



Galashiels Community Council
Burgh Chambers
Wednesday 3rd October 2018
6.30pm
Minutes

Present

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Rick Kenney, Tom Ingoldsby, Liz Jardine, Drew Tulley, Eileen Frame, Bill Jeffrey, Claire Howden, Bill White

In Attendance

Cllr Jardine – Left at 7.20pm

Katherine Wylie

Alan Paterson spokesperson for Mossilee Residents

22 Members of the Public.

Meeting commenced 6.30pm

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

1. Apologies

Cllr Anderson, Cllr Aitchison, Kevin Ryalls, Helen Calder, Cllr Scott, Celeste Di Vito.

2. Minutes Approval

An accurate Minute of the Meeting 5th September was approved by Tom Ingoldsby and Second by Eileen Frame

3. Matters Arising

Claire Howden queried why Alastair Lings report which was sent to the Community Council meeting was not included in the minutes and asked whether it was read out. Tracey said that the report was read out as Liz Jardine had passed it on to Judith as she had forgotten her glasses. Judith only read parts as it wasn't very clear. Tracey voiced that no reports are included in the minutes anymore and if Alastair has a monthly report that he wishes to submit for the Community Council then Tracey asks that he email it to her at least 4 days before the CC meeting so that it can get sent out with all of the other reports on the Monday before the meeting.

Tracey also commented about the fact that if Gala Waterways wish to purchase an item to help them with the good work they do then it has to come before the Community Council before purchase. This is how it has always been. She added that all monies gained whether by donation or gift should come straight to the Treasurer of the Community Council. Any Money would be ring fenced if Waterways had a particular item that they wished to purchase with such money.

Cllr Jardine gave an update on the CCTV issue previously commented on: he said that Galashiels is not the only town asking about this and that discussion is ongoing as to where the money will come from to pay for it.

4. Police Update and Questions

No Police present as they were at another event tonight. Report available

Comment made – with the recent suicides that have taken place should we be looking at preventative measures on bridges.

5. Speakers

Discussion took place with Alan Paterson from Mossilee Rd being the spokesperson for the 20 strong group of residents that had attended tonight to put their point across regarding the Planning Application that SBHA will be putting in to demolish Garages and car parking areas in Mossilee Road. Henry Coyle from SBHA has been in touch with residents and is happy to meet residents on a one to one basis. Residents feel that a group meeting with them all would be better. Residents are not concerned about losing the garages. They are concerned more about the lack of parking. Rick Kenney suggested writing to SBHA Chief Exec Julia Mulloy and ask for a formal consultation. The Roads Dept will also need to be consulted to get these concerns aired early.

Bill White updated on the Trails – Now got a draft in place and there is a special meeting on 17th October where Pete Laing will present his findings and costs.

Gala Remembers – Programs are in most shops and online. There are Lectures and Exhibitions going on already.

Concert - at Volunteer Hall on 9th Nov.

Afternoon Tea- at Focus Centre on the afternoon of 9th.

Banners designed by School children going up in town.

6. Galashiels Academy

Apologies

7. Sub Groups Update

Planning and Licensing Applications

Rick went through planning reports that had been sent for approval. Nothing has come back from CC Members and no diverse comments regarding the planning applications.

Gala Waterways

Since 7th July Gala Waterways Group have organised 16 work parties.

This Saturday they will be down at the Gala water trying to make a difference to the walkway.

Meeting with Clare Penny went well but 3 tasks need fulfilling before they can go back to Clare with their findings.

8. Chairs Update

Chair's Report for October meeting 2018

Scottish Borders Council – Flower Planting

We have had a reprieve on this issue for next year – planting will continue as usual in 2019, but after that, SBC will no longer plant up any areas as they have in the past. The options will be to grass over these areas eg Bank Street Gardens, or plant them up with perennials and bushes.

We have to seriously look at this – with the Great Tapestry of Scotland coming to the town in around two and a half years time, we cannot sit on our laurels (excuse the pun) and we have to find a solution to this problem. Judith had been approached about putting together a Community Trust but we already have Energise which is a trust and it seems stupid to make another so Energise have agreed to join forces to look at the Bank St issue. We also need more volunteers to help with Gala in Bloom – if you know of anyone, please advise me.

