



Galashiels Community Council
Focus Centre
Wednesday 3rd July 2019
6.30pm

Minutes

Present

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Tom Ingoldsby, Drew Tulley, Bill Jeffrey Bill White, Eileen Frame, Helen Calder, Lorna Hanif, Gordon Richardson

In Attendance

Cllr Scott Cllr Anderson,
Kathryn Wylie –Southern Reporter, Callum Hodgson Border Telegraph.
PC James Harrison

3 Members of the public.

Meeting commenced 6.30pm

1. Welcome and Apologies.

Chair Judith Cleghorn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies Marion Romeril. Rick Kenney Jessie Harrington Liz Jardine Cllr Aitchison, Cllr Jardine.

2. Minutes Approval

An accurate Minute of the Meeting June 5th was approved by Tom Ingoldsby and Seconded by Drew Tulley

3. Matters Arising

4. Police Update and Questions

PC James read out the Police report.

Comment made about drug dealing in Scott Park – Police are very much aware.

Boy Racers at Netherdale carpark area by bridge. Police will look in to this.

Problem regarding speeding of traffic on the High Road, could be some monitoring going on at the moment Cllr Scott will speak to Craig Blackie at SBC about this.

5. Speakers – Nikki Hood –Sent apologies due having a minor accident.

6. Sub-groups Update

Gala in Bloom

Gala Waterways

All is in report. Liz Jardine away on holiday

Christmas Event and Lights

The Community Council were successful in their application to the BIDS for the Christmas light fund, things are progressing well – full update for next meeting. A lot of Galashiels organisations were successful with the BIDS well done to everyone.

7. Chairs Comments

Judith read out an email that she had received from Ross Sharpe – Dent about the route of the wagons that would carry the waste from the Waste Transfer Station however Tracey as Secretary had received a completely different route in an email from Cllr Aitchison. Judith asked the SBC Councillors if they could shed any light on this issue and they could not say either way only that they thought this was the reason that Lowood Bridge had been strengthened previously... The SBC Cllrs will query this.

QA regarding how much is all this costing and Cllr Scott and Cllr Anderson said that they had not been told as they were only admin status of this part of SBC.

It was suggested that a meeting be organised with the Chief Exec of SBC and some questions need asking about the roundabout issue which has been brought up many times.

8. Treasurers Update

£449.91 is available to CC with £1780 Grant funding pending.

£350 still to come from Scotrail.

Walking Festival money still to be added too.

Adhering to the public pound is still questionable and should be tasked by the new Review board starting August.

Tesco Centenary Grant was briefly spoken about .

9. Secretary's Update – n/a

10. Vice Chairs update / Planning and Licensing

Rick sent in apologies after a telephone call with Tracey during the meeting. He asked if the Tweedbank Development could be discussed and if the CC members could be swayed one way or the other in to a majority of support of this project or not.

Comment made : this development should be put on land owned by SBC and not land procured for industry. Cllr Scott said protection is not a reason for rejection. Comment made that we should make this Town a destination and then the hotel business might look at Gala. No decision was achieved at the meeting .

11. SBC Councillors Comments and questions

A breakdown of the pay parking money used at the public park was given . Cllr Scott and Cllr Anderson felt they had been misled over the amount of money that was put in to the play park from Pay Parking funds.

There needs to be a policy change regarding Housing Developments and the provision of playparks and why are so many playparks being shut down?

It was noted that when David Parker came to the meeting to speak about the play park nothing was mentioned about the pay parking money as it would have been minuted by Tracey

QA – Why do some areas pay for parking and others don't? Its controlled by Traffic Management.

Toilet facilities at play park are needed.

12. AOB

Gala Day credit to Braw Lads Committee and SBC Cleansing dept. Town was so clean on the Sunday .

QA – Why are public toilets locked on Gala Day – Cllr Scott will look in to this.

Congratulations to CC Member and President of the Braw Lads Executive Bill White for a whole week and Saturday full of enjoyment for all.

Gala Policies – new group being reformed as there was one set up years ago. Cllr Jardine taking lead on setting this up.

Signage to Refuse centre been upgraded.

Pinch point – Huddersfield St still no further on.

Grass Cutting – re obstacles – signage has been demolished and its not being conveyed by SBC to employees who are cutting the grass where the obstacles are.

Community Council Constitution needs updating . Tracey added it's a generic Constitution used by SBC for all local Community Councils, but we have managed to get various points changed in the past . This will be looked at after the summer break.

Addendum

At a meeting of the Community Council Office Bearers, where a responsible time frame was duly bound upon, Office Bearers took the action of making the decision that considering all facts the Galashiels Community Council would not be held accountable under any circumstances for the cost of Stress Testing of Catenary wires which had previously not been tested for some 10 years. This would be at a cost of £2500 per annum.

Tom Ingoldsby and Rick both argued the same case; asking what the cost of the lights would be, up keep of lights , insurance, electricity? as this will not be for one year but for each coming year and concluded that the CC not be held responsible.

Tom said any money for such additions would need to come from funds raised by the Gala lights and Events group, the CC gets £1780 per year to do our best with. It is nowhere near enough to support this fund.

Tracey agreed and added that the Community Council cannot be held responsible for any insurance incurred inclusive of public liability insurance and this too will need to come from the funding that is going on at the moment by the Gala lights and Events group, funding will need to continue each year for ongoing Christmas lights and events.

Also, the people taking over the wooden sheds for selling at the Christmas Event etc will need to provide their own PLI as it won't be covered by CC unless the sub group fundraising now are happy to take this on too.

Judith spoke and said she agreed wholeheartedly and that Gala Community Council have a lot more going on for other projects in the Town that they too need to be raising funds for, so no, she does not agree any funding should come from CC money towards Christmas lights, stress testing etc.

Date of next meeting Wednesday September 4th Focus Centre 6.30pm