



Galashiels Community Council
Focus Centre
Wednesday November December 4th, 2019
Minutes

Present

Judith Cleghorn Rick Kenney Tracey Alder Tom Ingoldsby, Drew Tulley, Eileen Frame, Gordon Richardson Marion Romeril Lorna Hanif, Dougie Johnston

In Attendance

Cllr Scott Cllr Jardine
Paul Kelly – Southern Reporter
Callum Hodgson – Border Telegraph
Bonnie Fairbrass – Gala Policies Group
5 Members of the public.

Meeting commenced 6.30pm

1. Welcome and Apologies.

Judith welcomed those present to the meeting but noted we were a bit thin on the ground this evening
Apologies Cllr Aitchison Cllr Anderson, PC James Harrison, PC James Entwistle Liz Jardine. Jessie Harrington Bill Jeffrey, Helen Calder Bill White,
Tracey passed on an email from Cllr Aitchison voicing his apologies due to ongoing illness. Tracey will pass on good wishes from all of the Community Council to Cllr Sandy Aitchison

2. Minutes Approval

An accurate Minute of the Meeting November 6th was approved by Tom Ingoldsby and Seconded by Drew Tulley

3. Matters Arising

n/a

4. Police Update and Questions

No Police present – Cllr Harry Scott had looked in to recent absences of Police at meetings. He received assurances from the Divisional and Area Commanders that this matter this matter will be addressed and steps taken to ensure attendance at CC's was included as a priority for Community Constables.

5. Speakers – Bonnie Fairbrass – Gala Policies Group

The group was started in August, previously there was a Gala Policies and Langlee Woods Group, but this group stopped meeting quite a few years back. Judith asked if there was a possibility of Langlee Woods being brought back in to the equation and she would ask if any Langlee residents would get on board.
To date there have been a number of litter picks done to tidy up the area. Basically, tidying up after the children from the academy. The defeatist attitude has to be stopped and the children made aware and to show some respect to the local areas of nature. The policies is an asset that is underused. The group would like to tackle dog fouling and hold 2 litter picks each month. 35kg of rubbish was collected by the group and 30kg of that was from kids.
The plan is to make the area wheelchair friendly with special focus on use for Mental Health with events and workshops for the benefit of the town.
Bonnie asked if it would be possible if the Policies could become a sub – group of the Community Council? This question was put to the members by Judith and all agreed it would be a good idea.

Cllr Euan Jardine to look in to new bins at Stirches.

6. Sub-groups Update

Gala in Bloom

Plants for Bank Street and Old Gala House have been ordered.

Tubs on the station platform need moved and cleaned.

Judith to chase up the £350 from Scotrail.

Gala Waterways

All is in report.

Christmas Event and Lights

A meeting will take place on 6th January as follow up to the Event on 30th November

In Helen Calder's absence , Lorna Hanif thanked everyone for their help in putting on the successful day, all members of CC offered their thanks to the Gala Lights and Events group for their hard work.

Galashiels Weekend Walking Festival

First ,meeting was held in November, not many in attendance but those present know exactly what they are doing and their roles. Tracey is again taking the lead on the festival with Dougie Johnston being in charge of Walks, Spreadsheets and Leaders.

Couple of new people will be leading this year Gary Blair who was a newbie at this year's festival and Helen Houston who is a qualified hill and fell walker.

Next meeting January.

Resilient Gala

Dougie Johnston and Gordon Richardson are leading this new sub group. Judith has been in touch with the resilient communities' team at SBC and litter seems to be the biggest problem at the moment, but major incidents will also be dealt with should they arise. These being anything from adverse weather conditions to accidents on any scale where help and public intervention is required .

Judith noted that we now have 6 sub-groups .

7. Chairs Comments

Judith voiced her concerns about the Borders railway after travelling on what was a dangerous journey for all concerned. 5.23pm from Edinburgh Waverley to Tweedbank had 3 coaches with 6 coaches worth of people on them with another 6 carriages worth waiting to get on the next train. People were pushing and shoving, there was no room and no air . Tracey caught the train exactly an hour later which was just the same inside, no room, no air.

1500 more seats have been announced from 15th December. CC to write to Alex Hines via the transport minister.

8. Treasurers Update

Balance £33,097.33

Restricted total £ £23812.87 made up of:

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

£ 13,038.04 for Gala in Bloom

£ -26.97 in Waterways.

£ 12,769.05 in Christmas.

£ 812.00 in Walking Festival.

Expenditure

£100 to John Nichol for the Volunteer event entertainment

£30 for sundries

Christmas Lights income and expenditure is accounted separately. The sub group is aware of all figures and may report on this. My figure is purely indicative as expenditure and income will continue in the short term following the successful event on 30 November.

Income

£12000 from Scottish Borders Council pay parking money to cover costs for planting in the town in 2020.

£100 from Gray Sanderson for planting

£500 from British Legion to cover planting at the War Memorial.

Available to Community Council £ 2,189.65

Notes

£350 is still awaited from Scotrail to cover Station planting this year.

Figures are subject to further checking to confirm totals.

Tom proposed giving £100 to both of the new sub groups to get them started- all agreed.

9. Secretary's Update –

10. Planning and Licensing

Rick talked through the planning and Licensing applications for this month – no questions followed.

11. SBC Councillors Comments and questions

Cllr Jardine

Re question raised re banners at public park, Cllr Jardine waiting on someone getting back to him about this.

Cllr Scott

Burgh building is due an upgrade and will be looked at.

Cllr Scott advised that petitions are an excellent way of getting things looked at that are within SBC's remit

Police Scotland have a survey on their website and this needs as many people as possible to take the survey.

12. AOB

Marion Romeril – Queens Centre – The netball teams are losing out on the use of the hall . Marion was offered just half of the hall for her team and knows that other teams are suffering too. Could this be looked at?

Comment -Pete Laing is not in attendance even though he is on the Agenda- Judith said that he will be at the February meeting.

Comment made – Fire at Peebles school re replacement, has the pecking order now changed on how schools will be placed to be redeveloped/rebuilt. Can Cllrs keep us up to date? Cllr Scott said in due course all questions will be answered but at the moment it's too soon following the fire.

Comment made – both press in attendance tonight but nothing ever in the newspaper about what is happening in the town, Judith said she disagreed and that there are always articles about the Town . If people want to find out more then they should attend our monthly meetings.

Date of next meeting Focus Centre- Wednesday February 5th 6.30pm