

Skirling

community council

Minutes

Thursday 28th September 2023, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Present: Andrew Clarke, Esther Daborn, Isobel Hunter, Alison Leite, Katy Miller, Councillor Viv Thomson, Sara van der Vat

Apologies: Robert Laird, David Galbraith, Ross MacIntyre

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

Funding (SV)

- SV presented a spreadsheet showing summary and details of current funds: windfarm income from SSE Clyde and Glenkerie, £600 from SBC (CC grant and Hall hire) and an overview of payments to STAR to date. There is a balance of £7,235 to cover Community Event, Printing of CAP, and other remaining CAP expenses.
- A windfarm application has been submitted to SSE Clyde to pay AC for the maintenance work he carried out on the path to Skirling Mill.

Police reports

- The meeting noted receipt of area police reports for July and August.
- ED gave an update from PC Vivienne Carsley on three policing issues raised by Skirling Community Council for the Tweeddale Area Partnership meeting in June, which PC Carsley had been unable to attend.
 - Monitoring speeds through Skirling: PC Carsley referred to the SBC surveys in August and November 2020 and April and June 2021, which we already know about. She has no knowledge of plans for further studies.
Action: We will carry on asking. ED has invited PC Carsley to attend the next Community Council meeting.
 - Pop-up Bob: PC Carsley will be updating the deployment rota soon as there have been some staffing and shift changes. Bob is currently on deployment in Traquair but she hopes to have him redeployed soon.
 - Community Speed watch: PC Carsley has had training and certification to use a laser speed gun and plans to carry out speed checks on a monthly basis at various locations in the Tweeddale area, including Skirling. The first of these days was w.b. 11th Sept in the West Linton area. The community speed watch pilot is still in the planning process and will be reported on in due course.

Councillor Thomson thinks the pilot to take place in Tweeddale East. ED reported that following Cllr T's suggestion in June, West Linton have indicated they are interested in meeting to discuss speeding issues.

Action: ED to check again with other CCs and ask DG to take this forward.

- PC Carsley requested feedback on No Cold Calling Zone. The meeting felt that the notices on the speed limit signs in the village seem to have been effective.

Action: ED to communicate this to PC Carsley and repeat the invitation to attend the November meeting

Correspondence received

- Derelict house – Waulkmill: communication has come in from Stuart Beharrie (Dundee) reporting that Scott Dorward is now ready to sell. It was discussed if the community council should make SBC aware of his intention to sell but it was agreed to hold off on this at the moment until progress is made.

Action: IH will get in touch with people previously interested in buying.

- Biggar Area Climate Care – the group has offered to come to a meeting to talk about their activities (e.g. Bike clinic, Repair Café, Tree planting, Home Energy Assessment, possible Community Solar Energy scheme). ED has sent a holding email so that links can possibly be made with Theme 5 of the Community Action Plan and its actors.

Action: ED to send an email reporting that this has been approved.

Preparing the Community Action Plan for printing – All

Each of the themes were discussed. It was agreed that the general issues relating to speed limits and village maintenance on the agenda all fit into the Themes.

Theme 1 Safe Skirling – traffic, roads and pavements:

- Speed Spy, Thanks to Ross for his investigations, and to David for the offer of co-ordinating installation. There is more to discuss about i) whether to hire or buy, ii) whether to try again to contact other CCs to discuss speeding issues, and iii) whether putting this plan into actions requires a Community Trust to be set up

Action: ED to contact CCs again to ask if they are interested in meeting to discuss speeding issues. IH will investigate the process of setting up a CT

- Supporting measures: ED reported update from SBC. They will aim to implement cheaper measures in this financial year (bin stickers, 20mph gateway roundels, dragons teeth, 20mph repeater signs and advisory cycle lanes. Measures that are more costly (gateway adjustments, electronic signs, countdown signs) will be considered as part of the programmes in the next few financial years. ED has requested a gateway adjustment (moving the name of the village and the speed limit together to enable one sign). The matter will be considered at next the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) meeting. **Action: IH is organising purchasing planters to mark gateways at speed signs. VT will forward email clarifying measurements planters need to be away from road. SV said beautification wind farm grant may be possible.**
- Pavements through the village: VT had hoped things would be moving by now but things have been stalled. **Action: SV will send VT a copy of village map with paths marked to get SBC costing for cinder paths, so we know if this is affordable. VT will share the contact details of the SBC Path Officer with ED.**

Theme 2: Well-connected Skirling – improving access

- Bus timetables were discussed again. The CC will continue to pursue a timetable change but ultimately the buses run to get kids to school on time.

Action: ED and VT will work together on this.

ED will look into Tweedwheels Community Bus. And Newlands E-bus.

VT will ask Lesley Mason about windfarm money Tweedsmuir sought from the windfarm to provide additional transport and gauge if this was successful. VT will talk to Jamie Prady.

- Paths to Broughton / Biggar – ED reported SBC consultation on Shared Access Routes closes on 2nd October <https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/economic-development-emergency-planning-and-communications/shared-access-network-2023/>. ED has completed the survey to offer old railway routes, cross borders drove road, John Buchan Way. Could add the old Skirling drove roads? ED suggested Simon Pilpel might be well informed on the issue of path to Biggar. SV suggested Dominic Ashmole. In discussion of path to Broughton, IH pointed out the problem with gorse at Broughton end. Tess Goodwin has previously been in touch on this issue.
Action VT will send give Tess Goodwin's details to ED.

Theme 3: Skirling Community Life: IH KM

Three points were discussed and noted to be taken forward

- Children's playground – (KM)- still ongoing discussion where the park should be.
- Events in the Hall,
- Pop-up café / shop

Theme 4: Skirling Environment and Heritage: IH and KM

The four points on the agenda were noted and agreed to be integrated into Theme 4 in due course

- New noticeboard (SV/KM) – Still in progress.
- Tree planting: AL reported that she would like to get permissions in place for tree planting along the boggy field from Skirling Mill. Other sites to be determined. IH offered to assist with this.

Action AL and IH

- Land Registry search for Orphaned Land – (BH) No update.
- BT Hut - (AC/SV) No update.

Theme 5: Sustainable and Resilient Skirling

- It was noted that Skirling already has a Resilience Group. Additional members have recently joined and a Flood prevention measures training day is pending (KM/IH/BH/)
- ED suggested that contact could be made with BACC (see Correspondence Received above)
- VT mentioned Colin Kerr (Walkerburn CC) who was keen to form a Tweeddale group to discuss flooding issues related to the Tweed

Action: VT will pass along SBC Flood officer Andy McLean's details.

- IH mentioned that there is a Clydesdale Rural Oil club that might be a useful source of information.
- It was suggested that RL and RMacI could be asked to take matters under this theme forward.

• AOB

A follow up CAP meeting was agreed for Wednesday 4th @ 7pm. Names of those who had registered interest at the Community Event would be useful.

Action: ED to write up points noted on Draft Actions discussion

End 21.05

Meeting Dates 2023-24: 30th November 2023, 25th January, 28th March, 30th May 2024