



**Galashiels Community Council**  
**Burgh Chambers**  
**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018**  
**6.30pm**  
**Minutes**

**Present**

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Tom Ingoldsby, Celeste Di Vito, Bill White, Marion Romeril-(left the meeting at 8pm), Bill Jeffrey, Liz Jardine. Claire Howden, John Hazle

**In Attendance**

Kevin Ryalls, Alice Crawford - Academy

10 Members of the public.

Cllr Jardine

Cllr Scott

Martin Joyce – SBC

Chris Wemyss – MacArts

Callum Hodgson – Border Telegraph, Katherine Wylie – Southern Reporter, Ally McGilvray – Radio Borders

Chair Judith Cleghorn welcomed everyone to the meeting and said it was especially nice to see John Hazle back on board after his extended holiday in sunnier warmer climates. Tony Brown and Drew Tulley are still not back with us yet but we send them our best wishes. Tracey added that Liz Jardine was also back with us after being ill, Judith welcomed her back.

**1. Apologies**

Drew Tulley Tony Brown, Rick Kenney Helen Calder Eileen Frame, Cllr Aitchison, Cllr Anderson

**2. Minutes Approval**

An accurate Minute of the Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> December was approved by Marion Romeril and Seconded by Tom Ingoldsby

**3. Matters Arising**

n/a

**4. Police Update and Questions**

No police present

**5. Speakers**

**Martin Joyce Assets and Infrastructure –SBC- Tapestry of Scotland and Cultural Centre**

Planning consent went through in Dec 2017

Demolition of Poundstretcher will be in March

Building will start in September – opening will be April

Everything is all going to plan and finance is in place.

On the ground floor there will be a Café, Gift Shop, Toilets and the Tapestry will take over the entire first floor.

The Old Post Office building will be taken over for education facilities. The Tapestry building will also house other displays.

Ground floor provides temporary gallery space too.

Live Borders will be in control of the day to day running.

Architects Page and Park.

QA Are there any plans to put any artwork outside the building or behind the Old Post Office? It is proposed that the Post Office will be joined to the Cultural centre by means of a walkway from one building to the other. A piece of art is being looked at for the entrance to the building and possibly for Channel Street too.

QA Are all the individual groups and organisations in Gala working together to support this? People on the street are still saying they don't want it. MJ – All of the groups that have been spoken and presented to have supported it. Judith Cleghorn Chair said that the Community Council are supporting it. Cllr Scott said he was totally against it at first but now is looking forward to it.

**Chris Wemyss – MacArts**

MacArts is centred in old St Andrews Church. Took this over in 2009 and secured funding for 1 paid member of staff.

Only income is what is brought in through the door.

There are a few major structural issues that need attending to with the building but other than that it is doing ok.

Lately there have been a few notices of national recognition.

On occasions we have taken more tickets than the Eastgate.

Some good well known bands have been playing lately.

There are great plays that have come directly from the Edinburgh Fringe.

We are hoping to open a community café and have lots of new ideas ready to try in the future.

## **6. Galashiels Academy – Alice Crawford**

Alice Crawford who teaches Social Subjects (Coming to the CC again in March) Getting young people engaged in Philanthropy. Each year a prize is awarded and last year's winners were BANG – Borders Additional Needs Group  
On the Agenda for next month will be the subject of the 4 year partnership that is set up with PAS – Planning Aid Scotland – young people add value to the wider community so the aim is to reach those not so forward in the community.  
Pupil Alastair told us how the S6's have helped the S2's to think about the future of Galashiels.  
Tesco – Bags for life - the Academy made £4000 –just from those little blue tokens.

## **7. Sub Groups Update**

### **Planning and Licensing Applications**

Rick Kenney absent

### **Gala Waterways**

One big clean up will take place on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Waterways are looking at getting some funding and have contacted Clare Penny about this.

## **8. Chairs Update**

Bill White spoke briefly at this point to inform everyone of the good news that the Trails funding had come through from Awards for all; this will allow Pete Laing the winning Tender applicant to do the scoping of the plans. Lots of consultations will be going on and it will take all summer but Pete reckons it could be equally as good as Glentress.

Bill also mentioned that the Localities Bid Funding was now sorted and that there are quite a few good projects from Gala.

Judith took over at this point and firstly mentioned that the Asset Transfer of the Focus Centre was finally moving and the centre had received written permission from both SBC and Live Borders to go ahead. Next thing is to see about getting a really robust Business Plan

## **9. Treasurers Update**

The current balance in the account is £ 1030.00. This is the amount that was in the Treasurers report but Tom apologised for not taking off recent expenditure which includes Office Bearers Honorariums totalling £600 and outstanding repayment from the Forestry Commission for Chainsaw Training, leaving £217.00 in the CC account.

## **10. Secretary's Update**

A budget of £400 was agreed at the last meeting for the Secretary to purchase a new printer. A new one was purchased for less than £300.

Tracey gave an update on the Weekend Walking Festival which is again taking place the last weekend in April. We are just at the point of putting the Brochure together. All the walks are sorted but we still need helpers if anyone is interested.

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

### **Cllr Jardine**

### **Cllr Scott**

Reports sent out with Agendas- Tracey updated those that had been away for a few months that this is now a new way that the reports go out, which makes it easier for them to be read before the meeting and then questions can be prepared before the meeting.

QA- Taxi Rank – Taxi's are parking at the entrance to Douglas Bridge by Lloyds Pharmacy waiting for a space to become free on the rank. Cllrs will take this up with Licensing Dept.

QA - Galashiels Swimming Pool. –This is the last swimming pool in the Borders to get any funding – Why? Lockers are unable to take the new £1coins as the locks have not yet been changed, 5 doors have to be gone through to get to the pool and this is pretty bad if the swimmer happens to be a wheelchair user.

## **12. AOB**

**Date of Next Meeting – March 7<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm – Burgh Chambers**