



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

### Minutes of the 230<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**Present:** C. Carleton, J. Crawley, F. Dalglish, M. Durkin, C. Forsyth, G. Mackie, L. Hayworth, S. Haslam, R. Tatler (Chairman), J. Shearer, E. Smith and A. Snoddy.

**In Attendance:** SBC Councillor W. Archibald, S. Dubé (interim Minute Secretary) and PC D. Sorrell.

- 1. Presentation:** Amy Alcorn of Peebles Community Action Network outlined the group's application for Big Lottery funding for their Grow Kids Cook Kids initiative. The group received some funding last year and is now through to the final. The winning group will receive £50,000. Voting closes on Monday March 14 and she asked the council for help in maximising the vote in their favour. Winning the competition would enable the group to employ an extra five people part-time working with three times as many people in the garden, situated behind the Victoria Park centre. The project involves children and parents learning together how to grow and harvest vegetables and turn them into meals. Current funding runs out at the end of March. There is a runners-up grant of £5,000 that would enable the group to continue the work on a smaller scale. It was agreed that notices of support would be placed on Peebles Community Council's website and Facebook page, together with information on how to vote.

**Action: A. Snoddy**

- 2. Open Forum:** No members of the public were present.
- 3. Presentation:** C. Carleton and S Dubé outlined the work of the Peebles Community Trust in creating a Vision for Peebles Master Plan that brings together the results of a series of Open Forums, workshops and neighbourhood walks to set out what people in the local community think of their town and the issues and challenges it faces. The document will feature in discussions with service providers on future developments.
- 4. Apologies for absence:** SBC Cllrs C. Bhatia, G. Garvie, S. Bell, K. Cockburn and G. Logan; K. Rand, L. Morrison, A. Mackenzie.

- 5. Community Council Election 2016:** R. Tatler (Chairman) reminded members that these take place in May and there were currently four vacancies on the council. He encouraged voters on the electoral roll, especially younger people, to come forward. A. Snoddy said no one had as yet picked up nomination papers from the library. There has been a front page advertisement in The Peeblesshire News, and there will be a follow-up article in the next issue. Cllr Archibald pointed out that anyone aged 16 and over could now vote in Scottish Government elections. He suggested it might be possible to change the constitution to enable them to become Community Councillors. A. Snoddy agreed to find out how to change the constitution.

**Action: A. Snoddy**

- 6. Minutes of the Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016:** It was noted that Cllr G. Garvie had tendered his apologies for the February meeting. Acceptance was proposed by E. Smith and seconded by F. Dalgleish. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**7. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

- **Mature Trees cut down:** Trees at Greenside car park had been felled because of a rare fungus infection. Information was still awaited re the felling of trees behind 88 High Street. L. Hayworth said the fungus had affected Cyprus trees at Greenside but a number of other varieties that were not susceptible to the infection had also been felled. Planning consent was needed to trim or fell any tree within the conservation area and SBC appeared to have acted without going through the process. C. Carleton said noted that there had been 25 planning applications to modify or fell other trees in Peebles in the past three months. L. Hayworth said the applications showed that the situation was generally well-managed and controlled by the SBC tree officer. The Chairman said the council should express its concern about the lack of due process in this instance. It was suggested that the Community Council could invite the SBC Tree Officer to speak at a future meeting.

**Action: A. Snoddy and R. Tatler**

- **Action re notice board:** The Secretary A. Snoddy said she had met with Allan Mackenzie who would do the work, but needed time to do it.

**Action: A. Snoddy and A. Mackenzie**

- **Hustings re Scottish Government elections:** R. Tatler (Chairman) said the council had agreed to chair the event and he had taken advice from SBC. Tim Clancy would do all the work but the council would stage it in the Burgh Hall and provide a PA system. The SNP, Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green and Ukip candidates would be invited to take part. S. Haslam said certain candidates had to be invited by law. She would check on the legal position. The event would take place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**Action: S. Haslam**

- 8. Police Report:** PC Diana Sorrell, again attending while off duty, circulated a written report. C. Carleton drew attention to the surface water collecting on the road between Peebles and Eddleston which may have contributed to several recent accidents. PC Sorrell said she would pass the message on to traffic management. A. Snoddy said she had contacted SBC on the issue. They were aware of water running off the hill and were in touch with utility companies prior to clearing and digging ditches at the side of the road. L. Hayworth referred to the problem of “boy racers” along Kingsmeadows Road and said the equivalent of an ASBO could be imposed and their cars impounded in the event of repeat offences. PC Sorrell said she made sure youngsters were aware of that. A. Snoddy said cars were still being parked illegally on the pavement outside the parish church by parents collecting their daughters from Guides. PC Sorrell said she would contact the Guide leaders.
- 9. Chairman’s Report:** R. Tatler said he attended the Area Forum last Wednesday and found it a very interesting meeting. There was a short statement from David Younger from Eastgate Theatre following a glowing report from Education Scotland on last year’s Peebles Creative Place Award. The report said the money had been well spent. There was an interesting discussion on the flooding after a presentation by Scottish Water – details in the Planning Report. The chairman would be invited to Talla Reservoir. A speed limit review would result in an additional 50mph restriction as far as Glentress. There were reports from the fire and rescue services and police. The results of the Chambers Institution consultation were produced. No changes were planned to usage but structural changes were envisaged notably relocating the library on the ground floor. Cllr Archibald said this would involve entering the library from the High Street to make it more user-friendly. There were empty rooms at the front that could be used. The Registry Office would be better elsewhere in the town because wedding cars were unable to enter the complex. The Rosetta Road council buildings were reasonably accessible. R. Tatler said the next stage in the mural project is to place an interpretive panel in front of it. The Community Council would apply for a small grant to cover the cost.

