



Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

Minute of the 227th 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 December, 2015

Present: C. Carleton, F. Dalglish, J. Crawley, G. Mackie, L. Hayworth, A. MacKenzie, K. Rand, R. Tatler (Chairman), J. Shearer, E. Smith and A. Snoddy

In attendance: SBC Councillors W. Archibald, C. Bhatia, G. Garvie and G. Logan and L. Crichton (Minute Secretary)

1. **Open Forum:** G. White from Peebles CAN gave a brief presentation & update on the not-for-profit community based organisation committed to building sustainable resilient communities. Currently its principle focus is on providing meaningful opportunities for volunteers, youth development and small business start-ups for the entrepreneurs of tomorrow. It is in the early stages of looking into starting a youth enterprise hub with the potential location being the old Halyrude School building. G. White asked for feedback and thoughts from the Peebles Community Council on how this would fit in e.g. with the town Master Plan. The Community Council is very supportive and encouraging of such an initiative. The Community Council unfortunately is unable to do much more than give support but the Chairman, R. Tatler suggested contacting the Community Trust which may be able to help more.

2. **Apologies:** M. Durkin, S. Haslam, Cllrs S. Bell and K. Cockburn, PC D. Sorrell

The Chairman, R. Tatler informed the Community Councillors of A. McKelvey's resignation from the Community Council due to other commitments. A letter will be sent to thank her for her contribution as a Community Councillor.

ACTION: R. Tatler

R. Tatler reminded everyone that the Community Council was looking for new members and went on to introduce Chris Forsyth who was attending the meeting wishing to join as a new Community Councillor. He will be co-opted officially at the next meeting in January.

R. Tatler also informed the meeting of the resignation of the Minute Secretary, L. Crichton as of February 2016 due to family commitments.

3. **Minute of Meeting of 12th November 2015:** Cllr Bhatia wished to make an amendment to the minutes at Item 2: The Public Meeting on 22nd October 2015 about the 3G Pitch. The intention is not to locate the changing rooms in Victoria Park Day Centre but instead the grounds of Victoria Park Day Centre. This was duly corrected. The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by L. Hayworth and seconded by F. Dalglish. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman, R. Tatler.

4. **Matters Arising:**

- **3G Pitch:** SBC have now submitted the planning application for the 3G pitch in Victoria Park. Closing date for objections is 29th December 2015. R. Tatler reported that a separate meeting to discuss the 3G Pitch as well as the Rosetta Holiday Park Application will be held by the

Community Council's Planning Committee before the Christmas break and invited all Community Councillors to attend the meeting (time and date to be determined & circulated).

ACTION: A. Snoddy

- **Scrutiny Committee:** L. Hayworth gave a brief report on his attendance at the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26th November, 2015 (excerpt of draft minutes had been circulated). The Peebles Community Council had put in a request for a review of the process leading to the decision to agree that Victoria Park be the preferred location for the 3G pitch. In response the Scrutiny Committee stated that it cannot review the Executive Committee's decision as it had been made within the last six months but advised the Peebles Community Council to raise the question of the 3G pitch process and consultation by submitting a petition to the Petition and Deputations Committee after the 6-month period. The Scrutiny Committee will have a presentation on the Community Engagement Toolkit at their April 2016 meeting and this may provide the Committee a relevant context to consider the review request from the Peebles Community Council in relation to the 3G pitch. L. Hayworth encouraged everyone to read through the Community Engagement Toolkit (can be found on SBC's website) which he considered an excellent document to improve decision making if used properly. Cllr Logan, who is the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, confirmed that the Committee could not look at decision making but could look into the process of doing so and that the Committee would consider and decide if the 3G process will be reviewed as per the Peebles Community Council proposal in April 2016.
- **Dog Fouling:** The Chairman, R. Tatler, read an email from Kathleen Marshall stating that she was planning to put out pledge sheets into both vet practices in Peebles as well as into the library and the Bridge Office to encourage dog owners to sign up to clearing up after their dogs. She will also visit each school in Peebles as well as spend a day at each of the parks to raise awareness. Community Cllr E. Smith had also been conducting a one-man campaign in Victoria Park. Ms. Marshall will give an update on the progress of the initiative at the Community Council's January meeting. J. Shearer suggested that SBC could give out free bags to dog owners such as she has seen happening in France. A Snoddy agreed to pass on the suggestion to Ms. Marshall. **ACTION: A Snoddy**
- **Torchlit Procession:** F. Dalglish reported that approx. 100 torches had already been sold online and that the organisers of the event were expecting to sell 350 torches. The torches can only be purchased online at the moment and they can be collected against a voucher from the High Street on the evening of the event (31st December).
- **Health and Social Care Integration Consultation:** The Chairman, R. Tatler, reported that L. Morrison's response to the consultation document had been circulated with the Community Councillors for feedback and comments, the deadline for submitting responses being 11th December, 2015. R. Tatler thanked L. Hayworth and L. Morrison for their input in this matter.

