



# Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

## Minute of the 217th 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 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Present: C. Carleton, F. Dalgleish, L. Foster, A. Kubie, G. Mackie, L. Morrison, G. Rennie, A. Snoddy, E. Smith, A. Stewart (Chairman) and R. Tatler

In attendance: SBC Councillors: S. Bell, K. Cockburn and G. Logan (for Open Forum presentation), L. Crichton (Minute Secretary)

1. **Open Forum:** Neil Dalgleish from Hillside Outside Ltd gave an extremely thorough and informative presentation to the committee and members of the public on the arrangements for the Tour o' the Borders 2015 and TweedLove 2015. Over the past few years these events have grown in scale and the organisers wish to engage closely with the public to inform everyone concerned and interested in these events of routes, road closures etc., hoping also to bring the community together to enjoy world-class cycling.
2. **Apologies:** A. MacKenzie, SBC Cllrs: W. Archibald, C. Bhatia, G. Garvie and G. Logan, and PC D. Sorrell. A. McKelvey also sent her apologies.
3. **Minute of Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014:** G. Mackie wished to make an amendment to the minutes, item 12 Any Other Business/SBCCN and add 'but is available online' to the end of the last sentence. The approval for alteration was proposed by R. Tatler and seconded by A. Snoddy. The minute was approved and signed by the Chairman, A. Stewart.

R. Tatler brought the meeting's attention to the sudden loss of Alison Cameron, the founder and inspiration behind Nomad Beat, and spoke for the whole Community Council when he expressed his sadness at the news of her death. He paid tribute to the huge contribution Alison made to the Peebles community not just at Nomad Beat but within the Arts and Cultural activities of the town in general. Alison brought the sheer joy of music-making to so many and she will be missed enormously by everyone who knew her.

#### 4. **Matters Arising:**

- **Priorsford Bridge:** There had been no further information on the works to be carried out on the bridge and it was agreed that A. Kubie will contact Cllr G. Garvie to find out about the situation.  
**ACTION: AK**
- **Hay Lodge Hospital:** The Chairman informed the meeting that he and Cllr S. Bell were arranging for a meeting to take place with the local doctors to discuss what can be done to increase the use of Hay Lodge Hospital. A. Stewart will report back to the Community Council once the meeting has been held. Cllrs K. Cockburn and S. Bell commented that the Chairman of NHS Borders will take part in the next Area Forum. This will provide a good opportunity for the public to discuss the problem.

- **Cuddy Bridge Closure:** Council officials are preparing a scheme of diversions to divert traffic from the Bridge whilst the works are in progress. They will ensure proper notice be publicised and residents who may be affected will receive a "letter drop". This, it is hoped, will minimise both the disruption and time taken to complete the work.

5. **Police Report:** circulated. The traffic situation in the Old Town was discussed, specifically in connection with school children crossing Neidpath Road. It was agreed that C. Carleton will bring to the Council Planning Committee the suggestion that a cycle path be created alongside the Tweed to Hay Lodge Park to make the children's route to school much safer. This could be done together with Tweed Green which has previously commissioned an engineering study on the subject.

**ACTION: CC**

The Police's suggestion for the Community Council to approach Scottish Borders Council in order to change the single yellow line to double yellow lines along Neidpath Road was also discussed and will be taken up at a later meeting.

6. **Chairman's report:** The Chairman raised the matter of Windfall Building Sites pointing out that whilst the total number of housing units has been specified in the LDP (Local Development Plan) it is a matter of concern that several developments have been approved as "Windfall Sites" and are extra to those specified. It is a problem that the Community Council's Planning Committee will need to keep under constant review.

The Chairman acknowledged with delight that Mr. Donald Swanson had been awarded the BEM for services to rugby in Peebles in the New Year's Honours List.

#### 7. **SBC Councillors:**

- **Cllr Cockburn** commented on the Full Council meeting held on 18th of December which had included good debates on the NHS Borders community hospitals and the Tapestry building which is to be built in Tweedbank. He also mentioned the reintroduced Scrutiny Committee and pointed out SBC's new Scheme of Administration as well as the new budget proposal which has been published.
- **Cllr Bell** also wished to draw everyone's attention to the budget proposal which has been published on Scottish Borders Council's website. He mentioned that a budget briefing will be held on 27 January 2015 which the Secretary of the Peebles Community Council should attend. He encouraged the members of the public to look at the budget proposal online and to make comments and suggestions on it.

Cllr Bell informed the meeting that the council had approved a governance scheme for the health and social care integration which will be submitted to the Scottish Government in March.

Cllr Bell commented on the Great Tapestry which will be situated in Tweedbank, expressing his expectations for it to generate jobs and employment in the Borders. He also highlighted the AimUP project in Innerleithen which, if linked up with events like TweedLove, has the potential to create jobs as well.

#### 8. **Reports for approval:**

- **Treasurer's report:** circulated. G. Mackie advised that very little had happened recently and that there was nothing specific to report.
- **Bonnie Peebles:** Minutes of the Bonnie Peebles meeting held on 26 November 2014 had been circulated. There had not been a meeting in December.

9. **Special Topic:** There was no special topic.

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.

- Peebles Community Trust Exhibition & Open Forum is arranged for 17<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 11 am – 4 pm in the Burgh Hall. C. Carleton invited & encouraged all Community Councillors and members of the public to come along to the event. It will provide updates on the PCT, and discussion of development priorities for the town, including the drafting of a Town Action Plan and the drafting the Peebles Whole Town Master Plan. It is also an opportunity to gather public views on wind farm developments – notably in relation to the current enquiry into the Cloich Forest Wind farm development application, but also others nearby.
- Land Use Framework Consultation: The Scottish Borders is one of two areas chosen in Scotland to pilot a new ecosystem approach to land use planning. The consultation seeks to gather views on its impact and usefulness. The Peebles Community Council's Planning Committee finds the consultation extremely interesting and will complete and submit the questionnaire by early February.
- Cloich Forest Wind Farm: As agreed, a letter to the Reporter has been sent requesting further information.
- Other topics the Planning Committee brought up as examples for future discussion were: **cycling within Peebles** - cycling paths; **energy** (wind farms, boilers etc.) – if continuing to have more and more development we should be using new technology to innovate energy; **local employment**; **care of community**. C. Carleton urged anyone who has issues that the Community Council could take on to bring them forward.

#### 11. Any other business:

- **Co-option:** A notice of motion to co-opt Anne McKelvey was proposed by A. Stewart and seconded by A. Kubie. A. McKelvey was unanimously co-opted. The Chairman wished to clarify that co-opted members will still have to stand for election in April. In response to a query from L. Morrison he noted that the Community Council can co-opt members if the membership is below eighteen or for their specific expertise.
- **Tesco stall:** A. Snoddy circulated a list to determine which date, 31 January or 7 February would be best. It was agreed to have the stall in Tesco on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2015. A rota will be issued.

12. **Date for next meeting:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 7.30 pm at the Burgh Chambers.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.

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