

Skirling Community Council Meeting

Thursday 26th May 2022

Present: Esther Daborn, David Galbraith, Isobel Hunter, Katy Miller, Robert Laird, Ross McIntyre, Councillor Eric Small, Councillor Viv Thompson, Stuart Dickson, Alison Leite, Marlene Davies.

Apologies: Councillor Drummond Begg, Andrew Clark, Sara Van Der Vat, Judy Cameron.

Judy Cameron has stepped down as secretarial assistant. Her efforts and service were recognised and she was thanked by Esther and the council. Emails will continue to be monitored and redirected appropriately from the secretaryskirlingCC email.

Alison Leite agreed to take the minutes for this meeting to be checked by Isobel Hunter.

The minutes of the previous meeting (March 31, 2022) were approved and accepted by Robert Laird and David Galbraith.

1. Community Speed watch

Flashing signs – update (ED) Philippa Gilhooly (SBC Traffic and Road Safety) apologises for the delay- The signs for Skirling are in stock. SBC are still working with Scottish power and hope to have an update from them shortly.

Speeding on Skirling Straight – Update (ED) Response to the CC letter from Ms. Gilhooly. There has been a joint investigation with Police Scotland, taking account of community concerns. The update is as follows:

As a result of the joint investigation there have not been any concerns raised by police Scotland over the road surface, conditions, nor the speed limit.

Skirling's requests for consideration and SBC responses:

1. Mark the road with a centre solid line outside Skirling Mill

Response: Not possible to support this. SBC would need to consider the whole route as it is not good practice to introduce a double white lining system in a solitary location and as this section of the road has good forward visibility it would not be apparent to drivers why there should be a solid white line.

2. Install a pedestrian sign at Skirling Mill where the path starts

Response: Generally signing to alert drivers to the presence of pedestrians would be erected where there is not a form of path, and there is a surfaced footway on the outskirts of the village, so although SBC would not normally support a sign here it is a possibility.

3. Set up a 30 or 40 mph speed limit from the Skirling boundary to the end of Skirling Mill Cottages.

Response: Police Scotland has agreed to SBC considering a 40mph speed limit, but warn that police enforcement is unlikely. Ms.Gilhooly suggests that we let her know if we wish to try the 40mph and see how it goes. The speed limit signs would be located just before the entrance to 4 Skirling Mill Cottages. We can justify them here due to the presence of the farm accesses and the left hand bend.

Action: It was agreed by all present that Esther should contact Ms. Gilhooly and confirm we would like to go ahead with this trial.

It was noted that SBC will review the speed limit program this summer.

Action: Eric Small will research the benchmarks that will be reviewed and report back at next meeting.

4. Consider extending the boundary of Skirling to include Skirling Mill in the village.

Response: None – We should keep asking.

IH questioned what the benefit of this will be? KM feels it will make drivers more aware they are entering a village. IH suggested brightly coloured planters next to the 40mph signs.

DG asked when the traffic calming measures in Skirling will be introduced. It is assumed this will be after the review.

Ms. Gilhooly's efforts and knowledge were praised and she was thanked for her help.

Community Speed Watch and Speed Guns – Update from Sergeant Granger (ED). During covid police Scotland suspended their support for Community Speed Watch because 3 people were required to be deployed- a breach of covid guidelines at various times. Police Scotland have been asked by a number of areas to start up the scheme again. Sergeant Granger has passed our request on to the Area Commander CI Vinnie Fisher, who has spent most of his career in roads policing at senior management level. Sgt. Granger has also asked for any advice he can provide that may help get this moving. Stuart Dickson expressed he is sceptical about the safety of volunteers. Volunteers will be approved by police and trained.

Pop-up-Bob – Update from Sgt. Granger (ED) There are Pop-up-Bobs (and Kirstys) available for deployment in Tweeddale. There has been an issue sourcing suitable locks as they are expensive and have been stolen before. Once this is resolved Sgt Granger suggests he has a discussion with CC to get our views on where would be the best location to deploy them and arrange a timetable to get them deployed in Skirling with a reasonable amount of frequency. (ED has asked how many other villages we have to share with).

Action: We will keep asking.

