



# Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

## Minute of the 218th 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 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Present: C. Carleton, F. Dalgleish, D. Horsburgh, A. MacKenzie, G. Mackie, A. Kubie (Minute Secretary), L. Morrison, E. Smith, A. Stewart (Chairman) and R. Tatler

In attendance: SBC Councillors: W. Archibald, S. Bell, C. Bhatia and K. Cockburn

The Chairman opened the meeting with commiserations to Lesley Morrison on the loss of her house and subsequent burglary and with good wishes to Cllr Garvie who had suffered a heart attack.

1. **Open Forum:** Residents from Craigerne Lane came to express their concerns regarding the proposed all weather football and rugby pitch (3G pitch). They were disappointed at the lack of information and the very limited notice of the consultation and exhibition, of which Community Councillors had been unaware. Presenters at the exhibition had told residents that the pitch was to be available 24 hours each day seven days a week. The floodlighting and the parking as well as the noise associated with sports were a major worry. It was rumoured that the land for the pitch would be a trade off for planning permission to develop the rest of the field for housing.

Cllr Bhatia said that she was unable to comment regarding the land purchase and housing development. She assured the residents that there would not be 24 hour usage of the pitch and there would be a restriction on the hours which the pitch could be floodlit. Originally the pitch was to have been built at the Gytes but this was stopped by SEPA and all the other potential sites had issues for residents. This is a consultation process and there will be opportunities for residents to put their views once a planning application has been submitted. She apologised to residents for the lack of notice of the exhibition. C. Carleton said that there was a demand for such a pitch in the town but that the housing on the field was not in the Local Development Plan so would be a windfall site and would be considered differently to planned housing. He advised that all the up to date information was on the Peebles Community website.

Another resident requested that something be done to improve the safety of cyclists within the town. C. Carleton said that the Community Council planned to make cycling in and out of the town an issue throughout 2015 and would be putting pressure on SBC for more cycle routes within the town.

Another resident requested that the Community Council become more involved with the management of Common Good assets and expressed concerns over the possible development of Elliot's Park Grazings. The Chairman explained that the Community Council did have a representative who attended meeting of the Common Good Fund Working Group (CGFWG). Cllr Archibald, who chairs the CGFWG, explained how this works. Cllr Bhatia gave the background to the report on the Elliot's Park Grazings report, which arose out of a concern that the land was valued as potential development land when it probably should be valued as rough grazing. There were no plans to develop the land at present. This resident was further concerned about the cessation of the green waste collection because it was too expensive to run both this and the statutory food waste collection to be started this year. He noted that a grant of £250000 had been made for food waste collection. Cllr Bhatia said that the green waste collection had only been operated in some localities and should have been extended to all localities to be equitable, this would be too expensive. The food waste collection too was to be introduced only to qualifying communities but this is a statutory requirement. The grant was a one off payment to get the food

waste collection started and was not sufficient to allow both green and food waste collections to operate simultaneously.

The parking on double yellow lines was also brought to the attention of Community Councillors. This is not only an offense but is antisocial and restricts the movement of wheelchair users and other disabled people by blocking the crossing points at lowered kerbs.

The Chairman welcomed all those people who had expressed an interest in joining the Community Council and had come along this evening to see what goes on at a Community Council meeting.

2. **Apologies:** L. Foster, A. McKelvey, G. Rennie, A. Snoddy, and L. Crichton, SBC Cllrs: G. Garvie and G. Logan, and PC D. Sorrell.

3. **Minute of Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014:** The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by E. Smith and seconded by R. Tatler. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman, A. Stewart.

4. **Matters Arising:**

- **Priorsford Bridge:** This matter is on hold for the present
- **Hay Lodge Hospital:** The Chairman and Cllr S. Bell were still hopeful that a meeting could be arranged with the local doctors to investigate the possibility of increasing the services offered by Hay Lodge Hospital. The Chairman will report back to the Community Council once the meeting has been held. Cllr Bhatia advised that no closure of the hospital was being discussed. A meeting of the NHS Borders Board was to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> February where the extension of services available at local hospitals was to be discussed. The Chairman also raised concerns regarding the restriction of non-emergency ambulance services.
- **Cuddy Bridge Closure:** the latest update received today from Philippa Gilhooly was that the work would be completed on Saturday 14 February. The Chairman commended the SBC officers, Scottish Water and the contractors for carrying out the work with minimal disruption to the town, considering the size of the undertaking. He thought that all the arrangements had worked very well on the whole.
- **Tesco Stall:** A. Snoddy had circulated a report. A number of problems and concerns had been raised and would be considered by the Community Council. It was felt that the profile of the Community Council in the town had been raised and some people had come forward as potential Community Councillors. The Chairman thanked Michael Robson of Peeblesshire News for his article on the members of the Community Council. This too had helped to bring the Community Council to the public's attention.

