



Galashiels Community Council

Zoom

Wednesday 7th October 2020

6.30pm

MINUTES

In Attendance

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Rick Kenney, Bill White, Liz Jardine, Eileen Frame, Richard Romeril, Marion Romeril, Lorna Hanif

Cllr Anderson

Cllr Jardine

Cllr Scott

Kevin Janiak

Callum Hodgson

5 Members of Public

1. Welcome and Apologies.

Judith welcomed everyone to another zoom meeting of the Community Council

Apologies Cllr Aitchison Gordon Richardson

2. Minutes Approval

An accurate Minute of the Meeting 2nd September via Zoom was approved by Liz Jardine and Seconded by Rick Kenney

3. Matters Arising n/a

4. Planning update – Rick Kenney

Rick had to leave the meeting early so was asked to come in at this point to update on planning.

Rick read out the planning applications for this month there were no adverse comments . The EE 5G mast that is being installed will give much better communication.

5. Sub-groups Update

All information is in the reports from the various sub groups and the SBC Councillors that are sent out each month with the Agenda by Tracey. Judith voiced that from next month we shall just be asking if there are any comments or questions from the sub group leaders and Councillors. Floral Gala- The Thursday Gala in Bloom group are now involved in so much more than they were originally, this work was previously done by SBC . SBC have once again started cutting the grass in Bank Street.

Gala Policies Group – Jill Forsyth – Chair updated that an area had been cleared in the policies with a large amount of bagged stones . With an update from an enforcement officer it appears that some of the houses backing on to the policies are planning to extend their gardens so have cleared the area.

6. Speaker – Chloe Dobson – Livingstreets

Chloe gave an enjoyable update and briefing on what Livingstreets is. Its to encourage more walking on journeys that are made every day and to help elderly people access local communities as Covid has highlighted the need for more exercise . Tracey will be sending out the Presentation that was planned for tonight's meeting to all in attendance tonight.

Rick Kenney left the meeting at 7.15pm

7. Chairs Comments

Gala Remembers

I have been working with Douglas Watt to get access to a shop premises in Channel Street to install, for the Remembrance period, the Focus Cross, and other displays.

I am delighted to report that we have a shop in which to do this – the details are not yet available, but we definitely will be able to put on this display for the town and I will give you further details, by email, when I can.

I would appreciate one or two volunteers to help with the display, so please email me if you will be able to spare a couple of hours later this month, we expect the display to run from November 1st for at least two weeks.

Town Centre, including Station Area

In view of the work done recently on Tapestry Way by SBC, and the ongoing work by various organisation including the Community Council, to make Galashiels a more pleasant place to live in and to encourage visitors to the town, I wondered whether one of our councillors could pursue the issue of cctv for the town centre and the Interchange area.

We were told some time ago, councillors please correct me if I am wrong here, that to replace or upgrade the cctv would be too expensive, but I am concerned that if we want to make our town look better, then I feel we have to safeguard it against possible vandalism and bad behaviour such has been seen in other towns.

If this issue is currently not covered in any budget discussions, could we please be advised what it would cost, and whether there is any other funding that the community could apply for to get this very essential work underway.

Could I ask for comments on this issue please and, if community councillors agree, for one councillor to take this to the relevant table on our behalf. Comment made; Police Scotland are in ongoing talks with SBC about the provision of CCTV and Cllr Scott will welcome this.

Noticeboard

Some months ago, we discussed to possibility of replacing the noticeboard outside the Volunteer Hall. Since then of course, Covid has happened and the Men's Sheds who were to make it for us, have not been meeting.

I just want to advise you that this has not been forgotten – and will be installed as soon as it can be done.

8. Treasurers Update

Funds have been received from SBC for the Watering Devices for the planters.

9. Secretary's Update

Tracey requested if it was possible to have a list of attendees to each Sub group, just for insurance purposes. No data is needed just names please .

10. SBC Councillors Comments and questions

Cllr Jardine - has been dealing with private constituents and drainage at Boleside. The car park at Boleside is getting resurfaced.

Cllr Anderson – confidential constituent issues and meeting regarding the Living wage was attended with Cllr Jardine.

No other business

Cllr Scott – nothing to add but encouraged the Community Council to apply to the Common Good Fund for help with Gala in Bloom.

11. AOB

QA. Are there any plans in place to do an audit of trees, the last one was about 4 years ago?

Comment – thanks to Mark Fairburn for watering planters at War Memorial and to Waverley for hedge cutting at Langlee.

Comment – If the Community Council were to fill in an application form for the Gala Local Relief Fund it could be put forward at the next GLRF meeting.

Date of next meeting by Zoom -Wednesday November 4th 6.30pm