



Minutes

Thursday 30th November 2023, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Present: Esther Daborn, Sara Van Der Vat, Isobel Hunter, Robert Laird, Ross McIntyre, Councillor Eric Small, Katy Miller, PC Carsley and Alison Leite

Apologies: Andrew Clark, David Galbraith

Minutes approval (15th June): Proposed IH, Seconded ED

ED made the group aware lots of little meetings have taken place regarding CAP and so there has been a modification between actions reported in the minutes and the agenda of this meeting.

Funding (SV)

- Finances: SV had paid last STAR bill today for CAP assistance. From the grant of £14,000, there is £270 left to cover printing. The STAR printing estimate leaves us short by around £150. Sara offered to get an estimate from the printer she uses in Edinburgh. KM inquired about hall payments due for hosting CAP event. SV has confirmed paid in full. **Action:** ED will send SV a digital copy of the CAP document and SV will look into printer.
- SV has just applied for a top up from Clyde Wind Farm. She is about to draw down the last £300. In the GlenKerie fund there is £500 and in the SBC fund there is £7.
- The funding application to cover path maintenance work will be considered next week.

Police reports

- PC Carsley (PCC) took questions regarding the recent Police Reports. IH mentioned suspicious people in the village eg asking about cars, loitering suspiciously in unusual places. ES made us aware of a serious break in at West Linton. PCC will provide us with safety leaflets regarding rural areas, e.g. cyclists and walkers need to wear hi-vis clothing to be visible. PCC advised we email her if such incidents occur again to make her aware. **Action: put safety leaflets on village website and Facebook**
- Update from PCC on Monitoring speeds through Skirling, Pop-up Bob and Community Speedwatch'. ED asked if there had been any success with speed gun. PCC reported that she and her colleague observed the village in October and road checks were carried out in 30mph area. She noted the officers were visible and this acted as a deterrent. The speed survey average dating from 2021 showed people were travelling at 30mph. The 95%ile of which were observed travelling at 36mph. PCC feels since incorporating the 20mph in SBC villages there has been a positive impact. She explained Pop up Bob is in Romano Bridge

and he will be sent to Skirling next. **Action: ED will ask John Noble if he will receive Pop up Bob and deploy him.**

Community Speed Watch: PCC made us aware that the Community Speed watch initiative is still a ways off. The pilot scheme is struggling to get volunteers. Skirling CC recommended they switch the pilot area to a different village.

- Joint meeting of Community Councils regarding speeding issues 23rd November – ED informed the meeting that representatives from West Linton and Lamancha, Newlands and Kirkurd (LNK)CCs met with RMc and ED in Skirling on 23rd November. A further meeting is planned for 16th January to which BlackMount CC has been invited and will attend. John McCann (former secretary of BlackMount) mentioned that BEAR have been instructed by Transport Scotland to carry out a safety survey at the Garvald Junction on A702. He was very much in support of the idea of pursuing ‘safety’ and wished the joint CC initiative success.
- RMc reported the main points from the Joint CC meeting with West Linton and LNK. The same problem with speeds is shared. RMc stated that the agreed problem statement is that drivers don’t respect that they are entering a village. Non-police monitoring and enforcement seems to also be part of the problem. West Linton feel the village “gateways” etc have not been impactful. RMc began to explain to PCC and Councillor ES that he fears the community councils are suffering reputational damage as we want to do more but can’t. He asked what is the formal process when our concerns go to SBC? And inquired is it better to have enforceable 30mph rather than the 20mph? He made Cllr ES and PCC aware of a private company that offers Speed Spy Technology that can be bought and used to collect traffic speed data. Lamancha (LNK) and West Linton are also interested in this resource. RMc asked for input from PCC and Cllr ES. ES is convinced any data collected will help, but is unsure of what legal impact it can have. PCC warned of the dangers of more signage and the unintended result that it may serve as a distraction. In terms of enforcement, accident with injury is necessary for speed officers to go out. ED made her aware that the 40mph signs were installed as a result of the fatal accident last year. It is the general opinion that these signs have made a difference. RMc asked whether the speeding issue should be removed from the agenda and the police and councillors should advise the public that there is indeed nothing else we can do? PCC will speak to the new Commander, Stuart Fletcher, about sending out info for the community to manage expectations.

RMc thanked PCC for attending and listening and asked her to provide this information for the next meeting.

ED asked ES if it is possible for community councils to buy such SpeedSpy technology and if there are rules which dictate what the CC can spend money on? ES is not sure if there are rules about owning such technology. **Action: RMc/ ED will report from the next joint CC meeting** which other community councils want to be involved in the Speed Spy initiative. Once this has been established and finalised we can propose it to safety officer Phillippa Gilhooly. ED thanked RMc and PCC for their contributions.