**10. SBC Councillors:**

- **Cllr Archibald** said all six of the local councillors had gone up to Talla Reservoir and found it fascinating. An A72 Action Group had been formed composed of councillors and community councillors along the route following on from the work of the A7 Action Group. He reminded the council of the Citizen of the Year award at Rosetta Road on 15<sup>th</sup> March. There had been a meeting with First Bus to discuss solutions to the congestion in Eastgate, perhaps by relocating stops for local buses and those to West Linton and Eddleston. Payments had been made to individuals and businesses affected by the floods. Regarding the Indian Restaurant in Northgate, he said the

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business had no interest in falling out with the neighbours and that they had full planning consent granted in 1999. The 3G pitch was ongoing with other less controversial sites being considered. The Common Good working group had considered the George Meikle Kemp memorial at Moyhill just outside Peebles where Kemp, famous as the designer of the Scott Memorial in Edinburgh, served as an apprentice. The multi use track from Peebles to Midlothian will pass nearby. However a planning application has been submitted for a house on the site which may result in the path having to divert up to the narrow pavement beside the main road. The George Meikle Kemp Memorial, together with access to it, is a Common Good Asset. The Common Good Committee are therefore giving the matter full consideration, and the planning sub-committee of the Community Council have lodged objections to the planning application on the basis that the path is a priority in the Town Action Plan, and also concern about the creation of yet another access onto that part of the A703.

A. Snoddy asked whether any other Tweeddale community councils were represented on the SBCCN. L. Hayworth replied that a member of Manor Community Council was considering joining.

#### **11. Reports for Approval**

- **Treasurer's report:** Report circulated.
- **Bonnie Peebles:** Report circulated.

**12. Planning Report:** Report circulated. Details of planning applications, including plans, and council and community representations can be accessed on the SBC planning website – <http://eplanning.scotborders.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

- **Flooding:** C. Carleton said he did not believe Scottish Water had let water out of Talla Reservoir. The land was already sodden, the rain heavy and the run-off from the hills very fast. Cllr Archibald said the reservoir is there to supply drinking water, not to be controlled as a flood prevention measure. C. Carleton said the flooding would happen again and he did not think that had been adequately addressed. Cllr Archibald said Peebles was next on the list in Scottish Government planning for remedial flood defence measures but the reality was that natural events like this were almost unmanageable. Peebles is a partner in a Climate Resilience project funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. It is important to build up the number of resilience groups in the town. (L. Hayworth pointed out that members of the one existing resilience team, based around Tweed Green, Tweed Avenue and Walkershaugh, have all been evacuated meantime because of the flooding on December 30<sup>th</sup>.) J. Swanson of Peebles Resilience Group has been invited to speak to the Community Council at the April meeting.
- **3G Pitch:** C. Carleton noted that only one planning application for this – Victoria Park - is currently on the table.

- **March Street Mill:** No further news on this but potential developers had been shown around the site recently. There may be value in organising a public meeting to encourage businesses or prospective businesses who might like to share the premises to come forward.
- **Glentress Master Plan:** This has now been approved and will become part of the LDP.
- **Nether Horsburgh tree planting:** Major planting of a mix of broad leaf and conifers with a new forest road.
- **Hydro Hotel:** Pre-application consultation under way regarding putting 3G or 4G aerials on the roof. A. Snoddy has asked the planners for a photo montage of the proposed aerials.
- **Baptist Church:** Peebles Baptist Church is conducting a survey to see what use could be made by the local community of the new church they plan to build their land at Cleland Avenue.
- **Rosetta Development:** No news on consideration of the developer's bid to waive the requirements for affordable housing and other contributions.
- **Edinburgh Road and Kingsmeadows car parks:** A Road Traffic Order dating back to 1976 bars the use of the car parks for retail purposes. The proposed ice cream van at the Kingsmeadows Road car park would breach this Order, as does the Thursday market. SBC officers are looking at why the order was introduced in the first place and how it can now be rescinded.

### 13. Any Other Business

E. Smith said Victoria Park and Tweed Green were a disgrace with rubbish everywhere. R. Tatler has spoken to the headteacher of Peebles High School recently who told him about the Bin it and Win it scheme. R. Tatler has applied to SBC for a rubbish bin to be placed at either end of the lane which runs from Springhill Road to Springwood Terrace. A. Snoddy confirmed she has contacted SBC to ask for bins to replace two washed away by the flood water. M. Durkin said that what was needed was more bins and more education.

Along with representatives from Crieff and Falkirk C. Carleton recently met with John Swinney, the Scottish Government Finance Minister. Mr Swinney had responded positively to a request for a fund to enable communities to act quickly to opportunities for development. This would be taken forward by civil servants.

S. Haslam said publicity had taken place for the Clean for the Queen campaign event to mark the monarch's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. It takes place on 20<sup>th</sup> March, meeting at Kingsmeadows car park.

S. Haslam criticised an article on the proposed Skate Park in the Peeblesshire News. Nobody from the newspaper had contacted anyone on the committee. The article was based on a report from three weeks previously. One quote was made up. No start date in the autumn had been suggested. The project was going forward and the committee was working

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closely with the council and young people in the town. A basic plan was almost ready, sites were being considered, applications would be made for funds, including arts funding, and the Park would look very special.

**14. Date for next meeting: Thursday 14th April at 7.30pm at the Burgh Chambers.**

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.