5. **Police Report:** Not received

6. **Chairman's report:** The Chairman considered time to be pressing so the report would be circulated with the minutes.

7. **SBC Councillors:**

- **Cllr Archibald:** There are continuing problems for bus passengers travelling to the BGH as the 62/X62 service terminates in Galashiels. He would like to reassure elderly passengers that there are alternatives and can be accessed through The Bridge, Red Cross and WRVS.
- **Cllr Bell:** The Council has passed its budget, which includes in the capital plan £18 million for a second river crossing to be built in 2023/4. This is when traffic monitoring studies predict that the bridge will be required. Resolution on what public opinion is with regards to the second crossing is yet to be achieved. He had also attended a meeting with school and college staff and local business representatives. The objective was to see how the curricula can be tailored to meet local employers' requirements.
- **Cllr Bhatia:** She had had an e-mail from a resident requesting that fencing be erected from the cauld westward to prevent cyclists from falling into the river when the river is in flood. She

thought the Community Council could raise this with Jason Hedley. Another issue she thought the Community Council could raise was a crossing of the Innerleithen Road from Kerfield Park to the Innerleithen cycle path.

- **Cllr Cockburn** had received a different complaint regarding the 62 bus service. Apparently a bus leaves Peebles at 7.45 am and takes students to Borders College but there is no return bus in the afternoon. He asked if members were also aware of this problem. None were at present.

#### 8. Reports for approval:

- **Treasurer's report:** G. Mackie apologised that he had tried but failed to circulate the report and had only managed to send it to the secretary. The only expense was a £2.75 charge for the e-mail account.
- **Bonnie Peebles:** Circulated

9. **Special Topic:** Scottish Borders Council Budget Briefing – G. Mackie had attended the briefing and a brief report is appended.

10. **Planning Report:** A draft report had been circulated but the planning committee meeting had been non-quorate so the report had to be discussed in full.

- Peebles Community Trust Exhibition & Open Forum in the Burgh Hall was well attended with the information collected going towards the Town Master Plan.
- Peebles Community Trust AGM was held last week.
- Tesco Stall – Thanks to Anne Snoddy for organising it.
- Cloich Forest wind farm is before the reporter at present. The reporter is to hold a public inquiry on 26<sup>th</sup> May at the Hydro Hotel. The community is split on the issue of wind farms in general so it is difficult for the Community Council to know where to stand. L. Morrison thought that a public meeting to discuss the topic would be a good idea and would also serve to raise the profile of the Community Council. F. Dalgleish has the Community Council Facebook account up and ready to run so this could be used for a public debate and poll. The Peeblesshire News would also be willing to run a public debate and poll.

#### **Action A.Kubie**

Cllr Bell asked if it was known why the reporter had called this inquiry and what issues will be addressed. C. Carleton will investigate.

#### **Action C.Carleton**

#### 11. Any other business:

- **Gypsy Glen Hill Race:** The date will be 13<sup>th</sup> May. R. Tatler will organise the stewards and would like volunteers to act as stewards.
- **Bin the Litter Campaign:** R. Tatler is happy to organise the 2015 campaign with the help of A. Mackenzie. It will probably be held 22 March. He will speak to A. Snoddy to see what information she has received from Douglas Wright.
- **Peebles Mural:** R. Tatler reported that the project is well underway. A site has been identified, the artist is ready, planning approval has been obtained, Common Good matching funding has been promised and the remainder of the funds have been matched by Awards for All. A consultation day has been held and the community is behind the project. All that is required is for the weather to improve so that the wall can be plastered before the painting starts. R. Tatler also asked the Community Council to approve that he approaches RBS, owners of the courtyard, to request that the area be upgraded so that it can be better utilised. The meeting unanimously agreed.
- **Community Council Elections 2015:** Cllr Garvie has agreed to be this year's returning officer and Cllr Cockburn has agreed to be his depute. As Cllr Garvie will not be able to attend the AGM in May Cllr Cockburn will be performing the duties of the returning officer on this occasion. L. Morrison suggested that she speak to Graham Lumb about the Bridge helping to publicise the election in his literature. The secretary had issued nomination forms and election timetables to all who had expressed an interest and to members. A. MacKenzie is to stand again. A nomination form and a copy of the timetable are appended to these minutes.