Gala in Bloom

I was privileged to present the prizes to the ‘Best Garden’ etc winners at Old Gala House on Saturday – this short ceremony was held in the beautiful gardens and it was lovely, and most appropriate, to be able to do this in this lovely setting. As usual, a well done to the Gala in Bloom working team who keep those gardens, and others, looking so good.

This year all of the gardens were excellent and to such a very high standard, not sure if it was the warm weather but because of this the Judge decided to make the competition fair to just award first prizes this year.

Langlee Regeneration Project

We were due to have had a visit from Waverley Housing at our meeting, to advise us on the final plans for the Langlee Regeneration Project.

However, this is to be held back until the November meeting as, after consultation with their residents, Waverley have decided not to demolish some of the properties that were due to be replaced – but refurbish them instead.

This was discussed at their board meeting last week, and when they visit us in November, it will be the final plan – it is also proposed that some of the refurbishments will take place in the next financial year, ahead of the demolition and rebuilding project.

Melrose Gait

Sadly, we have had no-one from Melrose Gait attend our LRA meetings (as of this date 1st October) but I understand that some problems continue. The Police have been assisting in this area, so hopefully things will improve.

Langlee Community Choir

We had an excellent concert delivered by Langlee Community Choir on Saturday evening – in an effort to raise funds for Gala Remembers – and raised £635. As usual, the choir were in good voice, they seem to get better and better.

In the background, the choir have been invited on a return visit to France in 2010 – a choir from near Toulouse was over here earlier in the year – so we will be fundraising for that event too.

Focus Centre

Work continues towards asset transfer of the Focus Centre to the community group. Our business plan will be ready to submit to SBC by the end of October.

We had a launch event during an afternoon tea at the Centre on Friday, this was well attended and Douglas Westwater from Community Enterprise spoke about the plans we have and how they will be taken forward. Douglas emphasised that it is a ‘community’ centre and it is up to you all to decide what you want to see there, to make it the centre of excellence we intend it to be.

There was a question and answer session, and a comment board, which, by the end of the afternoon, was covered with post-it notes – so plenty of ideas came forward.

We have a couple more events being arranged – a ladies pamper night, along with a gin tasting late in October and a Christmas concert, with sale stalls, on 15th December – dates for your diaries please.

Borders Community Rail Partnership On Thursday of this week, I shall be at the ACoRP dinner, this year to be held in Scotland for the first time – in Glasgow. ACoRP is the parent body of all Community Rail Partnerships. On Friday I, and others from the BRCP, will bring 50 members from all over the UK down for a trip on the Borders Railway. It will be a hurried visit as they have to get their rail connections back to all over Britain, but will have a brief lunch at Melrose Rugby Club, and back to Edinburgh on the train.

Not long enough to see much of our area, but we shall be giving them ‘goody bags’ full of brochures, so hopefully they will all be back again.

The Community Council will meet in December and in January. The first week in January will still be a public holiday so the January Community Council Meeting will be on 9th hopefully the Budget info will be made public before February. .

The Royal British Legion would like to know how many will be attending the parade on 11th if you can let Tracey know please.

Comment Made – With the time of the Remembrance Service being 11am what is happening about the churches.

Bill White said that they have all been advised well in advance. This is the correct time of the service; it is only Galashiels who has not adhered to this in the past.

9. Treasurers Update

SBC Grant now received £1780 bringing a total in the CC account to £13, 886.16.

Community Council have £2251.53 the rest is earmarked funds for trails etc.

£53.20 paid for extra insurance to cover the large items that Gala Waterways hold in their inventory.

10. Secretary’s Update

n/a

11. Cllr Jardine and Cllr Scott

As Cllr Jardine had to leave early Judith will be writing to all 4 of the Elected Members to make sure that they are in attendance at the CC meetings or at least to make sure that a report is received from all Councillors.

Tracey advised that Amey (in connection with Galafoot) are not available to attend a meeting before Christmas but they are at Tweedbank CC next week and 2 reps from this CC can attend if they wish.

Parking and Parking spaces is a serious issue and this is happening all over town and the Cllrs should be addressing this. Especially areas like Balmoral Avenue where the problem is shocking.

12. Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 7th November – 6.30pm Burgh Chambers