

Skirling Community Council

Thursday 29th September 2022, 7.30 pm, Skirling Village Hall

Present: Esther Daborn, David Galbraith, Katy Miller, Robert Laird, Councillor Eric Small, Andrew Clarke, Sara van der Vat, Alison Leite.

Apologies: Isobel Hunter, Ross McIntyre.

Part one of the meeting

1. **Membership of Community Council.** Councillor Eric Small (Returning Officer) welcomed those in attendance. He noted elected membership of Community Council as
 - Andrew Clark
 - Esther Daborn
 - David Galbraith
 - Isobel Hunter
 - Robert Laird
 - Ross McIntyre
2. **Note and sign declaration to abide by Code of Conduct for Community Councillors.** It has been confirmed this needs to be signed annually.
3. **Appointment of Chair** Esther Daborn has volunteered to be chairperson seconded by Robert Laird.
4. **Appointment of Vice - Chairman** RL volunteered as vice chair-person- seconded by ED.
5. **Appointment of Secretary:** The role of secretary was discussed and it was agreed Alison Leite will continue taking the minutes and the general role of secretary will be shared among committee members.
6. **Appointment of Treasurer** Sara van der Vat will continue as treasurer.
7. **Agree authorised signatories** The authorised signatories are SV and RL.
8. **Agree dates of future meetings-** The next meeting dates were agreed as the last Thursday of November, January, March and May with a later time of 7.30pm.
 - David Galbraith suggested the potential need for additional meetings as well as the need for sub committees - all agreed.
 - Going forward councillors ES, Viv Thompson and Drummond Begg will rotate attending council meetings.

Part two of the meeting

Minutes of May AGM Approval - Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting (May 26th 2022) proposed by Robert Laird and seconded by David Galbraith.

1. Community Speedwatch

Flashing signs – update (ED.) The three signs are finally installed and are a mixed success – the range of the top one to catch vehicles coming into the village is too short, despite the Walpoles having cut back their trees.

- DG has expressed his disappointment in the effectiveness of the signs at Howes Brae having discovered that they do not work for cars going over 40mph.
- The two covered flashing signs at Goatfoot and Bank Cottage are apparently now obsolete, though Andrew Clarke and ED were led to believe these would be re-instated when we had our TEAMS meeting with Philippa Gilhooly and Samantha Elliott (Nov 2021)
- At the Village Green it is clear that we could do with another sign on the other side of the pole. SBC has no objection to us putting a Windfarm Application together, but they would require to be included on the decision of sign type and location to be erected. We would hope that only another Flashing electronic roundel would be required (in the range of £2,000). Otherwise we would need another pole, mains supply etc. It was agreed to make this application once technical details are sorted out. DG is keen to set up a possible site meeting. ED expressed concern that we remain in good standing with SBC as we have a positive relationship with those involved that has benefitted the village greatly.

Action- ED to initiate further discussion with SBC to get technical details so that SV can prepare windfarm application. It was agreed that DG will then take over communication with SBC on the issue. ED will introduce DG to Karen whom he is to liaise with on the matter.

Speeding on Skirling Straight - update (ED) the proposal for the 40mph buffer from Skirling Mill to the Skirling Village boundary is out for objections before being signed into law – that period extended to 7th October. No objections received yet. SBC are working their way through erecting signage. The 20 and 30mph stretches in Skirling will also be signed into law.

- ES stated he is talking to police about having the police perform random speed checks in the village. AL has corresponded with David Mundell MP over the speeding issue and he too is pressing for more police presence as well as funding for a community speed watch.

Community Speedwatch and Speed Gun – update (ED) We have a new Community Police Officer – PS Corrine Bird. She has been non-committal about the reestablishment of the Community Speedwatch by Police Scotland.

‘Pop up Bob’ – update (ED/DG) PS Corinne Bird communicated on 16th September to say that the pop up bob has been located. It can only be left out for a certain period of time (5-6 hours approx.) but police will look to do it over a continued period of time e.g. 1-2 weeks

(not every day). In discussion with other CC members, we have requested it be located at the entrance to Galalaw Farm.