R. Tatler noted that reports on the following items will be made at the next meeting in January: Borders Community Empowerment Conference, Scottish Civic Trust Annual Conference, Digital Engagement Seminar and Scottish Rural Parliament Event.

5. **Police Report:** Circulated. **11 parking tickets** had been issued, the officers continue to give attention to parking in the town. There had been **3 incidents of anti-social behaviour. Bikes were stolen** from a garage and **a house had been broken into**. Also, a High Street shop had been subject to **a theft of money**.

L. Hayworth expressed his concern on the bike thefts and house breakings which have previously not been a problem and highlighted the importance of people being careful where they store their bikes. F. Dalglish suggested that Tweedlove could work with the local police to put together an information pack on how to keep bikes safe which can then be put on the Community Council's Facebook page and website. This was agreed.

ACTION: F. Dalglish

A. Snoddy reported incidents where eggs had been thrown at houses in Peebles but were not mentioned in the Police report. R. Tatler noted problems, reported by a resident, at the back road between Walkerburn and Innerleithen over the previous weekend when the A72 had been closed due to a Police incident. A. Snoddy will take up both matters with PC D. Sorrell.

ACTION: A. Snoddy

6. **Chairman's report:** The Chairman, R. Tatler praised the good work done by the Peebles Resilience Group and the Fire Service over the previous weekend of bad weather and flooding. He also congratulated the Peebles Christmas Lights Association and A. Snoddy for yet another lovely event of switching on the Christmas lights on 3rd December. The Chairman reported that the unveiling of the Mural on 18th November had gone well despite the weather and the next step is to deliver brochures to all local schools. The Chairman reported that he had attended the Tweeddale Area Forum on 2nd December where he had also agreed to join a sub-committee which will look at issues on the A72.

7. **SBC Councillors:**

- **Cllr Logan** noted the decisions made at the last Scrutiny Committee (see Item 4 Matters Arising).
- **Cllr Archibald** reported on the Common Good Fund meeting which took place prior to the Tweeddale Area Forum on 2nd December where they had approved an application for financial assistance for the Mural project. They had also received feedback from the Peebles-Hendaye Twinning Committee who had been given funds recently. Cllr Archibald also noted that some funds may be returned to the Common Good Fund should the group managing Venlaw Community Woodland, Peebles, be wound down. Cllr Archibald reported that the Area Forum had also discussed bus terminals and stops in Peebles. The Eastgate stop was giving particular concern because of congestion and he encouraged the Peebles Community Council to look into the issue of parking buses and to give their thoughts on the matter. The Chairman, R. Tatler commented that this will be taken up in the next Community Council Planning Committee meeting.

L. Hayworth noted that according to the Venlaw Community Woodland's constitution their outstanding funds (£1200) are to be directed to the Peebles Community Council. L. Hayworth also reminded the Tweeddale Councillors that the Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN) was still looking for a second member to join the core group and asked the councillors to encourage other Tweeddale community councils to join the network.

- **Cllr Bhatia** commented on the importance of youth work being carried out in the Tweeddale area and reported on an event she had been invited to by the Tweeddale Youth Action. She recommended the Peebles Community Council considers this subject as a topic for one of the monthly meetings. R. Tatler commented that there will be a special topic by the Tweeddale Youth Action at the Peebles Community Council's next meeting in January.