- **Neidpath Corner:** Officers have been asked to ensure that infrastructure for the permanent lights to be installed while the temporary lights are in place. Delays are being caused at present but these should reduce once the permanent lights are installed as these will be movement sensitive.
- **First Bus:** Christine Grahame had published a report on her progress with First Bus in negotiations to get the company to revert back to using the bus station in Edinburgh and to reinstate a through service to the BGH from Peebles. There was a possibility that First Bus will revert back to Edinburgh bus station next winter but it is unlikely that there will be a through service to the BGH. L. Morrison wished it to be recorded that the X62 service is very good and runs to time.
- **Eddie's Eyes:** Each month E. Smith is going to report to the meeting his observations on illegal and anti social parking and other issues that need correcting about the town. This month he reported on Illegal parking in the Northgate. Earlier in the day John Swanson had sent photographs of an illegally parked van which had blocked the passage of three buses. Parking in Eastgate is also a major problem. Veitch's Corner House has been sold.
- **Old Town/Tweed Bridge Parking:** Illegal parking is bad all along Old Town. An emergency ambulance was delayed because the traffic became blocked. The lighting on Tweed Bridge seems to be much more dim this year than previously which, combined with apparently more cars parking on Tweed Bridge in the evenings, makes it very dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists.
- **Eastgate Parking:** Cllr Bhatia said that until the police take their responsibility seriously and stop illegal parking the situation is unlikely to improve. The Chairman suggested that permitted parking could be extended to the corner of Northgate and a loading bay for delivery lorries be created outside Forsyth's.
- **NHS Borders Health and Social Care integration:** L. Morrison advised that this arose from a need to address such issues as 'bed blocking' and that the principle was to be supported. Cllr Bhatia thought that the scheme should be in place by 2016. A consultation and briefing meeting is to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> February. L. Morrison requested that comments should be forwarded to her by the end of February to enable her to reply to the consultation in time.
- **NHS Borders Out of Hours Service:** Nurse practitioners are making home visits as doctors refuse to do these since the adoption of their new contracts. There will be a doctor at the BGH providing out of hours cover.
- **SBCCN:** G. Mackie noted that there will be a meeting of SBCCN on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February to which he is unable to go. If anyone else is able to attend please let him know?

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

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

## SBC Budget Briefing 27 Jan 2015

Presentations by David Parker (Leader of the Council)  
David Robertson (Chief Financial Officer)

Highlights (in no particular order)

- Covered 5 year revenue plan and 10 year capital plan
- Council tax frozen at 07/08 level for 8<sup>th</sup> year
- 57,384 households at Jan 15 (up 386)
- Most of revenue comes from government support grant (£150m+ out of £254m)
- Expenditure increases but income largely fixed
- New food waste collections will only apply to 24,000 households
- Roll out next generation broadband
- Capital expenditure of £332m over 10 years (inc. £145m on roads, bridges, waste & flooding and £103m on schools)
- £91m of cap. ex. funded by borrowing
- 8 priorities
  - encourage sustainable economic growth
  - improve attainment and achievement levels of our children
  - provide high quality support, care and protection to children, young people, adults, families and older people
  - build the capacity & resilience of our communities and voluntary sector
  - maintain and improve our environment
  - develop our workforce
  - develop our assets and resources
  - ensure excellent, adaptable, collaborative and accessible public services

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL  
**COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2015**

**Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles & District**

**NOMINATION FORM**

Please read notes overleaf and then complete Sections 1 and 2 in typescript or BLOCK CAPITALS

**SECTION 1 - CANDIDATE**

SURNAME (AS IN THE ELECTORAL REGISTER)	OTHER NAMES (AS IN THE ELECTORAL REGISTER)	MR / MRS MS / MISS	ELECTORAL NUMBER ( <b>NOTE 2</b> )		ADDRESS (AS IN THE ELECTORAL REGISTER)
			Letter or Number	Electoral Number	

**SECTION 2 - PROPOSER AND SECONDER**

	SURNAME (AS IN THE ELECTORAL REGISTER)	OTHER NAMES (AS IN THE ELECTORAL REGISTER)	MR / MRS MS / MISS	ELECTORAL NUMBER ( <b>NOTE 2</b> )		ADDRESS (AS IN THE ELECTORAL REGISTER)
				Letter or Number	Electoral Number	
Proposer						
Secunder						

WE hereby nominate as a candidate for election the person named in Section 1 above, who, to the best of our knowledge and belief is eligible for such election, as a member of the **Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District**

Signature of Proposer .....

