



**Galashiels Community Council**  
**Focus Centre**  
**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019**  
**Minutes**

**Present**

Judith Cleghorn Rick Kenney Tracey Alder Tom Ingoldsby, Drew Tulley, Eileen Frame, Gordon Richardson Liz Jardine. Marion Romeril Bill White

**In Attendance**

Cllr Scott Cllr Jardine

Callum Hodgson Border Telegraph.

Isabel Truscott Border Telegraph

Ally McGilvray – Radio Borders

James Ledgerwood – Head of Economic Development – Abellio Scotrail

8 Members of the public.

**Meeting commenced 6.30pm**

**1. Welcome and Apologies.**

Apologies Cllr Aitchison, Cllr Anderson, Helen Calder Bill Jeffrey Jessie Harrington Lorna Hanif, PC James Harrison

**2. Minutes Approval**

An accurate Minute of the Meeting July 3<sup>rd</sup> was approved by Drew Tulley and Seconded by Liz Jardine

**3. Matters Arising**

**Item 11 amended**

QA- *Is vegetation allowed to overgrow and obstruct a pathway ? the answer is **No** and it's up to the landowners to cut it back. Some are being chased up at present.*

**4. Police Update and Questions**

No Police present – Judith highlighted points from the police report.

**5. Speakers – James Ledgerwood- Head of Economic Development , Abellio Scotrail**

James Ledgerwood gave a very detailed power-point presentation.

He was assigned to his position to look at how the railway network will serve the public.

By the end of 2019 two and a half thousand services will be running each day. By 2025 there will be 129 million passenger journeys made.

There have been 625 thousand seats a day since Abellio took over.

1.7 Million passengers every year are travelling on the Borders.

Mr Ledgerwood admitted that there had been issues with the Borders Services but hoping to improve by having 55 new drivers trained by the end of 2020.

Over 51 thousand people are committed to the Borders Community Rail Partnership with 1100 volunteers working on stations.

QA – Will trains be stopping at Stow permanently- not now but hopefully in the future.

QA – It's a great service until it goes wrong, by the time the train gets to Gorebridge its usually standing room only, do you have enough carriages on the trains because obviously at peak times demand will go up, not only that but passengers need to check hours in advance to make sure the train is running, is this due to a lack in rolling stock? – yes but also lack of trained drivers and overtime issues with unions. The new training should make a difference. 85% are on time 92% is our target.

**6. Sub-groups Update**

**Gala in Bloom**

A request for pay parking money has gone in for £12.000

Cllr Scott confirmed that this has been approved by the Councillors today, following emails between Cllr Aitchison and Judith and further consultations with Craig Blackie and Fiona Cameron.

Straight after Christmas we will look at a fundraising campaign “pay a pound”

Gordon Richardson is looking at leading a new team to Get Gala Tidy . Aiming to get the untidy parts of Town cleared up.

Cllr Jardine suggested that everyone should get online and use the Budget tool that SBC have released to have your say about how money should be spent.

**Gala Waterways**

All is in report. Saturday – Big Clean up.

Donation of 10.000 bin bag been given to waterways

**Christmas Event and Lights**

Judith read out Helen's lights and Event update

1. We are in receipt of the £15k from Localities Bid which was deposited on 18<sup>th</sup> September
2. As agreed, a purchase order was raised for new lights and a cheque for 75% deposit has been paid to Field & Lawn in the amount of £11,043.00
3. Emails have been sent out to all @ GCC requesting help stewarding on the event day 30<sup>th</sup> Nov and I am working on a rota.
4. Men's shed have 8 Market stalls now completed which are now in storage. A further 2 will be completed in the next 2 weeks.
5. We will again be emailing all to request help on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov to erect Market Stalls in Bank Street Gardens and on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec to dismantle.
6. Insurance /awaiting confirmation.

7. Anne Carrie and I are meeting with George Simpson next week to go over the project plan in order to be fully prepared in advance of the SAG meeting in Oct at SBC.
8. Our existing lights are being assessed at the moment however all being well with the key elements that were used last year we have set aside the following evenings on which our volunteer resource will erect them Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Oct thru to Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> Oct / Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Nov to Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> Nov .  
This timeline will give us time to fix any issues that may need attention before our test date
9. Analogue to Digital updated power sources and timers are now in place in the Town Centre to host the lights.  
This work was carried out with SBC approval and paid for from Pay Parking revenue.
10. Test date for both existing lights and new installation is 11 Nov.