Action- DG has offered to liaise with PS Bird on this. He will enquire if the Community Council can just buy our own.

2. **Funding**

Endowment Funding - (SV and RL) there is just under 3000 in the bank. There is no update on the Endowment fund.

Platinum Jubilee fund - (SV) All spent bar £60 returned to SBC general funds

Land registry search for Orphaned land (BH) – No update

Community Action Plan (DG) – DG has been in correspondence with Lesley Campbell from STAR Development Group. STAR provides consultancy services in community development, regeneration and community engagement with a goal of helping communities shape their own future.

Action- DG will set up a meeting between CC and Lesley Campbell on a Thursday evening in the near future. Hopefully this will be followed up by open meetings with the community.

3. **Village Maintenance**

- **BT Hut** – (AC/SV) Nothing to report. ED has learned BT outsources its maintenance to CMRE, this could be a way of finding out who owns the land? ES suggested we contact West Linton CC who have resolved a similar issue.

Action AC/SV

- **Village website** - SV has developed the village website and should be ready shortly. ED thanked SV for her efforts and expressed her desire to make information more accessible to the community. It was suggested that the village has a bigger more functional notice board for information to be displayed.

Action- KM has agreed the village hall committee will provide a new notice board. SV has confirmed the information could be made available on the new website.

- **Childrens Playground** (KM)(AL)

ES has stated he is now a member of the Tweeddale Park Committee. AL has been unable to successfully arrange a meeting between interested parties. It was suggested the existing plans previously drawn up are brought to the next meeting.

Action-AL will contact Francesca Bell and bring the plans in for the committee to discuss the viability of the park.

AOB

- **101/102 Bus** (ED/IH/RMc) As we know the bus contract has been reprieved until 31st March 2023. Stand up for the buses and our SBC Councillors are all active in encouraging the Regional Bus group and the 5 councils, including Gordon Grant from

SBC, to discuss how to resolve the problems. ED thanked the SBC councillors for their efforts in the “Save the buses Campaign”. The lack of drivers, withdrawal of Covid funding at the end of October and the return to 2018 funding levels by the Scottish Government is a problem. Stand up for the Buses has organised an online user survey that will be launched shortly. Everyone is asked to encourage folk to complete it. It was agreed that the bus contract is essential for our local community. RL suggested the buses be semi subsidised.

- **Scottish Borders National Park** We have received a request for support for a campaign for a Scottish Borders National Park – centred on the old county of Roxburgh – the campaigners suggest this will give the area market muscle to attract inward investment: Riding Festivals, Enduro Cycling Marathon, Cultural experiences. It would be supported by a Pan Borders Ranger Corps working with existing services (police, fire and rescue etc).

Action- ED will communicate the CC view that although not close to our community this is a good idea and the CC will support this.

- **Data protection certificate** received from SBC along with a Community Councillors briefing document. Valid till 28th Sept 2023

Action- ED will circulate data protection briefing document for information.

- **Police report** (Aug 2022) 28/08/22 – Different format and more reader friendly. Points of interest?
 - i. A driver was issued with a fine and penalty points for careless and inconsiderate driving in Skirling.
 - ii. Protection from Cold Calling - Any community organisation wishing to refresh their zone (those with the old Lothian and Borders Police signs) or interested in setting up a new zone should contact their local community policing team.
<https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/>
 - iii. Should the Community Council wish to discuss any matters highlighted in the report, please contact: TweeddaleWestCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk We will endeavour to provide you with this information, however some information is sensitive and as an organisation we have to ensure compliance with GDPR.

- **Howes Brae** - SV made the CC aware of the sign at Howes Brae is damaged.

Action- ED will contact Neil Pringle at SBC to request repair.

- **Waulkmill** - AL asked about the property in Skirling on the Broughton Road. This property appears to be abandoned. The smashed glass on the road is also a cause for concern. Can we find out who owns it and what their intentions are with it?

Action- ES is going to find out who owns it and try to have answers by the next CC meeting.

Meeting concluded 20.50

Meeting Dates in 2022/23: November 24th, January 26th, March 30th, May 25th , 7.30pm