

Skirling

community council

Minutes

Thursday 28th March 2024, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Present: Andrew Clark, Esther Daborn, Robert Laird, Ross McIntyre, Katy Miller, Councillor Eric Small

Apologies: Isobel Hunter, Sara Van der Vat, Paul Barlow, Alison Leite,

Minutes approval: Proposed: Ross McIntyre, Seconded: Robert Laird

Funding (ED for SV)

ED handed out printed copies of End of year finances and summarised as follows

<i>Income total £23,076.54</i>	<i>Outgoings total 20,478.50</i>
SSE Clyde - total £21,569.66	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SSE Clyde Windfarm Funds (micro-grants) £1,708.65Youth Bursary Scheme £2,858.40Emergency embankment work £1,590.00, SSE Clyde Windfarm Fund for CAP £13,975.03
Ventient Glenkerie - total £858.34	Ventient Glenkerie Windfarm Funds (micro-grants) £484.43
SBC - 648.54	Scottish Borders Council & Other £711.99

Balance £2598.03

All funds are looking quite healthy, although SV is starting to run down the Ventient Glenkerie micro-grant fund so we can apply for more money from them.

We are 'overdrawn' in the SBC funds, which will be replenished in the summer.

Following SV action from February minutes, SV did contact SBC about the minute taking being paid by the council, but this is not correct. The CC should take money for running costs from the SBC grant. SBC did suggest that we approach other funds to look for money for the tubs.

Action SV

RL asked if the SBC grant gets increased. KM replied that we have not yet been told the amount for the coming year.

ED thanked Sara for sending this information. KM confirmed that finances will be audited for the AGM at the end of May

Police matters - February Police report

- The report was noted.
Cllr ES warned that there had been reports of people on motorbikes trying the doors in West Linton.

SBC is renewing CCTV in 7 borders towns: digital will be replaced by wi-fi – see AOB.

- ED reported PC Carsley's response concerning Speed Spy from two senior officers.

1) Police Inspector Drummond – advised that we should check if it is Home Office tested for accuracy. Also bear in mind that speeding of emergency vehicles would be included in the data; Police policy to monitor traffic speed is based on risk rather than surveys (the task of a Council).

2) Copy of a letter from Commander CI Vinnie Fisher to David Mundell in 2023 re Broughton speeding complaint – again setting out the police stance: the criteria for monitoring speed is based on risk rather than surveys

Action ED to thank PC Carsley for her detailed response

Joint meeting of Community Councils regarding speeding issues 12th March –

RMcl reported that representatives from West Linton, Carlops and LNK attended. Upper Tweed sent apologies and Black Mount has dropped out as it is in South Lanarkshire. Guy Masters (Carlops) had presented his plan for modifying the environment with such devices as thickening the white lines to make the road look narrower etc. Other than that speed mitigating tools are at a dead end. So all are agreed that since speed monitoring is in their respective CAPs, Speed Spy is a good option. They will work with Ross to prepare a Windfarm or Neighbourhood Support Fund application for Skirling to purchase Speed Spy. This needs a business plan for loaning to other CCs and sustainable running costs and an outline of what the data will be used for.

RL Commented that he had asked for views on Speed Spy at a recent Windfarm Funding meeting where the question of legality was raised

Action ED to forward PC Carsley's email to RL for information.

Action RMcl to forward wireless data technology information to RL

RMcl asked for as CC member to stand as a deputy delegate to a Joint CC should he be unavailable. The meeting agreed that he should circulate a request when one was needed and someone would step up.

Launch of the Community Action Plan (All)

- Delivery of CAP booklet - thanks to Isobel for handing over delivery lists and Sara for dividing up booklet for couriers to deliver. Thanks for Sara and Ross for setting up the flyer with QR code for online sign up – none did! And sending out email. Sara then emailed those who said they could make it.
- Briefing meeting 24th March (ED) Attended by 10, with 5 apologies. Minutes on the back of your agenda. In summary – there are now 5 co-ordinators. Nick Smart is one – to be asked by Isobel (IH confirmed after the meeting that he had agreed). They agreed to set up a meeting online or face to face to agree discuss priorities in their theme and select goals with time line The groups have agreed to report quarterly, but we need to get some initial goals as soon as possible, so the covering email has requested priority progress report goals to be sent to ED in the next few weeks and by the next CC meeting.

At the meeting we learned that David Gass has agreed to help IH to set up a Community Trust to register with SCIO, with trustees drawn from the Village Hall Committee, The Church Group, The Resilience Group and any other action group that may be set up.

- We also have the possibility of a Community Action plan co-ordinator. Colin MacMillan of SSE Clyde Borders arranged to meet me and Sara for coffee over which he suggested Skirling might find a part time CAP co-ordinator useful – along the lines of the one helping with Tweedsmuir. This post would be funded for a year initially and subject to review. Tweedsmuir has 2 days a week. At the briefing meeting it was suggested Skirling go for the same. ED to ask Tweedsmuir for the job description.
- Once in place, the CAP co-ordinator can help with groups with contacts and funding sources. The coordinator will liaise with the Trustees and report to the CC on behalf of the Theme groups.

RL commented that we should not rush into the appointment of a co-ordinator. We should wait for the groups to get going and then see what is actually needed. We need to balance the need for 2 days a week in light of the fact that the more money spent on a co-ordinator the less there is for capital funding.

Village Maintenance

- Village clean up: KM reported that 16 folk turned up and it went very well. The temporary countdown signs were put in with the general rubbish pile for Council uplift. There was general comments on the fact that there was slightly less litter than usual.