## **7. Chairs Comments**

### **Notes for Community Council Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019**

#### **Bank Street Gardens**

Already covered

#### **Event 29<sup>th</sup> October**

SBC have invited the CC to an event at the Volunteer Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct – basically to show off what we do. During a conversation with Mike Gray yesterday, he suggested we display details of the work we will be doing in Bank Street and OGH, the Christmas lights and event and the work of Waterways. We will need photos to support this – any you have please forward to Tracey.

#### **Coopersknowe**

It has been announced that the decision by SBC not to allow Eildon Housing to build 69 new houses at Coopersknowe, instead of the original 58, has been reversed by the Scottish Government on appeal.

This means that there will be even more traffic on the C77 road and therefore more danger for road users and pedestrians.

Already there are issues with heavy lorries going to the Waste Transfer Station and the building sites at Melrose Gait. There is no crossing for children from Melrose Gait across the road if they are walking to school. The roundabout has not materialised, and it doesn't look as if it will any time soon.

Could the Councillors please highlight the dangers on this road that are to increase yet again - there will be even more lorries and heavy traffic during this build. I would not like to think that only a serious accident will get something done about this and I ask that this be looked at as a matter of urgency.

#### **Getting Gala Clean and Tidy**

Previously spoken about - During a conversation between Gordon Richardson and me yesterday, the issue of the tidiness of our town was raised. We agreed that there is a lot to do on this, and Gordon has offered to lead a team to look at this issue. This includes trying to find a solution to the endless black bins – so Gordon, you are taking on a mammoth task. If anyone is interested in helping Gordon get this underway, I am sure he would be delighted.

**Volunteers Night** – this will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> December at the Focus Centre and hosted by the centre for all volunteers to enjoy an evening of relaxing with good food and good entertainment. Invitations will be sent out in due course.

## **8. Treasurers Update**

### **Tom Ingoldsby**

#### **Balance £ 22796.32**

Restricted total £ £20764.70 made up of:

£ 5,115.56, the remainder for the Trails Project.

£ 138.04 for Gala in Bloom

£ 26.23 in Waterways.

£ 14672.87 in Christmas.

£812.00 in Walking Festival.

#### **Expenditure**

A donation of £49.99 was made to Food Train;

£65.00 was for Garden Competition trophies.

Christmas Lights income and expenditure is accounted separately and the sub group is aware of all figures and may report on this.

#### **Income**

There has been no general income in September

#### **Available to Community Council £ 2031.62**

#### **Notes**

£350 is still awaited from Scotrail to cover Station planting. I understand that this payment may have been delayed due to staff illness but suggest that payment should now be pursued.

Tom also noted that some emails concerning Community Council finances are not coming to him directly.

He also requested that the CC look at purchasing equipment ie screen and table for presentation purposes for the Focus Centre following tonight's presentation having to be projected on to the wall. All agreed.

#### **9. Secretary's Update –**

Holistic Craft Fayre on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October Focus Centre 10am till 4pm

#### **10. Vice Chairs update / Planning and Licensing**

No licensing or Planning Applications received this month.

QA – Is there any update on the Trails? – Bill White said that they will soon be looking for volunteers for the Pump Track at Langlee.

#### **11. SBC Councillors Comments and questions**

##### **Cllr Jardine**

Needles were found at Iceland during the last clean up.

A bin is being relocated to Iceland Car park from another area.

Comment made – The lights at the public park burned away in summer but now the dark nights are here there are no lights on . Can this be dealt with once and for all. Do SBC not know how to set a timer?

##### **Cllr Scott**

Banking at Gorse Lane – this is being chased up. A lot of undergrowth has been cut back already.

Replacement signs at Boleside? Cllr Aitchison is dealing with this.

Any news on CCTV? – no update, however there is an online survey that all should fill in to give their views on CCTV

**12. AOB**

\_Old Gala Club are having a major storage issue – Tom will report fully at next meeting.

Gala Local Relief Fund looking at getting a Christmas lunch at Focus Centre for some of the elderly of Galashiels . 20<sup>th</sup> December – 60 places  
10 people recently did a litter pick in the Policies. 80 kg of rubbish was collected, and SBC removed the rubbish.

Comment made – Abbotsford Rd was closed again for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time at the same spot. Why has it needed to be done 3 times in a year and what is the cost ? Cllr Jardine will look in to this.

Meeting ended 8-35pm

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November Focus Centre 6.30pm**