



Galashiels Community Council
Burgh Chambers
Wednesday 5th April
6.30pm
Minutes

Present

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, John Hazle, Drew Tulley Claire Howden Eileen Frame, Helen Calder, Liz Jardine

In Attendance

Cllr White Cllr Aitchison Cllr Herd, Cllr Mitchell
Callum Hodgson – Border Telegraph
Sgt Roger Changleng
8 Members of public
Stephen Renwick

1. Apologies

Tony Brown, Celeste Di Vito Kevin Ryalls Rick Kenney Tom Ingoldsby Marion Romeril, Pauline Ward Kevin Drum

2. Minutes Approval

An accurate Minute of the Meeting 1st March 2017 was approved by Claire Howden and Seconded by Drew Tulley

3. Matters Arising

Cllr White updated everyone that with regards to questions raised at the last meeting about the Volunteer Hall he can now advise that £66,000 has been earmarked to be spent on the Volunteer Hall for improvements this year and these are expected to be finished by September.

At this point in proceedings Chair Judith Cleghorn introduced Liz Jardine and invited her to take a seat at the table as a new Community Council member, Tracey added in the past that new Community Council members had been required to sit on the public benches for 3 consecutive meetings however there is nothing in the CC constitution that says this so in future newly co-opted members will join the table but will be unable to qualify as a fully voting member until completing 3 months or attending 3 consecutive meetings.

In last month's minutes a Member of the public made a comment about the area at Gala Park by BJ's shop and the speed of the traffic and the amount of it he felt that there was not enough information reported in the minutes about what he had said. Secretary Tracey Alder said that there is only so much she can get down on paper when a person is speaking quickly and asking members of the Community Council to look at information and photographs at the same time. Tracey said if the Gent wanted more information putting in to the minutes he would be best emailing it through to her.

** There is a problem with rubbish bins not being taken in from the pavement at Scott Street and along Gala Park. (This is on the side from the Premier corner shop at Lintburn Street along Scott Street and Gala Park).*

I recall that one of the councillors was going to raise this with the appropriate council department.

** Concern over cyclists riding on pavements at speed, with no regard for pedestrian safety. They do not stop or even slow down at junctions and this is an accident waiting to happen.*

** Dog fouling is an ongoing problem and appears to only be getting worse. Owners are even letting their dogs foul and urinate directly at and in people's doorways. All of these matters have been discussed with a local MSP but to date am still awaiting a response about these issues and where all of these stand regarding the ASB Discrimination Act.*

4. Police Report and Questions

Acting Sgt Roger Changleng was in attendance tonight he read out the police report. (see below)

Inspector Tony Hodges is requesting that with the warmer weather and school holidays coming up that parents are aware where their children are with the increase in young people dinking

QA -As well as drinking what is the police service doing to deal with the drug issue? Police advise that this problem will always be there, it helps if it is seen being carried out that the public should call crime stoppers to report it.

QA – Lights at St Peters school, when the crossing patrol person is there and when lights are still at red the cars are going regardless of the fact the colour hasn't changed

5. Speakers – Stephen Renwick – Projects Manager SBC

Stephen Renwick came and gave us all an insight in to the new Langlee Primary School,

It was started in in April last year and should be finished in May 2017.

Lt will be open for Students in Aug 2017

It has cost 10 m

There are 14 classrooms including a centre for children with learning and support needs. Based over 3 floors with a lift.

There is an indoor Games Hall for Badminton etc. with a grassed pitch area and a MUGA (Multi User Games Area).

QA if it could be arranged that the Community Council be allowed to come for a look around? Yes, that won't be a problem, also looking to invite former famous pupils.

6. Galashiels Academy Update n/a

7. Sub Group Update

Planning Applications

DETAILS	COMMENTS TO SBC BY
1. Applicant: Scottish Borders Housing Association Application Ref No: 17/00454/FUL Proposal: Erection of ten dwelling houses Location: Land South West Of 1 Primrose Bank Langlee Galashiels	24 April 2017 This application is to build 10 affordable houses on the former Rose Court housing area which were demolished in 2015. Scottish Government are providing grant assistance towards this development. Officers from SBHA presented on this development at the GCC meeting on 1 Feb 2017 and answered all questions put to them. I recommend we do not object to this application.
2. Applicant: Mr David Poureshagh Application Ref No: 17/00455/LBC Proposal: Extension to form new porch, internal and external alterations to dwelling house Location: Rowantree Butts Kirk Brae Galashiels	24 April 2017 The application is to create an extension to the rear part of the house and to carry out all works commensurate with a Class C building in terms of materials and design. I see no reason for GCC to comment on this application.
3. Applicant: Mr Douglas Hardie Application Ref No: 17/00340/FUL Proposal: Change of use from existing shop to form ground floor flat Location: Shop 42 Island Street Galashiels	27 April 2017 The application is to change the "Second Time Around" antiques/bric a brac shop into a 3 bedroom ground floor flat. As this will provide additional housing in the town centre area, I recommend we do not object to this application. Better to have housing in this location than another empty shop, in my view.