Speed limits

- Update from SBC transport Safety – Delivery address for 20mph Wheelie bin stickers - IH will receive the stickers. Dragons teeth and 40mph countdown signs with both be done within this financial year (ED)
- Pavements through the village (ED) – Councillor Thomson had undertaken at September CC meeting to request costings for cinder paths throughout the village. ED sent her a village map indicating desired locations to join with existing tar. Skirling Facebook reported someone ‘with a unicycle thing’ in the village, which suggests SBC measuring to get costing. Update ES advised us that it is being costed currently by Neil Pringle.
- Planters (IH) – Samantha Eliot (SBC) has asked for details of precise locations please. IH will order 2 for the 40mph in the meantime. She has suggested we paint existing planters in brighter colours. Agreed. **Action IH to indicate precise location of 40mph planters** to ED for communication to SBC for approval.

Correspondence received

- Derelict house – Waulkmill – update on purchase (IH). No success despite phoning every day. ED suggested trying to communicate via Stuart Beharrie who previously helped. The subject should then be removed from the Agenda as we have done all we can.
Action: ED to send SB contact details to Bob H.
- Biggar Area Climate Care – repeated offer to come to a meeting to give info about activities. ED has suggested they come to January meeting. Agreed
- The School Holiday Funding Group are inviting funding applications to offer provision to families who may need additional support over Christmas. It was suggested this info be passed to the school to be advertised in the school notes. **Action: ED will send information to KM who will send to Barbara Whitton (receptionist).**
- The South Lanarkshire, Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway proposals for linking up the long-distance paths in our area have now been given the go-ahead for funding by the Levelling up Fund. It has been brought to IH’s attention that the footpath sign to Broughton is rotten. **Action: IH will check with paths group. ED will give IH the contact details.**
- Pavement parking consultation – No one wished to request an exemption for a pavement in Skirling.

Preparing the Community Action Plan for printing – All

- A number of actions on the 5 themes were recorded at the September CC meeting (Safe Skirling, Well-connected Skirling, Skirling Community Life, Skirling Environment and Heritage, Sustainable and Resilient Skirling). On 4th October there was a follow up meeting when Isobel, Andrew, Katy, Alison, Esther, and Paul Barlow met to discuss more detail on how these themes could be enacted. ED proposed PB come onto the CC- this was agreed.
Action ED to contact PB

- Zoom meeting 16th Oct to finalise layout and suggest pictures – The meeting concluded that the text of the CAP should be retained in all its detail, allowing the potential for adjustment over the 5 years. The actions itemised at the September CC meeting are on hold until the launch. Contained within the report is the requirement for regular reporting on each theme. ED asked if progress should be discussed at CC meetings or if we would prefer the CAP to operate separately? It was agreed Community Council should hear regular reports as ultimately overall responsibility lies with them. A written report twice a year was suggested (March and September).
- Planned Launch January? **Action: ED will ask STAR for advice on launch events.**

AOB

- Request for pedestrian signs: ED has forwarded a request from AL for pedestrian signs to warn drivers at the corner beside Largiemeanoch and at the end of the tar path opposite Skirling House. She cited the example of an old lady standing in the road waiting for the bus. The response from Transport Safety (PG) was that it is not possible to put up signs at every potential pick up point for the bus. ED has replied emphasising the fact that both places are common crossing points for pedestrians.
- Village maintenance – despite request made to Neil Pringle, no sign of drains being cleared. **Action: ED will circulate village map to identify location of drains to be cleared. BH could help with this. Map to be sent to Cllr ES, who will bring it to Neil Pringle's attention.**
- Closure of Biggar sorting office. ED discussed how Broughton CC is writing a letter out of concern. It was agreed Skirling CC will also write. **Action ED**
- KM reported that a Resilience Group flood training session had taken place. **Action: KM will buy a rubber mallet to assist in installation of flood barriers. Cllr ES suggested we contact Tweedsmuir to coordinate delivery of sandbags from SBC. Action KM**
- Community Trust- IH suggested we nominate a few people to form a board of trustees to that a constitution can be established. Two folk is enough at the start to get through the SCIO registration. **Action IH to gather names.**
- Cllr ES made us aware the library van has not been coming consistently as the van is out of working order. He also made us aware that the Councillors are going to try and get funding to get it back up and running.

End 20.55

Meeting Dates 2024: 25th January, 28th March, 30th May.