



Galashiels Community Council
Burgh Chambers
Wednesday 7th March 2018
6.30pm
Minutes

Present

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Rick Kenney Tom Ingoldsby Bill White, Bill Jeffrey, Liz Jardine. Claire Howden, John Hazle Drew Tulley

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

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

Tony Brown, Helen Calder Eileen Frame, Cllr Scott Celeste Di Vito Marion Romeril Kevin Ryalls, Police Scotland

2. Minutes Approval

An accurate Minute of the Meeting 1st February was approved by John Hazle and Seconded by Tom Ingoldsby

3. Matters Arising

n/a

4. Police Update and Questions

Apologies

5. Speakers

Doug Wilson and Duncan Hamilton – Tweedbank Development

Development plans at Tweedbank for a 60 bed roomed Hotel, A drive through coffee shop, Petrol Filling Station with Marks and Spencer Food kiosk and a Supermarket- being run by a father and son business – New Land Assets.

Consultation Event ongoing - visiting as many organisations as possible.

Planning Application will be in during Mid May

Hopes to start work early 2019

QA- Will this have any effect on the Melrose Hydro Hotel? Not at all, it is a different aspect of Hotel.

QA – Is the new Hotel part of a current chain – yes it is

The Chair gave her concern as is the view of many that over 10 years ago Galashiels was promised a new hotel with conference facilities and we are still waiting, Cllr Jardine said that the council is working hard to get a hotel for Galashiels.

Comment made; there really is no need for another petrol filling station, we could see the possible loss of a Galashiels petrol station if this new one goes ahead.

QA- With the kiosk at the petrol station being owned by M&S this won't mean the loss of M&S in Gala? Not at all

Cllr Aitchison – The Burgh Yard will be remarketed soon.

This new Hotel could be the catalyst to bring a Hotel to Galashiels but the chain would need to see how well the hotel does first.

Comment made-Tracey Alder-I personally don't think we can wait to see how well the Tweedbank Hotel does or doesn't do; we have waited far too long already.

Comment made – The Food retailer will be a big impact and take away the footfall from Gala.

An area of 1300sqm is a big area for Tweedbank.

There will need to be trees removed because whatever business is put on this site it will want to be seen and at present the area is screened by trees.

Bill White - CC needs to get someone from SBC to find out what is happening regarding the local development plan

6. Galashiels Academy

Apologies

7. Sub Groups Update

Development Plan

Judith was pleased to announce that the Development plan has been updated and she will email a copy out to everyone.

Planning and Licensing Applications

Rick Kenney went through the licensing and planning applications and all proposed applications were agreed to by the CC.

Gala Waterways

One big clean up will take place on April 7th.

No meeting taken place as yet.

8. Chairs Update

Chair picked out points from her report and started by saying that The Resilient Communities Plan will be taken forward by John Hazle and Tom Ingoldsby and anyone else who would like to volunteer. There should have been more done to help out during the latest wintry onset.

Events Group – Bill Jeffrey joining the group.

Judith asked what were the Community Councils thoughts on this year's Christmas lights?. Responses were dire, very poor. Judith will need to speak to the Chamber of Trade and see what they say. The main issue is finding people to help put the lights up. It's a hefty task.

Gala in Bloom – Money received from Scotrail for the planting on the station has gone down to £350 which is half of what we got in the beginning.

9. Treasurers Update

The current balance in the account is £ 430.00 available balance. £9890 trails money and we are expecting a cheque from the forestry commission for £956.00

10. Secretary's Update

Tracey pointed out that the brochures were now ready for the walking festival and we have had our first few bookings already.

Tracey also read out an email from the family of an ex sports coach from Galashiels Jimmy Curran, as they wished to know if his success was recorded anywhere. Tracey was able to get back to the family to tell them that there is a Jimmy Curran trophy presented to the female winner of the sports during Braw Lads week and Gala Harriers have got cups dedicated to Jimmy Curran.

11. SBC Councillors Comments and Questions

Cllr Aitchison

Job Centre is staying where it is for the foreseeable future.

Community Bids – the voting boxes are still out due to the adverse weather – hoping votes will be sorted in a week's time

Enquiry re the removal of the poppies from the war memorial has this been sorted? Tracey acknowledged that there was supposed to be representation from the RBL at one of the CC meetings to sort this out but no one turned up ... The poppies definitely need leaving longer.

QA – is anything being done about Coulter's Candy? This has been passed to Graham McIver to take forward.

QA – Social work dept at top of Scott Street was due to close but it's still open and still the outside is in an unkempt state. Cllr Aitchison has asked Tracy Logan about what is going on with it.

Cllr Anderson all noted in his report

Cllr Jardine

Swimming pool £1 coin machines are being changed to tokens that will be available at reception. Also Automatic doors will be fitted which will be wheelchair friendly .Ben Lamb the Service Manager from Live Borders would like to attend a Community Council meeting

12. AOB

New seating has been put in the Volunteer Hall why has no publicity been done about this? Not all have been replaced but why do we have to turn up at the place and find out.

Judith spoke briefly about the Credit Union and the Focus Centre Asset Transfer saying she will keep the Community Council updated as it progresses.

Bill White touched on Anti Social Behaviour – look at sitting down with the police to find out what is being done about it. There are various services being reduced or shut down because of it.

QA- Why did Tweedbank have 3 Gritters going about the roads when we hardly saw 1 in Gala??

Comment made – John Hazle spoke about a Model Railway Club that he has wanted to start for some time. An E shaped set up has been acquired but now need premises with cheap rates to house the set up and hold the club.

A7 South of Gala is trunked we need to make sure that some money is used on the A7 North of Gala – John Hazle will be resuming his part on this group.

Selkirk Bypass- we should all be supporting this. Months

Poppies 2018 motioned to call it Gala Remembers.

Bike Trails – Pete Laing would like to meet with all the groups involved. It should take two and half months for the consultation. Then Aug he will come with the plans

Date of Next Meeting – April 4th 6.30pm – Burgh Chambers