



Annual General Meeting - Minutes
Thursday 15th June 2023, 7.30pm

Present: Esther Daborn, David Galbraith, Isobel Hunter, Robert Laird, Katy Miller, Ross McIntyre, Alison Leite, John Noble, Jo Noble, Sally Argyll.

Apologies: Andrew Clark, Sara van der Vat, Cllr Viv Thompson.

Minutes 23rd March Approval: proposed IH seconded DG

Village speed limits

a) The points to be considered following residents' complaints about speed limits were discussed in conjunction with SBC Transport safety office's recent communication to all Community Councils of a table of additional 20mph measures on offer:

- 20mph Stickers for Wheelie Bins
- 20mph repeater roundel signs: within existing speed limit
- 20mph roundels: painted on road
- Dragons Teeth: only on main approaches to settlement
- Advisory Cycle Lanes
- 3/2/1 countdown signs on approach to settlement: only on main approaches to settlement
- Speed Indicator Electronic Sign: where there is a concentration of pedestrians
- Gateway formalising: only on main approach to settlement to create clear entry point

Actions: All were enthusiastic to accept any support offered. ED to complete the table and send. It was agreed that there are currently no obstructions on the road to slow traffic down, except the Speed indicator signs (already in place). For the 'Gateway', new village name signs were installed last year, limited in size and scope by the narrow verge. The consensus was that there is a need to make the Gateways to the village more aesthetically pleasing so as to give drivers a sense that they are driving through a living space and not a traffic corridor. The availability of a Gateway from a private company that combines speed limit, name sign and flower tub will be investigated. IH suggested iron work motifs be added.

DG also suggested the village set up a petition, working alongside Tweedsmuir, Broughton and West Linton. He suggested we invite Mr Mundell to visit and observe the problem for himself. It was also agreed that villagers should be encouraged to report speeding commercial vehicles.

b) Purchase of a speed gun (DG) - It was discussed and decided that because the speed gun would hold no legal consequence it is unlikely one will be purchased.

c) Private company for speed monitoring RMc/ ED, ED has researched and this option is not viable for the village.

d) Cllr Thomson to investigate adding a stretch of pavement to Howes Brae (Small Schemes funding with SBC). Cllr VT reported before the meeting that information about any previous plan was required. DG had found CC minutes from 2003, recording previous intentions for a path at Burnfoot that was not carried through due to landowners not happy for the path to cross their property. JnN made the meeting aware his wall appears to be sagging due to the speed and size of vehicles driving past his house. It was also noted there are more children living and visiting the village that don't always have access to a footpath.

Actions: It was decided that the CC will approach landowners again regarding installing a path. ED will contact Cllr VT to further discuss the path and make her aware of other speeding issues discussed at this meeting.

- e) Community Speed Watch, (DG) It was agreed other methods such as speedometers for recording vehicle speed etc are the preferred option. Given the recent “road rage” incidents in the village, people are more reluctant to volunteer.

Police Report - (ED)

It was noted that the police report highlights SBCAT following issues such as cars with lapsed MOTs. The police reports do not report on issues of interest to Skirling like speeding. Prior to the 13th June Tweeddale Area Partnership meeting, SBC requested CC policing issues to be sent to PC V Carsley for discussion.

The issues of residents’ disquiet about speeding were raised, plus the 2 recent 'rage' incidents (12th April Galalaw Farm gates, 29th May Skirling Mill 40mph NSL turned round). Further requests were made for SBCAT coming to monitor speed in the village and news of the reinstatement of the Community Speed watch Programme progressing.

Action: As PC Carsley was unable to attend the 13th June meeting, ED is to follow up. DG will also contact PC Carsley to request pop up Bob is deployed again

ED drew attention to the information that the Police are offering free Selecta DNA forensic marking kits & signs and crime prevention advice to farmers and rural businesses. Use the Contact Us Form on the Police Scotland Website.

Action: IH will create a flyer with this information.

No cold Calling Zone (SV) The packs are now with Sara and await distribution.

Action: IH and DG will distribute. This information will also be included on flyer.

Funding (KM)

- Annual Council grant- We are in the process of applying for annual grant of £540.00. The application will go in after this meeting detailing the community council officer’s agreement to abide by the code of conduct. This was outlined and agreed.
- Clyde Borders Windfarm: micro-grants and Youth bursaries :
 - Micro grant fund –
 - £406.80 spent on bouncy castle (24/04)
 - £107.80 topped up youth bursary fund with SSE agreement (22/05)
 - This leaves £1,356.64 with option to top up additional £1,250 between June 2023 and may 2024
 - Youth bursary –
 - Uptake has increased thanks to online promotion and ease of application. An application has been sent to Colin requesting this year’s £1,250 (31/05)
- Ventient energy Glenkerie – There have been no recent micro grants awarded from this fund leaving £858.34.
- Community cost of living vouchers – From June, nine Food Insecurity Pilots will be delivered for 6 months by Citizens Advice Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government. Clients in need of emergency food aid via participating local Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

will be able to choose between access to cash grants of £25 per person in their household and/or shopping cards alongside a food bank referral.