Cllr Bhatia noted that the Tweeddale Access Panel (people with disabilities looking to improve access to buildings etc.) is low on members and are looking for new representatives to join them. She pointed out that there always used to be a representative on the panel from the Peebles Community Council.

Cllr Bhatia also mentioned the ongoing surface problems on Priorsford Bridge which she has brought up with J. Hedley/SBC. The council is going to look into the issues again.

- **Cllr Garvie** noted an event he had attended at Glentress for new businesses coming to get advice on developing mountain biking in the area. The event had been well attended and the presentations very interesting.

Cllr Garvie commented on the recent flooding problems due to bad weather noting that Peebles luckily had not been as badly affected as some other areas in the Scottish Borders. He thanked all the emergency services for all their hard work.

A. MacKenzie raised a concern about Neidpath Corner. Cars are speeding away from the new traffic lights (westerly) as if trying to make up the time lost at the lights. There is a large puddle further along on the road with the result some vehicles may 'aquaplane' and a serious accident may ensue. The Chairman, R. Tatler, asked A. Snoddy to raise the matter with PC D Sorrell.

ACTION: A. Snoddy

A. MacKenzie also drew attention to tree roots which were causing problems along the road at Cademuir. Cllr Bhatia promised to bring the matter up with council officers.

ACTION: Cllr Bhatia

8. Reports for approval:

- **Treasurer's report:** Circulated. Nothing special to report. The Chairman, R. Tatler noted the outstanding funds from Venlaw Community Woodland which are to be directed to the Peebles Community Council.
- **Bonnie Peebles:** Minutes of the Bonnie Peebles meeting on 2 December, 2015 had been circulated.

9. 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.

- **Rosetta Holiday Park:** The Peebles Community Council's Planning Committee/L. Morrison had submitted an FOI (Freedom of Information) request to the Scottish Borders Council to establish how many times over the last five years SBC has waived some or all of the Affordable Housing provision that SBC planning policy requires. The response, received 7th December, has been that this has happened twice. The Planning Committee is against any such waiver and will write to SBC and the Planning Committee accordingly.
- **Chambers Institution:** The consultants are looking for more input from the local community and the next step is further community engagement.
- **Peebles Community Trust** will be organising two Open Forum events in the New Year:
 - 16th January 2016 (Burgh Hall) to discuss the draft Town Action Plan
 - 13th February, 2016 (Burgh Hall) to discuss the draft Vision for Peebles – Whole Town Master Plan
- **Kingsmeadows House:** The officers' reports can be found on Scottish Borders Council eplanning website (<http://eplanning.scotborders.gov.uk>) Application Reference number 15/00822/PPP. Those local residents who have previously regularly walked their dogs within the estate woodland may also wish to formally voice that they have been doing so.
- **March Street Mill:** The business is closing down by the end of the year, with the loss of 87 local jobs. It is not clear what will now happen to the site but hopefully it will not be developed into housing. It is feasible that all or part of this site could be acquired by the community – for both community and business purposes - but to do so would require considerable commitment and effort from community representatives.

10. Any Other Business:

- **Report from Community Cllr Eddie Smith:** E. Smith reported that speeding in the town was a serious issue especially around Kingsmeadows Road and Springhill Road. It was agreed that A. Snoddy will add this item when liaising with the Police.
ACTION: A. Snoddy
- **Peebles Community Trust:** Covered in item 9 Planning Report.
- **Common Good Fund meeting - report:** Covered in item 7 SBC Councillors.
- **Request for Special Topics from April 2016 onwards:** The Chairman, R. Tatler asked everyone to think about topics for the Community Council meetings from April 2016 onwards. He noted that the next topics will be:
 - January 2016: Tweeddale Youth Action
 - February 2016: Tour o' the Borders
 - March 2016: Whole Town Master Plan
- **Proposed Speed Restrictions:** It was agreed to have a wider conversation around this matter in the next meeting.

12. Date for next meeting: Thursday 14th January 2016 at 7.30 pm at the Burgh Chambers.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.