Gala Waterways

Discussion again took place about Chain saw Insurance and Tracey said she would ask SBC again what the Insurance cost would be. Chainsaw training will be via the Forestry Commission.

26 Volunteers attended the Spring Clean-up. Next Clean-up is 6th May.

EVENTS

In conjunction with the Focus Centre, the first Afternoon Tea Event went very well with over 100 people in attendance and we got some great feedback and most people said they would be back again,

River lighting awaiting quotes from Blachere

Rotary Christmas Market going ahead

GALA in BLOOM

This year Gala in Bloom will not be entering the National Competition, it costs £150 to enter the portfolio takes up an extreme lot of work and we can still keep Gala Looking beautiful without the necessity of entering a competition.

We shall however be entering the local competitions.

Langlee woods and Gala policies no meetings have taken place since last year – Cllr White will look in to this.

8. Chairs Report

Chair gave thanks for all their work and help over the last 5 years. She said a special thanks to Bill Herd who will not be standing again for re-election and presented him with a card from the Community Council.

Election – Hustings April 19th 6.30pm Volunteer Hall.

LRA –

LRA meeting last night, the vandalism at the playpark was priority and if more vandalism goes ahead then the LRA will not be repairing it, it will be closed down.

The waste transfer unit was discussed, especially the wideness of the road and the traffic route out of town. It also needs to comply with Sepa's recommendations.

Ross Sharp-Dent and Ewan Doyle will be invited to a CC asap.

9. Treasurers Report

The balance on the books at 31 March is £1071.77. I am waiting for the March bank statement to confirm the status of a few cheques. When finalised, all papers will go to our accountant, Alison Gray, who will compile our Annual Report for 2016/7.

10. Secretary's Report meeting

Tracey reminded everyone that the Weekend Walking Festival is coming up and bookings are now coming in.

11. SBC Councillors Update

Cllr Aitchison

Holes and tracks Filled in at Galafoot as outstanding from last meeting

Coulter's Candy project progressing. Now gone to get pricing to begin works. Also, has been received very positively by the people involved in Gala Improvement project to ensure the success of the Tapestry. the Coulters Candy part though is stand alone. It will be up to the new Gala councillors to approve funding to begin the project.

Nothing will be progressed without due consultation with CC and others, of course.

QA – Still no report out lining the rest of the schools in Gala – When are we going to see this? Cllr Aitchison – Discussions are on-going but nothing else can be discussed at this time due to Purdah.

Cllr Herd

Letter from SBC to people of London in light of the recent atrocities – read out

Gullies in Windyknowe, Mossilee and Manse Street reported

Rubbish being dropped in the car parking area along low – Buckholmside behind what was Comet has been reported.

QA – Why is it down to Police to monitor CCTV? Civilians/SBC should be checking the CCTV as is taking away Police working time.

Cllr Mitchell

Bank St looking good

Rubbish in Overhaugh Street being dealt with

Council Tax – SBC Site Eligibility checker on website for those in bands E to H

Bus Shelter at Iceland been Jet washed QA – What about the rest of them

New Bus Timetables out this week

Chess Tournament – Volunteer Hall

Tapestry – Trees cleared at

Tweedbank, area not going to be turfed

Cllr Bill White

Wall at Grahams sorted

Wall at Langlee sorted

Big transformations will be happening over the next 5 years.

Scoping for cycle track has been done looking at £750,000, look at linking in with Stow

Dog Fouling – Judith wrote to Tracey Logan and had a response saying her email will be dealt with in due course.

Cllr Aitchison mentioned a petition to have a notice on dog food about dog fouling and hopefully this will go live.

12. AOB Community Council

A7 Action group – North of Gala Bank – Bags of hardcore that have come from Dawson's have been dumped, fly tipping and rubbish dumping is disgraceful- Cllr Aitchison will take this on...

