



Galashiels Community Council
Focus Centre
Wednesday June 5th 2019
6.30pm

Minutes

Present

Judith Cleghorn Rick Kenney, Tracey Alder, Tom Ingoldsby, Jessie Harrington, Liz Jardine, Drew Tulley, Bill Jeffrey Bill White, Eileen Frame, Helen Calder, Lorna Hanif

In Attendance

Cllr Scott Cllr Aitchison, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Jardine
Kevin Janiak –Southern Reporter, Callum Hodgson Border Telegraph.
18 Members of public
Pete Laing – Community Trails

Meeting commenced 6.30pm

1. Welcome and Apologies.

Chair Judith Cleghorn welcomed everyone to what she was expecting to be a very busy meeting.
Apologies Marion Romeril.

2. Minutes Approval

An accurate Minute of the Meeting May 1st was approved by Drew Tulley and Seconded by Liz Jardine

3. Matters Arising

4. Police Update and Questions

No police Tracey read out the Police report. Underage drinking seems to be a big issue at the Common Ridings.

5. Speakers

Pete Laing and Bill White – Glendaerg, Ladhope and Langlee Community Trails

15 years ago, this was kicked off by the LRA as the kids wanted something to do. Bill approached SBC and he was told to go out and test the water and so a meeting was organised of which 65–70 people turned up.
Pete Laing was responsible for doing the feasibility study. Facebook been popular. Plans have been around for about 6 months.

Gradients are too steep which restricts the hills ground.

Car parking is an issue at the Ladhope end

Both Langlee woods and Blakies Hill are good for mountain biking.

All maps available on the FB page.

Description of a pump track that is being put in at Langlee and at Stow – Tarmac track aimed at younger kids with lots of twists and turns and curves and bikers don't have to pedal.

A long discussion followed, and various questions were asked and some unanswered.

Friday 14th June – Open Day at Focus

6. Sub-groups Update

Gala in Bloom

Pay parking money – Judith has figures directly from SBC from Sue Taylor via Craig Blackie

There was initially £112k. £100k was used on the playpark of which £30K is still outstanding.

There is £68,151.00 going into the pay parking money going in to 2019/20. £30K of this is going to the playpark for this year leaving a surplus of £32,151.00.

Comment – There is no Community Council representative on the pay parking board, the Chair should insist on it. Cllr Aitchison will take this forward as he is Chair of this committee.

Gala Waterways

All is in report. Liz had nothing more to add.

Christmas Event and Lights

Voting system for the Localities Bids was appalling and shambolic. A week extension has been given and now postal votes need to be back by 14th June.

QA How much has the mess cost SBC Administration to put all this together?

7. Chairs Comments

8. Treasurers Update

More money has just within the last hour been added to the Christmas Lights and Event Group account.

Available to Community Council £524.91.

Wreath for last year's remembrance has finally been paid £34

9. Secretary's Update

Tracey addressed Cllr Aitchison in connection with the review board which is coming in to fruition in August.

Way back in at the beginning of April I emailed you on behalf of Judith and I after receiving an email about a review panel who would be responsible for overseeing the decisions concerning Community Councils.

We asked if you would meet with us to discuss why a review group was necessary before we made any commitment to anyone joining such a group and our main question was there a need for yet another group?

However, you never came back to us to arrange a meeting, so we are still waiting for that question to be answered.

I'm not sure if anyone agrees but each Community Council is different and I think it's about time we were able to make some of our own decisions, for the past 13 years the only thing that has been changed is a few minor adjustments to the Community Council Constitution and if I remember correctly that had to be amended as none of the volunteer members agreed to the time that was set for office bearers to remain in power and the most concern was what would happen if an Office Bearer could not be re-elected back in Office and no one came forward to want to do that particular job? because let's face it there is never no storming of the building to fight for positions ... We were told we could employ an outsiderbut on a Grant of £1780 which hasn't changed in years how do we employ someone and pay them with what ?...

I won't keep you but just wanted also to add about adhering to the public pound... surely it is up to the Community Council if we hand over £51 to i.e. the foodbank and not having to justify that we went over by £1.01 because we are only allowed to make donations of £49.99 in one single transaction. This need looking at.

Before this meeting of the Area Partnership takes place on 27th June we need to decide if we want to send a member of our Community Council to sit on the review team that is hoping to get underway in August that Sandy will be chairing. This must be logged with Jenny Wilkinson by me by 14th June so a decision needs making tonight. Judith has attended the area partnership meetings representing our Community Council and we can only send one person, but this person will go forward to represent the Eildon Area if picked. However as I was told yesterday if there is more than one candidate from the Eildon area that is including the other cc's in this area then candidates will be put in order of preference and the person at the top will be picked followed by a sub member in case the chosen candidate cannot attend at any given time..... big question who is going to pick the best candidate for the job from those who have been put forward? Tracey said as far as she is concerned there is only one person for the job and that in her opinion is Judith. All agreed.

Cllr Aitchison agreed to take everything on board and hopefully when the review board starts all these issues can be looked at.

10. Vice Chairs update / Planning and Licensing

Rick went through his report highlighting key points in planning apps especially a recent application from Forest Direct about the felling of trees on Meigle Hill. There will be 31 weeks of traffic going through town removing logs. Asked if they can attend a meeting to explain the full extent of what will be going on.

Comment was made on the first of the planning applications.

4th June 2019

Application Ref No: 19/00098/FUL

Proposal: Removal of Condition No 3 of planning application E170/95 to allow the sale of food goods at Units 2 and 3.

Location: Unit 2 And 3 Comely Bank Mill Retail Park, Comely Bank Mill, Galashiels.

planning application from Nectar Asset Management still looking to remove condition 3 (that site is to be used for non-food retailing) from the use of Comely Bank Mill Retail Park. The Community Council need to rethink this as this is going to change over the next 15 years. If car parking can be provided at these retail parks, then there should be no issue and food retailers should not be a problem. We must make Gala open for business. The local development plan should be looked at.

11. SBC Councillors Comments and questions

Various issues were covered by the 4 Elected Members

Hotel in Gala is on the Agenda for SBC.

Fly tipping is an issue in Langlee and at various other areas around town. Some issues were reported to waste management.

Tapestry building - looks like things are making progress on this.

Travellers taken root at Winston Road area.

Dog Fouling was brought up again as it's still an ongoing problem especially at Netherdale.

12. AOB

After bringing this up year after year its apparent that SBC have not taken any notice, the lights at the public park are still coming on way to early when there are hours of daylight left.

Date of next meeting July 3rd Focus Centre 6.30pm