



Galashiels Community Council
Burgh Chambers
Wednesday 4th April 2018
6.30pm
Minutes

Present

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Rick Kenney Bill White, Bill Jeffrey, Liz Jardine. Claire Howden, John Hazle Drew Tulley Marion Romeril Eileen Frame

In Attendance

Cllr Jardine

Cllr Aitchison,

Cllr Anderson

3 Members of the Public.

Duncan Hamilton. Doug Wilson – Tweedbank Development.

Callum Hodgson – Border Telegraph, Kevin Janiak -Southern Reporter

Charles Johnston- SBC Michael O'Sullivan

Meeting commenced 6,30pm

Chair Judith Cleghorn welcomed everyone to the meeting and hoped it would be quick due to the weather.

1. Apologies

Tony Brown, Helen Calder, Cllr Scott Celeste Di Vito Kevin Ryalls, Police Scotland Tom Ingoldsby

2. Minutes Approval

An accurate Minute of the Meeting 7th March was approved by Rick Kenney and Seconded by Claire Howden

3. Matters Arising

St Peters Old School building what is happening with this? SBC hope to vacate this at some point during this financial year. The building is getting a general tidy up before it goes up for sale.

Tweedbank developers seem to be saying they are getting a lot of support for the new development plans and it's already been heard that one business may be lost due to this. Judith will write to Shona Haslam.

If Industrial land is constantly being given up then where do we go in the future? Cllrs have not yet seen a planning application

4. Police Update and Questions

Apologies

5. Speakers

Charles Johnston and Michael O'Sullivan

Gala Master Plan- The master plan came about along with the railway development and wasn't intended to happen overnight but over the years, Plans are produced every 5 years.

Lowood Master Plan- This is the site next to the railway and was formally allocated for development. A proper consultation will be done to include a 12 week public consultation.

QA- Will there be a new Bridge? Yes but that is a few years away

Galashiels Town Centre Plan – we need to bring people into the town centres, there a lot of vacant units and we need to do away with the core centre.

Concerns are Channel Street- needs to be a bit more flexible with what retailers we allow in the next 3-4 months- Planning Committee make the decisions about what areas are important.

Different Classes

1 Shops

2. Offices – called dead frontages. We need to get the people used to the idea of change

People are put off by higher rates? Can bigger shops be split so rates are lower? – At this point not an option that has been approached.

Ten year plans will be put in to place in the future.

There is a lot of work ahead before the delivery of the Master plan.

6. Galashiels Academy

Apologies

Defibrillator is on order costing £900. Half is being paid for by Focus and half by CC and hopefully Energise will pay for the case.

Rick pointed out that there is an app available that tells you where the defibs are located in town called - crowdsave aed

7. Sub Groups Update

Development Plan

Judith said we have more than enough going on to fill the development plan

Planning and Licensing Applications

Rick went through planning reports that had been sent for approval

Gala Waterways

Town Spring Clean 7th April.

Group have contacted Network Rail to see if they can get some of the rubbish moved. Also they are hoping to get a business plan together to get some funding.

8. Chairs Update

LRA meeting – Martin Joyce attended with the model of the Tapestry building it was a very good meeting

Localities Bid Money – Gala got nothing – need to push it better next time around.

Still £290k to spend

QA about CGI as nothing has been heard of them for a long while – they are progressing and it will happen eventually

9. Treasurers Update

Accounts are with Auditor

10. Secretary's Update

Walking Festival will soon be upon us and walks are selling very well especially over the last few weeks.

11. SBC Councillors Comments and Questions

Cllr Aitchison left meeting at 7.45pm

Cllr Anderson

Each of the Cllrs are to get maps of the area about where ASB parking is taking place and then they can look in to this. Resident parking permits have been mentioned by a few people

Play park opening 26th May.- There is a group being set up to look at parking and restricted parking at Public Park especially during shows, would any CC be interested in helping – Judith and Marion will help.

A clamped vehicle was noticed in town which was good to see.

Comment made – SBC are paying for policing for the Borders to look at parking and dog fouling, have they not been hoodwinked in to being charged for this – The whole operation is the control of SBC and not Police Scotland

Cllr Jardine- All was available in his report

Comment made about how bad the road is in Scott Street- Is SBC going to foot the bills for repairs?

Comment made – Not enough dropped pavements –

Also small areas of ground next to the railway – vegetation is growing wild: Cllr Jardine will look into these.

12. AOB -Meeting closed 8.10pm

Date of Next Meeting – May 2nd 6.30pm Burgh Chambers