Signature of Secunder .....

ACCEPTANCE OF NOMINATION

I, the nominee for election, named in Section 1 above, consent to be nominated as a candidate for the abovementioned Community Council and, if elected, will accept office as a member of the said Community Council and agree to comply with the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors.

Signature of Candidate

.....Date.....

**NOTES**

1. Please insert in the first column the distinctive number and letter if any, from the Register of Electors (e.g.) 21A. The number will be found next to "Polling District").  
Please insert in the second column the elector number which can be found next to the elector's name in the Register of Electors.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTION**

A person seeking election to a Community Council must be aged 18 or over and appear on the Electoral Register for the Community Council area at the date of being proposed for membership of the Community Council. Each Candidate shall be nominated by a Proposer (who may be the candidate) and a Secunder, both being persons whose names appear in the said Electoral Register for the respective Community Council area, or sub-division of that area, where applicable.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MAY ONLY PROPOSE OR ACT AS A SECONDER FOR ONE PERSON.**

COMPLETED NOMINATION FORMS SHOULD BE LODGED IN THE BALLOT BOX, WHICH IS HELD AT:-

Peebles Post Office  
Eastgate  
Peebles

The Returning Officers are SBC Tweeddale Area Councillors G Garvie & K Cockburn

**By no later than 4.00pm, Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> 2015**

## Election Process Timetable

**'Lot 2', elected 2012 now due for re-election plus those members who were co-opted in 2014/15.**

Garry R Rennie, Fiona Dalglish, Anne McKelvey, Allan MacKenzie

**Retiring this year:** A Kubie, A Stewart, L Foster

We require six extra nominees.

Election/Poll Date: **Tuesday, 21 April 2015**

This date is set with regard to the date of the May meeting of the Community Council and is calculated by:

- Notice of a contested Election (Friday two weeks prior to election date): **10<sup>th</sup> April**
- Closing Date for withdrawal of Nominations (Tues of the preceding week): **31<sup>st</sup> March**
- Closing Date for receipt of nominations (Tues of the preceding week): **24<sup>th</sup> March**
- Date for Public Notice of Invitation of Nominations (to be no less than 14 days prior to closing date nor more than 28 days prior to the closing date) :

CC Notice Board (Thursday first week of March): **5<sup>th</sup> March**

Peeblesshire News Advert (Friday first week of March): **6<sup>th</sup> March**

The May Community Council meeting should be convened, when possible, within 21 days of the Election date and on the second Thursday of May:

Date of May meeting: **Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

## **Chairman's February Report**

### Cuddy Bridge and Water improvement works:

Following having expressed our concerns over the traffic disruption and delays when contractors "jumped the gun" and started work with 3 way Traffic Lights resulting in chaos and unbelievable traffic delays; it was agreed that a system of diversions be put in place. This was done and for the most part works well; although there are still disruptions and delays at School Bus times.

The work hopefully will soon be completed

### Neidpath A72

The supporting wall is giving way and there are cracks appearing on the west bound carriageway

Traffic lights will be put in place and a survey of the problem(s) will be undertaken and a report made as to what remedial action will be necessary and an indication of time-scale for its completion

### Hay Lodge Hospital

Local concern as to what may happen here continues to be a major talking point

It is of major concern to the elderly and also those being released from Hospital if there is a further reduction in the number of beds

I together with Cllr Bell are trying to arrange a meeting with the Doctors to discuss what better use might be made of the building and what services / procedures could realistically be carried out in Peebles

### Eastgate Parking

This continues to be a problem.

With Delivery vehicles unloading and buses at the PO often there are major problems  
Possibly if the town bus service used the stop on the High Street at the "County" as their base then this could relieve some the problems

Additionally there is sufficient space to extend the parking round the corner at the Northgate and create a loading bay near the Butchers/Bakers

### NHS Borders - OOH Service

Whether this is a viable alternative would remain to be seen; as it appears it would be centred at BGH meaning patients travelling there

Obviously until full details have been worked out and full consultation taken place it is too soon to comment

## CONTACTS

Over recent months we have gained the views of a large cross-section of Peebles folk at our Supermarket stalls and also the recent Exhibition in the Burgh Hall. My thanks go to all those who manned these events which in the first instance raised the profile of the Community Council and secondly allowed opinions be gathered.

There were recurring comments:-

- Peebles has grown too big too quickly
- Put train on Schools ; Health Services; Sewage and Water systems
- Lack of affordable housing ( both for sale and rent)
- Policing
- Second Bridge
- Parking