



Galashiels Community Council
Burgh Chambers
Wednesday 5th Sept 2018
6.30pm
Minutes

Present

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Rick Kenney, Tom Ingoldsby, Liz Jardine, Drew Tulley, Eileen Frame, Helen Calder, Bill White, Bill Jeffrey, Marion Romeril, Celeste Di Vito.

In Attendance

Cllr Jardine
Cllr Scott
Callum Hodgson – Border Telegraph
Kevin Janiak – Southern Reporter
Mags Fenner
Andrew Poole
PC James Harrison
5 Members of the Public.

Meeting commenced 6.30pm

Chair Judith Cleghorn opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Apologies

Tony Brown, Claire Howden Cllr Anderson Cllr Aitchison Kevin Ryalls

2. Minutes Approval

An accurate Minute of the Meeting 6th June was approved by Eileen Frame and Second by Drew Tulley

3. Matters Arising

4. Police Update and Questions

PC James Harrison read out the crime report for the last 2 months. (Report not received to date)

492 calls were made to the Police in August

Violent Crime – 46 calls

Substance Abuse -19 calls

9 Over-doses

1 underage Drinking

Driving – 8 calls

At Melrose Gait there is an issue of road safety awareness where the children are out playing in the street.

Parking – In Bank Street is a problem and also people parking on yellow lines.

Antisocial Behaviour – 40 calls, Issues at Gala Park Area, Burgh School – youths hanging around. Tulley Court – 1 Tenant.

Stowed Out Festival went well but there was an issue with Youths taking drink on train.

Dishonesty – 23 Calls

QA- Are all the C CTV cameras working? PC Harrison said the system could do with upgrading but not sure who would pay for it.

Cllr Scott said that £40,000 is being spent at the moment on an old system across the Borders to upgrade it but new stand alone cameras could work out a lot cheaper and a lot better. Comment made – Could Cllrs look at pay parking money or other funding for this, perhaps a meeting with Craig Blackie could be arranged?– Cllr Jardine will look in to this.

Comments were made about speeding from Lindean 40mph when its one way. Also there are speeding issues at High Rd/Melrose Rd and at Ladhope Vale.

The roundabout at Ladhope Vale is still causing issues years down the line. Cllr Scott agreed.

5. Speakers

Mags Fenner and Andrew Poole – BIDS (Business Improvement District)

This project started a year ago to deal Footfall, Cleanliness, Empty Shops and the competition between local business and shopping online.

Aim is to: Bring new people to Gala

Create a welcoming environment

Business Development Initiative

Each business pays a levy which is collected by SBC and each business gets a vote. £190,000 would be created by means of a bill to the bid company.

50% of companies need to vote yes to be able to take this forward.

Gala goes Extreme was just an example of the kind of event that the town can expect to see if this goes ahead. It was hoped that this event would bring in 5000 visitors to Gala and it was certainly achieved.

6. Galashiels Academy

Apologies

7. Sub Groups Update

Planning and Licensing Applications

Rick went through planning reports that had been sent for approval

Gala Waterways

Judith read out a brief report that had been sent in with Chair Claire Howden not being present.

Tracey reminded the members that Gala Waterways is a subcommittee of Gala Community Council and any money that the Waterways Group may have donated to them must come straight to the Community Council Account. Also if they are in need of equipment it has to be put to the CC table before it is purchased.

Tracey added that this year the CC have been charged an extra £50+ on top of our usual insurance premium to cover the Waterways tools and machinery and we have no idea what state it is in or even where it is.

8. Chairs Update

Judith gave an uplifting view of what she thinks of the Town and the fact that we need new blood and support in the form of volunteers to get the town up to scratch.

“I have recently returned from a holiday in Normandy, where I was delighted to see busy shops, very few of them empty, lovely floral displays, especially on their roundabouts, but most importantly, lovely clean streets.

“Then I came home and, on Tuesday, walked up Channel Street – and I was ashamed.

“There were dirty overflowing bins, cigarette ends outside what was the Douglas Hotel, weeds growing out of the side of buildings, dirty chewing gum-strewn streets.

“I was ashamed, not so much with Channel Street, but with myself, because I am chair of this community council and should be helping to take responsibility for the look of this town.”

She said that budget restraints meant that the council could no longer give the service it used to.

She added: “What can we do to help get this town ready for the Great Tapestry of Scotland coming to Galashiels in 2021? We have two options; 1) We can do nothing, or 2) We can get together a working party and set an example to the folk of this town. Hopefully people will join us, but we have to lead by example, or we do not deserve to sit at this table, and I certainly do not deserve to sit at the head of it.

“By this time next year when people think of community council I do not want them to say ‘Who?’ I want them to say ‘Wow’.” She tasked members to come up with ideas for next month’s meeting.

Community councillor Drew Tulley replied: “The state of the streets are a matter for Scottish Borders Council, you should take the matter up with local councillors.

“You have got to bear in mind that there is a hell of a lot of work done in this town by volunteers, with the waterways group and Galashiels in Bloom. “There is a limit to how much certain people can do.” Mrs Cleghorn said: “We do need to get more volunteers on board. We need to stand up and be counted.”

9. Treasurers Update

Bank Account - £672.00

Grant money from SBC not received to date.

10. Secretary’s Update

11. SBC Councillors Comments and Questions

Cllr Jardine and Cllr Scott

Chair asked if Cllr Jardine could find out how the pay parking money is allocated.

Other points noted were: Parking at Netherdale

Bins in Town

SBC Budget – This time around earlier consultations have been asked for.

Comment made in regards to Cemeteries: Eastlands is looking nice with strimming around the Headstones been done. Heatheryett looking decidedly bad due to the weed killer and the grass is still quite long.

Planting in the town was briefly touched upon.

Trails – Bill White will have much more information to bring to the table next month.

Gala Remembers – 29th Sept Concert at Langlee Community Centre

On Remembrance Sunday the service will be at the proper time of 11am.

Angels Wings ceremony on the Sunday at 7.30pm

20th Oct at Old Gala House an exhibition on War hospitals

Films showing at cinema free of charge but a donation will be asked for.

War Horse, 2 down and Outs, Oh What a Lovely War

Focus Centre Asset Transfer – looking to get lease for the Ability centre

A7 Action Group - Tracey mentioned that she had received an email from this organisation saying that they rely on donations from Community Councils and the pot is about to run dry and wondered if the Community Council could give a donation? Judith suggested we leave this over until next meeting as it was the first time that they had ever asked our CC Tracey added.

12. AOB

Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 3rd October – 6.30pm Burgh Chambers