There was a shortage of litter pickers and bag holding circles so KM plans to ask the Resilience to Group to request some from SBC and Keep Scotland Beautiful

Action KM

- Resident's issues raised at February meeting by MS
 - ✓ Repair of the signpost at the bottom of the Loan (R Mcl) Done by Matthew Porter. Very good job. Thanks Ross for organising
 - ✓ The lamp post at the corner of the Green at the bottom of the Loan is not working. ED had spoken to Eddie Crumbie working on the paths who clarified that only the lamps in the path line were to be replaced.
Action ED to contact Gary Haldane, Engineer for the Path works who is due to make a site visit on 29th March to raise this request as a safety issues since there is no light for the uneven road surface from the main road to Loanfoot.
 - ✓ The road round the green – ES suggested this might be dealt with under the Small Schemes programme.
Action ES to enquire
- Path to Broughton - further to the discussion at the February meeting, RL has spoken with Farmer Taylor who is happy to keep the path open as long as his cattle can get in amongst the trees. For more information about the Small Schemes Fund that might be used for paths, KM was advised to contact Kenny Harrow and Hannah Lacon

Action ED to send contact details to KM and PB

- SBC transport Safety - 20mph Wheelie bin stickers – Thanks Sara for putting in Hall – not many taken. Should we deliver to folk who might not get to the Hall? Wait and see.
- Pavements through the village – end of financial year funding
 - ✓ Route maps – as a result of RL, AC and ED meeting with SBC (Gary and Ashley) on 15th, Feb, the route maps were sent on 8th March for path from War Memorial and to Telephone Exchange and from Tintock to existing tar. They were circulated to the CC and Sarah Sinclair with the request to tell as many folk as possible. Over to AC Residents of Tintock and Kirklea were not happy with tar route from Tintock to existing tar because of concerns about run off in times of heavy rain.
SBC agreed to amend the routes to omit that section and do Burnside instead.
Residents in that area have agreed to meet with others affected by floods in times of heavy rains (Nick Smart and Stuart Dickson etc) and the Resilience Group. Barbara Alison has been in touch with SEPA. They will report to the CC.
KM reported that Gary has offered to clear out the burn in front of Scraelyn Cottages. This offer is much appreciated.
 - ✓ Implementation – ED reported that when she had spoken to Eddie Crumbie on 27th, he thought they would finish the War Memorial and Telephone Exchange section by the end of the week (29th) and move up to Burnside next week (w.b.1st). Gary Haldane was due for a site visit on 29th so ED asked him to mention the flashing speed sign pole to be angled and the request for advice on damaged verge in front of Argyll's house.
- Location of Planters – no report
- Graveyard – ED apologised that she had not yet reported the graveyard in need of a clean-up (muddy, mouldy leaves).

Action ED to communicate with Neil Pringle. Ask whether this is for SBC or Community Payback

Correspondence received

- 1) Enquiry from Leitholm Eccles and Birgham Community Council. The CC are looking to join forces with any other CCs in the SBC area who are weighed down with the high number and concentrations of renewable energy (including battery energy storage systems) planning applications and developments.
They have not objected to three battery energy storage applications for projects in very close proximity to the substation. But there are additional 'speculative' screening applications for large developments up to three miles from the substation which have the potential of industrialising what is a rural area consisting of prime agricultural land.
The size of planning application portfolios is huge and makes it hard to work out what is being applied for. Energy Consents Unit default position is to grant applications and recommend communities engage with developers to form a good relationship making it easier for the community to accept the forthcoming development.
- 2) A copy of the National Park Application submitted to Scottish Govt 29th February.

- 3) 12 documents from the Community Council Review Working Group, including a training book with Contacts in SBC a) for all enquiries regarding elections or governance, please contact the Council's Democratic Services team – communitycouncils@scotborders.gov.uk , b) for all enquiries regarding insurance, data protection and grant funding, please contact the Council's Community & Partnerships team – communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk
- 4) A link to the *SEPA report on Waste disposal* [link to the Statistics](#). This is a policy statement and relates to the Official Statistics Publication for Scotland – Scottish Waste From All Sources 2022 published 26 March 2024. Highlights are:
 - Scottish recycling rate reaches all time high as Scottish households, businesses and public services recycle 62.3% of all waste in the latest data (2022) from Scotland's environmental watchdog, SEPA.
 - The recycling rate increased 5.3% from the 57.0% rate in 2021 – reflecting economic recovery from the pandemic and an increase in the proportion of construction and demolition material recycled.
 - Scotland continues to reduce its reliance on landfill – with only 23.2% of all wastes ending up in landfill – an all-time low.
 - Supporting the shift from landfill is the small but important role played by energy from waste (incineration) facilities, which saw an 8.3% increase in Scottish waste being treated by incineration in 2022.
- 5) A letter from Scottish Govt requesting nominations for new Lord- Lieutenant of Tweeddale to succeed Professor Sir Hew Strachan, who is due to retire in September.

AOB –

- ED reminded the meeting that a new member is sought to join the CC to replace David Galbraith. The next meeting is the AGM
- There was a general discussion about the mode of communication with the Village. RMcl mentioned an email to text system which would help distinguish village communications from others. It was decided that a mix of Facebook, Village email and newsletters through the door was good.
- ES told the meeting that Eshiels was no longer accepting 3 piece suites because of chemical make-up. They should now be taken to Langlee at Galashiels.
- SBC has funded a £20,000 'teen shelter' in Victoria Park, Peebles in a bid to avoid anti-social behaviour and after consulting with Peebles High pupils.
- Live Borders is needing £600,000 to meet minimum wage bills.
- The CCTV debate in SBC had been very difficult because it is very expensive and is in some way felt to be a police matter rather than a Council matter. But at least it will last for 16 years.

Meeting Dates 2024: 30th May AGM; 26th September; 28th November.