Comment made – Council should be more active in publicising Galashiels – still no information booklet. Judith wrote to the Chamber of Trade after a visit to Hawick and picking up various leaflets about putting out a leaflet and was basically told no. Cllr White mentioned that Live Borders are looking in to it but Judith thinks it's something that the Community Council could take on.

13. Open Session Members of Public

14. Date of Next Meeting – 10th May 2017 6.30pm

Police Report

Our focus is to reduce crime and disorder, to increase public reassurance within our community and to KEEP PEOPLE SAFE.

We will continue to work closely with our partners and find effective long-term solutions to the issues you raise.

We continue to work on issues raised in relation to the multi-ward Member Plan with the priorities being violent crime, drug dealing and drug misuse, inconsiderate driving and anti- social behaviour.

Violent Crime

- Within the Galashiels and Langlee area there has been 15 calls relating to disturbances.
- Attempted Murder: Torwoodlee Road – male victim stabbed, 33-year-old female and 22-year-old male arrested and appeared at Selkirk Sheriff Court.
- Serious assault – East Mill – male victim stabbed by 34-year-old female partner who was arrested and appeared at Selkirk Sheriff Court.
- We have seen a number of common assaults (5) reported to police, predominantly alcohol related. These incidents are all subject to ongoing investigations and charges have already been preferred against a number of individuals responsible.
- Sexual crime – Gala Foot Bridge – 16-year-old male charged with serious sexual offences on young females.

Substance Misuse

- Over the month of March there has been 12 recorded calls in relation to drugs misuse.
- 2 x males charged with possessing Class A drug.
- 4x males charged with possessing Class B drug, namely Cannabis.
- Male charged with possession of Class A (Heroin) and Class C (prescribed -but not to him) drugs.
- Report of 2 discarded used needles in play-park in woods, across overpass, opposite St Johns Church, Langlee.

Inconsiderate driving and making our roads safer

- Police have attended 11 road traffic collisions.
- 2 x 28-year-old males charged for theft of motor car from Galashiels (stopped in Hawick following police pursuit), attempt fraud x 2 (use credit card found within vehicle) Driver charged with theft MV, disqualified driving, no insurance and possession of Class A drug. Both males held in custody.
- 41-year-old female charged with drug driving.
- 4 x motor cars seized under ASB legislation, 7 further ASB warnings issued to drivers.
- 4 x motor car seized for no insurance and drivers either reported or received £300 fine, 6 points on their licenses.
- 27-year-old male arrested for running in front of traffic and kicking cars whilst under influence of drink/drugs in Kenilworth Avenue, Langlee. Charged with Breach of the Peace and various vandalism to motor vehicles.
- Driver of motor car failed to stop for red light on Melrose Road - £100 fine, 3 points on licence.

- 12 tickets issued to school zig-zag line parking offenders.
- 3 x motor cars reported to SBC – believed to be abandoned.

Community and Roads Policing officers continue to carry out work to combat anti-social driving, particularly by young drivers – ‘boy-racers’

Reducing Antisocial Behaviour

- Currently Galashiels has 3 people on an active ASBO, with another 6 at Face 2 Face level. Several others are being closely monitored.
- 10 reports of domestic incidents/assaults – half of these have resulted in perpetrators being held for Court appearances.
- 5 x male youths charged with Fire-raising offence in Magdala area.
- Galashiels area in general is suffering from large groups of youths (both male and female, 13-17years old) causing anti-social behaviour at McDonalds, Interchange Building and Parks. Police continue to deal with drunk and abusive behaviour from a minority of these youths – both uniformed and plain clothed Officers are being utilised to tackle youth disorder.

We continue to work with our colleagues in the Anti-social behaviour unit to engage and get early intervention in order to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Protecting People

- 49-year-old male arrested for a Hate crime (homophobic) offence – appeared from custody at Selkirk Sheriff Court. The local community officers continue to carry out work with vulnerable groups in order to provide them with suitable safety advice. We continue to work with partner agencies in Housing, Health and Education in order to combat any issues that may arise.

If any members of the community council have any concerns regarding vulnerable members of the public that may need some help and advice please pass details to us and we can assist.

Other Issues of Relevance

The month of March showed a marked increase of theft by shoplifting offences in town, 24 incidents. The majority of offenders are known and have been identified and charged by police. Theft offences (13) – many of these thefts were opportunistic and could be prevented if the public ensure they secure their property or valuables. Keep house doors, windows and vehicles locked.