2. Funding

See Accounts AGM April 2021-April 2022 (KM) -Katie Miller talked the council through the accounts and took questions. There were none. Esther thanked Sara and Katie for keeping such thorough records.

Endowment funding Update (RL) £100,000 has been entered into the Clyde Borders Investment fund with a further £140 000 expected to go into the fund come September.

Community Development Action Plan Allowance (RL) – No update.

Platinum Jubilee Fund – Update (IH and KM) - Flyers have been distributed.

Land registry search for Orphaned land (BH) Update- We are waiting on the Land Registry getting back to us. IH expressed the importance of finding out exact ownership of land as it impacts future funding.

SBC Place making working group (ED) - Do we want to get involved? Following on from Bob's report on Place making Workshop, we have notification SBC is setting up a Tweeddale Area Partnership Working Group. "Place making is a community focussed bottom up planning system- making the

most of a community's uniqueness, aspirations and potential to create public spaces, places, events and activities that promote people's health, happiness and wellbeing".

It was agreed that Skirling should pursue this. It was agreed not to pursue this alongside other villages in an effort to promote a separate identity for Skirling.

Action: ED to complete the Working Group questionnaire to express interest. Councillor Viv Thompson recommended we contact Lesley Mason – ED to do this.

3. Village Maintenance

New paths: Bizzyberry and Loganburn (ED) - paths developed/upgraded (way markers, access gates, interpretation boards.) Bizzyberry: Biggar and District Community Heritage worked with local landowners, the museum and South Lanarkshire Council to obtain funding from Clyde Windfarm and Ventient Energy Glenkerie Windfarm community benefit funds. Loganburn: Tweedsmuir worked with the land owners and have received funding from Paths for All, SBC and the Fallago Environment Fund. ED asked for suggestions of local paths to develop. The Old Drove Roads was suggested

Action: ED to follow up with Simon Pilpel for advice.

General Maintenance

1. Parking issues – outside Village Hall (IH) Bus stop (RL)

IH stated people using the hall should have access to the parking directly outside. SD Would like to continue parking here rather than his drive. SD claims the village hall layby has been used undisputed by other residents in the past without complaint. IH is concerned parking in the layby can cause village hall visitors to find alternate parking sometimes blocking personal residence driveways. IH has asked Stuart not to park there on Thursdays during Lunch Club- he has agreed to this.

Thank you to the residents of Loanfoot for making the area around the bus stop more accessible.

2. **Flower Tubs-** Thank you to Joyce Clark who has kindly co-ordinated the allocation of tubs. Thank you to Stuart Dickson for taking on the area before Goatfoot at the top of the village. KM has made us aware that the nursery on the Dolphinton Straight offers discounts to community councils.
3. **Village clean up** – Happened April 10th. Thank you to all who came and helped keep our village clean and beautiful!
4. **BT Hut-** AC has the estimate for building the wall. We are still in the process of working out who owns it. ED had found out that BT our source property management to CBRE.
5. **Orphaned Land-** Update on Scottish Land Fund- No update.
6. **Children's Playground (KM)** - A meeting between Francesca Bell, Robert Laird and Andrew Clark was suggested to see about the possibility of levelling the land behind the village hall. Alison Leite and Arlene Galbraith are interested in assisting the project. Francesca will be invited to next village meeting.

Action: Katy to co-ordinate FB, RL, AC, AL, AG.

4. Community Council Elections

Returning Officer- Eric Small

Robert Laird, Ross McIntyre, Isobel Hunter, Esther Daborn, Andrew Clark and David Galbraith will all stand.

Advertising by Sara, forms available from Isobel, completed forms to be handed to Sara by June 20th at 4pm

5. AOB

Neighbourhood Support Fund- up to £5000. Launched 1st April (ED). IH suggested unused funds can perhaps be given to the community in the form of Co-op vouchers in an effort to assist those affected by the current cost of living crisis or alternatively to a local foodbank? SD suggested locals to donate unused co-op credits to anyone in need.

Councillor Eric Small suggested the need for Skirling to locate an area that would suit a charging station for electric cars. He also wanted to highlight the upcoming road obstructions in Peebles at Dirtpot Corner on the A72. Essential work shall be carried out and the obstructions are expected to last around 12 weeks.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Meeting Dates 2022

29th September, 24th November