **SBC Councillors:**

- **Cllr Cockburn:** He Informed the Community Council that SBC is going to reintroduce the Scrutiny Committee to provide a balance and allow the executive to be challenged on decisions. Bins have been put up at the Meldons by the council officers, although this is not a council responsibility, to try and tackle the problem of waste dumping. Cllr Cockburn urged anyone seeing people dumping builders' or any waste there to contact the council immediately to report them.
- **Cllr Garvie:** The Scottish Borders Walking Festival 2017 has been given to Peebles to host which is great news. The new management of the Hydro will be investing several thousand pounds in upgrading and maintaining it as an hotel
- **Cllr Bell:** The International Mountain Bike Conference took place at Peebles Hydro on 11-13 November. The Borders scenery and facilities are excellent and these should actively be promoted for events like these.  
SBC voted in November for no increase in taxi fares which is the second successive year the rates have been frozen for the taxis licensed by the council. There are, however, concerns on how the calculations work and the formula by which fares are set will be looked into.  
SEPA are engaging in a re-evaluation of managing the risk of flooding. They have changed their method of assessing risk which has resulted in an apparent increased river flood risk at Peebles and Innerleithen. Some residents in Innerleithen have been faced with considerable rises in their home insurance as a consequence of this new method. SBC is encouraging anyone in this situation to challenge the data the insurance company uses. Cllr Bell wishes members to pass this information to any concerned residents. During preparatory work at Kingsmeadows Road a void was found apparently associated with a tunnel carrying surface water. This has led to a traffic control having been in place longer than expected. The council will keep the Community Council informed of the progress.

8. **Reports for approval:**

- **Treasurer's report:** Nothing to report. G. Mackie is having trouble with M. Tolhurst's spread sheet but will report to the next meeting.
- **Bonnie Peebles:** Nothing to report.

9. **Special Topic: Survey from Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice:**

A. Kubie went through the survey questionnaire which was duly filled in. The deadline for returning the survey is 18<sup>th</sup> December. The major issues identified as leading to youth crime were youth unemployment, alcohol misuse and lack of activities in the town for young people.

10. **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.

- LDP (Long-term Development Plan) – The Scottish Government has appointed a reporter to examine the draft LPD. Peebles Community Council will seek a representation on the matter of the second bridge.
- Vision for Peebles – this continues to progress and the group are looking for volunteers.
- GIS: A locally resident Masters graduate in GIS has offered his help in introducing a modest training programme. This should make community engagement easier. The chairman wished the Community Council's thanks to this person to be recorded.
- Scottish Rural Parliament: C. Carleton and R. Tatler gave a report on the first Rural Parliament, which they attended in Oban at the beginning of November. The aim of the Parliament is to raise the rural issues with decision makers. The key message arising was that rural communities felt un-empowered and under-represented. C. Carleton concluded that it would be important to be represented as a region as a whole in the future.
- Future of Borderlands: Responses to the review 'Our Future – Our Borderlands', which is run by the Parliamentary Select Committee on Scottish Affairs, must be given by the end of November. G. Mackie and R. Tatler will draft a response and report to the Community Council.

**ACTION: GM & RT**

- Other items covered were: a planning application for Tweed Bridge Court; Community Trust bid to purchase land at Kingsmeadows was unsuccessful; the approval of the holiday park at Kirkburn; a planning request for a memorial plantation at Edderston Farm and an application for an off sales license from Franco's, which was agreed to unanimously.

11. **Any other business:**

- **Traffic Counters on Tweed Bridge:** Cllr Cockburn advised that the counters were for annual analysis purposes only and not permanent. Cllr Bell added that it was valuable to see if the traffic volumes were rising as the need for a second bridge was based on projections and one year's data was not sufficient for this purpose.
- **Notice of Motion:** Taken in item 6: Chairman's Report.
- **Rural Parliament:** A vote to permit payment of expenses to C. Carleton and R. Tatler for attending the Rural Parliament in Oban in November was taken. This was unanimously agreed.
- **Tour o' the Borders 2015:** A. Kubie gave a report of a meeting arranged the week before by the organisers of the Tour o' The Borders 2015. The meeting had been very successful with the people attending not being opposed to the event but wishing to have their concerns taken into account. To keep everyone informed on time the organisers are giving a presentation on next year's arrangements at the Community Council meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7 pm at the Burgh Hall so that people can raise any issues they may have.
- **Peebles Mural:** R. Tatler reported that the Bake House wall was now secured for the mural and that the three drawings have attracted a lot of attention from the public. Funding of around £8,000 is now being looked into and R. Tatler asked if an application to Awards for All can be made in the Community Council's name as the previous funding application, done by Peebles Mural, had been rejected. This was approved. R. Tatler also urged anyone interested in running the Peebles Art Festival to step forward as there was currently no chairman for the festival.
- **Nomad Beat:** The Peebles Community Music School is through to the final of ITV's 'The People's Millions', a community projects competition run in partnership with The Big Lottery Fund. "Breaking Sound Barriers" is Nomad Beat's project which will offer music-making to

everyone in the community but especially those with additional needs. Specially adapted musical instruments will be purchased if their bid gathers enough votes. R. Tatler asked to pass on the message to vote for Nomad Beat's project on **Wednesday 26 November**. A landline and mobile telephone number will be made available at 9 am on the voting day and the numbers will be published on:

[www.nomadbeat.com](http://www.nomadbeat.com)

[www.peoplesmillions.org.uk](http://www.peoplesmillions.org.uk)

Facebook – Breaking Sound Barriers

11. **Date for next meeting:** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.

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