



Minutes

Thursday 15th February 2024, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Present: Andrew Clark, Esther Daborn, Isobel Hunter, Robert Laird, Alison Leite, Ross McIntyre, Katy Miller, Councillor Eric Small, Sara Van der Vat, Margaret Sommerville, Tess Goodwin, Paul Barlow

ED welcomed PB who has been co-opted into the CC. In order to manage the CAP report the CC want someone from each theme to report any progress at every CC meeting. PB has agreed to join the CC for this purpose.

Apologies: Tribute to David Galbraith. ED thanked David for his contribution to the Community Council and expressed condolences to his family. The January CC meeting has been delayed as a mark of respect to him. ED expressed thanks to David for driving the Community Action Plan (CAP). All agreed.

Action: SV will now remove his name from website.

Minutes approval: Proposed RMc Seconded RL

Biggar Area Climate Care – Tess Goodwin from Biggar Area Climate Care, explained the work of the group (BACC) which was formed in 2021 as a local response following Glasgow Cop 26. Initiatives include local bike repair clinics and recycling directories.

1) They have carried out research for people who want information and advice about energy efficient homes. Using funding from windfarms, BCCG has surveyed 20+ homes and given feedback on possible improvements. It is intended that people can in the future view these findings and if they have similar homes to the ones previously surveyed, individuals can work together to get any repair work done cheaper.

BCCG has not had success in applying for funding for surveys within the Borders. The group would like to know if Skirling is interested in these initiatives, and to let them know, so that houses can be put forward to be included in surveys when funding achieved.

ES has already made contact with relevant parties regarding funding issues.

2) Repair cafes set up have also been a success. Posters and social media tell us when repair shops are happening. RL suggested a collaboration with The Men Shed.

3) TG is also interested in reinstating the Broughton Drove road. She highlighted the issues with fencing, SBC has not got the money but keen for other groups to fund new fencing. KM suggested we contact the Scottish Right of Way Society?

ED thanked TG for talking us through the BCCG goals.

Action: AL and TG will arrange a walk in the summer so village newcomers and anyone else interested can see where path should be. ES will ask paths network for guidance.

Resident's issues - MS wanted to draw the attention of CC to:

1. The signpost at the bottom of the Loan is rotten, can it be repaired?
Action: RMc suggested CC reach out to Matthew and ask if he can repair it.
2. The lamp post at the corner of the Green at the bottom of the Loan is not working.
Action: ES will let PG know about this light when they do the tar paths as they will redo the lamp posts at the same time.
3. The road from Loanfoot to Greenacre is badly damaged with pot holes and many cars park there leading her to have to drive into the kerb to enter and exit her property. MS wanted to note that the complaint is not about the cars parking there as they have nowhere else to park. The complaint is about the state of the road from overuse. ED noted that a request for the road to be repaired was sent to SBC some time back.
Action: ES highlighted that the A roads are the Council's priority at the minute in repairing potholes. He suggested MS report the pot hole situation to Fix My Street.

ED thanked MS for coming and making CC aware of these issues.

Funding (SV) (See Treasurers Report)

- Clyde Wind Farm £1412.59 GlenKerie £498.34
- The funding to cover emergency maintenance work along the path at Skirling Mill has been approved and conditions met, so AC has been paid for the work done
- SBC fund is out of money completely.
Action: ES questioned the insurance we pay. He will look into it. He also informed SV that the CC can claim back from SBC for minute taker payments. SV will look into backdating any payments.
- All the printing for the CAP has been paid for £239.00

Police matters

- November, December and January reports. More detailed than previously, but one report covers both East and West Tweeddale
- Wireless data recorder info sent to PC Carsley (PCC) - she has yet to get feedback from the Area commander. SBC (VT) has indicated they have no objection but consider they already have sufficient data. Waiting to hear from PC Carsley.
- Pop-up Bob deployment – Andrew Clark took delivery in December. Placed at top of village and Goatfoot. We can replicate this figure but can't have it represent police Scotland.
- ED noted email received from PC Carsley to all CCs offering to attend one Community Council meeting per year. She is currently covering both West and East Tweeddale (12 wards), so we were fortunate to have had a successful visit from her in November 2023.

Joint meeting of Community Councils regarding speeding issues 30th January

- RMc noted this took place at Newlands Hall with 6 CCs represented. It is evident that all CCs have the same problem with speeding and the consensus is that current reduction methods have not been successful. Data gathering seems to be main thing that all the CCs want to focus on going forward and every CC involved has agreed to prepare a problem statement. Skirling

already has one from our recent CAP. Speed Spy is still popular. Do we want to buy it and rent it out? It was highlighted there would have to be a minuted exit strategy if we choose to pursue.

Action: RL to ask windfarm if it is possible to obtain a grant to purchase one.

The next joint meeting will be mid-March. It was proposed lots of people with banners etc march around the village to raise public awareness (as Elsrickle are doing). SV asked about chicanes-Not possible due to width of road. AC suggested speedbumps – ES reported PG is not in favour of speed bumps as they can be noisy. It is agreed more presence and enforcement is needed.