Action: ED has got feedback from Sarah Sinclair who will put some words together to be put on Facebook and uploaded to the Village Website. IH will include this information in the flyer and also remind the community that Richard Callahan of Peebles citizen's advice is now available in Skirling village hall by appointment only.

Community Action Plan – (DG/all) The CC appreciate and thanked the community for the fantastic response last week. It turns out the hall has already been booked on the proposed date for the Community Event.

Action: KM will email Lesley with alternative date options.

Village information dissemination – noticeboard (IH/KM) Three information boards with historic timelines have been designed the locations for installation are yet to be determined but the village green and Howes Brae have been suggested. IH circulated drafts to the meeting.

Village Maintenance

- Resilience Group Committee – additional members? (IH/BH) Lisa Thompson has volunteered.

Action: KM will ask Nick Smart, Paul Barlow, and Rory in Leven Cottage, as they occupy the homes likely to be affected in the event of future flooding.

- 'No mow May' SBC pilot - Skirling registered (ED/IH) This initiative was completed.
- Derelict house (Waulkmill) The advice from Councillor Begg and Christine Graham has been circulated. David Mundell's office has sent a response from SBC as follows: *'Thank you for highlighting this to us. I can confirm that our Empty Property Homes Officer has been to visit the house and has made contact with the solicitors managing the late Mrs Dorwood's estate. We will continue to liaise with the solicitors at this stage to try and achieve progress in bringing the property back in to use.'*
- Tree felling/ re-planting (IH/ AL) There will be a fenced off area from the field and road for trees to be planted in the Autumn. Alison was thanked for the trees left over from the Broughton project, which are potted up and sitting by the poly tunnel until they can be planted.
- Flood prevention measures training day - (KM) this will be organised when the Resilience Group has been enlarged
- Subsidence on path to Skirling Mill - AC will attend to this soon.
- Retaining wall Skirling graveyard (IH) This work has been completed.
- BT Hut - (AC/SV) No update.
- Land Registry search for Orphaned Land – (BH) IH had a successful meeting with Mr. Carmichael. In order to proceed with this, the purpose of each parcel of land will have to be identified. With landownership in prospect, it would be helpful to set up a Community Trust. IH suggested setting up the existing Pauline Fund to become a trust so Skirling can be more independent in these issues.
- Children's playground – (KM) No update. It was suggested that the space beside the Hall would be better suited to being excavated to provide additional car parking spaces. Various areas suited to a play park were suggested such as the field beside the church. The playground has to be visible and not in a secluded spot.
- Howes Brae sign - (SV) No update.

- Flower tubs and planters/wrought iron for village entrance (AC/IH/ all) The CC thanked those who have adopted a tub. As above, it was suggested that there are more planters and features displayed through the village.

AGM Business

- Office Bearers & Co-opted Members - Agreed
- Adoption of the Code of Conduct - the CC as a whole agrees to abide by the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors.
- Annual Accounts – Due to the power cut this information was not available at the time.

Action: SV will share with the CC members.

Correspondence received

- Boundaries consultation open till 17th June. The current suggestion is to join parts of South Lanarkshire with parts of Scottish Borders to be named ‘Clyde Valley and Tweeddale’
https://consult.boundaries.scot/reviews/2nd_review_scottish_parliament_boundaries/consultation/mappingsubpage.2023-04-27.9879078623/

It is an West.East strip from Lanark, to Biggar, Peebles, Innerleithen, and Lauder. It has been noted that most roads in the area go north south.

Action: The community council is unhappy with these proposals. ED will complete the consultation to report these thoughts.

- Unpaid Work in the Scottish Borders - Offer from the SBC Justice Service. It was suggested this service be used to provide supervised labour for a footpath in the village at some point in the future.
- Dementia Friendly Tweeddale letter – (ED) A letter was received from this organisation requesting Skirling strives to become more dementia friendly.

Action: ED will reply to request an information pack on this that is suitable for the hall and church.

- **AOB – none**

End 21.20

Meeting Dates 2023-24

28th September & 30th November 2023, 25th January, 28th March, 30th May 2024