



**Galashiels Community Council
Burgh Chambers
Wednesday December 5th 2018
6.30pm**

Minutes

Present

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Rick Kenney Tom Ingoldsby, Eileen Frame, Bill Jeffrey, Bill White, Claire Howden, Celeste Di Vito, Marion Romeril, Liz Jardine arrived 18.50pm

In Attendance

Cllr Anderson Cllr Scott

PC James Harrison

Kevin Janiak – Southern Reporter, Callum Hodgson .Border Telegraph. Ally McGilvray – Radio Borders

Cllr Jardine arrived 18.50pm

Meeting commenced 6.30pm

Chair Judith Cleghorn opened the meeting.

1. Apologies. Helen Calder Drew Tulley Cllr Aitchison

2. Minutes Approval

An accurate Minute of the Meeting 7th November was approved by Marion Romeril and Second by Tom Ingoldsby

3. Matters Arising – this agenda item was addressed after the Speakers left.

Readdressing the item of the Mossilee development it was voiced by Drew Tulley that he had requested an onsite meeting for all Community Councillors who were not aware of the actual site at Mossilee before he had gone away and no site meeting took place. Rick voiced that he was not contacted directly by Mr Tulley only by forwarded email from Tracey

4. Police Update and Questions

PC Harrison went through the police report. He added that it had been a busy month with police being very active in preparation for the festive season. They will be targeting road safety and speeding.

12th Dec there will be a stall in Tesco with all the Emergency Services giving out information and leaflets.

PC Harrison left at 6.45pm

5. Speakers N/A

6. Galashiels Academy

Reps from the Academy have been absent for quite a while so Tracey will email Kevin to see if and when they will be returning.

Tom added that he had been approached by the Borders Youth Voice who would be happy to have a couple of their members attend the Community Council meetings.

Question asked to Cllr Anderson following him not voting a positive yes in the recent vote on the Council paper for a new School to be built in Galashiels. It was suggested that perhaps Cllr Anderson puts his Politics before the people in the area that he represents? Cllr Anderson said he did not vote against the building of a School in Galashiels he just voted for the amendment to be looked at as it gave him cause for concern.

A discussion on this took place as this has been a prime issue for Galashiels, Bill White said in 2002 the plea for a school was started and we have been no nearer to this until now. We all need to be behind a new school.

Comment: Rick asked how the other 3 Cllrs voted. All voted for the school.

7. Sub Groups Update

Gala in Bloom

Concert .at the Focus Centre on 15th December money raised on the night will be split between Gala in Bloom and Langlee Choir.

Planning and Licensing Applications

Rick went through his planning report for this month. Bill White pointed out in regards to the Persimmon Development at Easter Langlee that the roundabout that was promised for the Melrose Road to take on the increase in traffic has still not been put in.

Tweedbank Development – last date for responding is 19th December but an extension can be applied for. This is an area of light industry so why should the development go ahead. They refused the building of an area of soft play for this area so why should they allow a hotel etc? Rick will draft a response from all of the Community Councils views on this.

Gala Waterways

Last work party was 1st Dec when 19 kilos of rubbish was collected.

Risk Assessment for GWG, they have no first aid apart from a few Elastoplasts that are taken to work parties. Judith advised Claire to purchase a kit. No First Aider- Red Cross does training – GWG to look in to this and come back to CC with costs.

No Competent Person? –Tom researched this and he suggests that more than one person in the group can be described as competent especially the person qualified to use the chainsaw. Someone within the group can do the risk assessment. Tom has added GWG risk assessment requirements on the form.

Risk Assessment document was approved and signed by Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

8. Chairs Update

Judith suggested that we consider moving to the Focus Centre for future meetings because yet again it is freezing cold here in the chambers even though Tracey did remind the Caretaker to make sure the heating would be on. Tracey will let the Caretaker know for future meetings we will not be requiring the building open. Also could the press announce the change of venue?

9. Treasurers Update

Total now available to the CC of £1984.80.

Half of the trails bill is now paid to Pete Laing

£250 given to the Special needs unit at the Academy as they are in desperate need.

10. Secretary's Update

n/a

11. SBC Councillors Comments and questions

Cllr Anderson

Involved with Living Streets – which is looking at walking to work and making the streets safer to use for Wheelchair users, disabled and visually impaired.

Went to the Scottish Parliament today in relation to Sustainable Towns but will do a report on this.

Cllr Scott

Councillor Scott answered questions sent in by an absent member of the Community Council

- Regarding Mossilee - could we establish SBC's future plans for parking when giving planning permission for new housing developments?
This is laid out in the SBC Local Development Plan as 2 parking spaces per new dwelling, as far as I am aware. Should that change I will inform Gala CC.
- Regarding the Tweedbank proposed project - did B&Q buy the land and have they sold it on as building land for the proposed development at a huge profit
This is private land and any change or sale will be between the private parties involved unless one wishes to disclose that information.
- Regarding an hotel for Galashiels - is there any real interest or progress on Burgh Yard - or on any other site in the Galashiels area?
Several notes of interest have been received in relation to the Burgh Yard, several of which have plans for a hotel included.
- It should be noted that, heading south from Galashiels, the field beyond the Kingsknowes Hotels on the RHS, belongs to SBC - could this not be a good site for an hotel?
The site may be suitable, but personally I would rather see a hotel built in Galashiels rather than on a site next door to the Kingsknowes Hotel.

12. AOB

Tapestry is 6 months behind and still work not gone out to tender what is going on ?

Slates on Market Square are starting to crack – Judith will contact Craig Blackie

13. Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 9th January 2019 – 6.30pm – Focus Centre