Action: RMc will report back from next meeting

Launch of the Community Action Plan

It was agreed by all that **RMc and SV will work together on a flyer** inviting those who volunteered or anyone who wants to be involved in a certain theme to a CAP meeting to form groups and discuss next steps so that the structure of the CAP clear. The flyer will be included in the CAP booklet which will be delivered to every home ASAP.

The date for the theme group meetings will be announced once there has been time for additional volunteers to sign up – deadline on flyer 10th March. Might have to have them at separate times as each theme has sub committees and there is overlap of volunteers between groups.

Action: SV will create an online sign-up sheet for anyone who wants to volunteer going forward. A Google form link for this will be included on the flyer. ED will give SV the list of current volunteers. SV will get a list of IH's distribution network and coordinate.

Village Maintenance

- SBC transport Safety
 - ✓ 20mph Wheelie bin stickers – **Action : SV Will put out village email and social media to say they can be collected from the hall.**
 - ✓ 40mph countdown signs installed along with Dragons teeth and 20mph roundels – ED has thanked transport safety team and asked for uplift of temporary signs – not done yet.
Action: ED will ask Ross to move the one by Skirling Mill to the Hall, where the other one is.
- Pavements through the village
 - ✓ Requested Path map sent 26.10.2023.
 - ✓ 6th Feb offer – Philippa Gilhooly sent news that Transport Scotland has agreed to end of financial year £75,000 for tar path through village.
 - ✓ Following a site meeting on 13th, CC communicated to PG that the priority for a path is most acute at the top end of the village.

The following sections were identified for attention

- 1) The grass verge of Burnside Farm (where the Speed Limit sign is)
- 2) The cinder section outside Goatfoot

- 3) The grass verge in front of the War Memorial
- 4) The grass verge in front of the telephone exchange
- 5) The grass verge In front of Carmichael Bank

This will create a continuous path nearly from the top of the village to the village Hall. PG has asked for 2 CC members to meet with Ashley Semple and Gary Haldane to discuss the route in detail. ED has put a letter through the door of Ann Short to request permission for the path to cross Burnside Farm land. She has replied with a few queries about the exact route.

Depending on how far £75K stretches, PG will consider SBC cycling, walking safer streets funding for next year to get to a sensible end point. This will allow time for SEPA clearance to be obtained.

Action AC and RL have agreed to meet with Ashley and Gary, ED will let Ann Short know about the meeting.

- Planters (IH) IH has obtained planters. **Action: IH will send dimensions and precise location of 40mph planters to ED for communication to SBC for approval when she returns from holiday.**

Resilient Skirling

- Drains – Thanks to all for contribution to drains map, which was sent to Councillor Small 17th Jan. Neil Pringle added the request to the reactive gully clearing list within the roads section. Now done (13th Feb).
- Run off ditches - some places have dug channels in verges. Is there any value in asking Resilience Group volunteers to get a team together to do this in places where water accumulates? For example on the bend just before Goatfoot, and at Skirling Mill just opposite the small bridge at the end of Andrew's newly reinforced banking.
- Mallet, Co-ordination of delivery of sandbags with Tweedsmuir - KM has organised this.

Community Trust update (IH) – Becoming more needed – e.g. for possible purchase of Speed Spy: no update.

ES left meeting at 9.00pm feeling unwell.

Correspondence received (ED)

- Tree maintenance wind farm application (IH) – (Skirling Village Green and the roadside path) 2 quotes £6,132, £6,641.80. Will CC support application to Windfarm to help fund this? This was agreed. IH mentioned that one corner of the Green is a possible place for a village play park to be built.
- South Lanarkshire Access forum: A local group is pursuing the possibility of a multi-use path between Symington and Biggar. They hope to get windfarm support for the section from Symington to Wolfclyde and to collaborate with SLC in developing the section from Wolfclyde to Biggar in line with the Clydesdale Way proposals.
- Offer of free labour from Court Community Payback – Haley Wilson, Justice Service.
- Results of SBC bus network review delivered to SBC (January 2024). ED has put on Village Facebook page.

Service 91 - Consider improving connections between the 91 and Stuarts 191 service and Borders Buses X62. Consider working with Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT) and Stuarts Coaches to extend the 191 through to Peebles.

Service 93 - Consider a loop service serving Peebles, Biggar and West Linton.

Service 101 - No changes proposed.

Service X62 - no changes proposed.

- **Have your say** - Napier University is running a study into the impact of the 20mph speed limit for those living in the Scottish Borders. ED has put details on Village Facebook Page. Interviewees should have lived in villages or towns across the Scottish Borders since at least 2018. There will be a broad range of questions about aspects of quality of life, traffic and travel and whether speed limit changes make any differences to people's lives and, if so, how and why. The interviews, conducted online where possible, will last no longer than 60 minutes. They will be recorded, and will require consent from the potential interviewees. Interested? Please make contact directly with the University through either S.Tully@napier.ac.uk or A.Davis@napier.ac.uk

AOB

- **Village clean** (KM) Agreed 24th March – Time to be confirmed. Will be advertised on website, Facebook and a village email will be sent out.

Action KM / SV

- **Graveyard** (AC) Noticed the graveyard is in need of a clean-up (muddy, mouldy leaves).
Action: ED will communicate with Neil Pringle. Ask whether this is for SBC or Community Payback

The meeting ended at 21.25

Meeting Dates 2024: 28th March, 30th May.