



**Galashiels Community Council
Burgh Chambers
Wednesday 6th March 2019
6.30pm**

Minutes

Present

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Rick Kenney Tom Ingoldsby, Eileen Frame, Bill Jeffrey, Bill White, Jessie Harrington, Helen Calder.

Marion Romeril, Liz Jardine, Drew Tulley.

In Attendance

Cllr Scott Cllr Jardine Cllr Aitchison,

PC Jamie Entwistle

Doddie Turner, John Carr – Galashiels Academy

Norrie Tait – CLDT

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

16 Members of public

Meeting commenced 6.30pm

1. Welcome and Apologies.

Chair Judith Cleghorn opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Apologies – Celeste Di Vito, Cllr Anderson, and Tony Brown – it was agreed that a card be sent to Tony who is unwell once again.

2. Minutes Approval

An accurate Minute of the Meeting February 6th was approved by Marion Romeril and Seconded by Eileen Frame

3. Matters Arising

N/A

4. Police Update and Questions

PC Entwistle went through the police report for January. – Full report was sent out.

Community Initiative being trialled in Scotland which is used a lot in England – Community Speed Watch which is Speed monitoring by volunteer members of the public. 3 volunteers needed for each area.

SBC are recruiting another Dog Handler.

Comment Made – re the unfortunate and sad death at the Golf Course recently, the police came all the way from Eyemouth, surely this is a misuse of resources, and surely there was a team nearer? This will be looked in to.

5. Speakers

Doddie Turner/John Carr – Galashiels Academy Pupils

The lads gave an excellent presentation on Health and Wellbeing in Galashiels various organisations had been spoken to. Their findings: Alcohol is an issue, too much litter, Mental Health is neglected, Drugs an issue, vaping more than smoking is now more of an issue, transport.

Sport is very prominent.

All agreed it was an excellent presentation, Cllr Jardine voiced that there would be a new Sports Development coming in from Live Borders. Disability Sports will be looked at, Street Games and Athletics team getting £5000 worth of new kit to name a few.

Judith voiced that Academy Head Mr Ryalls used to attend meetings with various pupils. Judith asked Norrie Tait – Community Learning Development Team Leader if he would ask any students if they would come along on a regular basis.

6. Sub Groups Update

Gala in Bloom

Judith will attend SBC with John Gray on 14th March to find out what the situation is with the planting for the future.

Scotrail donated £350 for Station planting and decoration. Again Lowood Nursery will be doing this.

The Bloom group do litter-picks as well as looking after planting and have collected 100 bags of litter.

Tracey introduced a member of the public who has recently set up a facebook page called Gala Against Litter Anywhere and is looking at getting involved with like minded groups who want to rid the town of the litter.

Litter picking equipment is available from SBC

Gala Waterways

Liz Jardine read out the monthly report for Gala Waterways as was sent out to Community Council.

Seventeen volunteers cleared rubbish on the left (north) bank of the Gala Water from the viewpoint near the Skinworks Cauld (weir) downstream beyond Halfords. They collected 97 kg of rubbish, around 400 kg of metal pipes and bars, and other large items.

One interesting item was part of a gravestone on river bank near Hunters Bridge "The inscription read 1856 aged 10 years Bessie Oct. 1856–Oct.1866".

Payment from the Community Council funds for thick gloves for the Waterways group were requested and agreed.

Comment made by a member of the public who had photographic evidence of the state that the SBC dump is in.. SBC Cllrs need to be taking notice and doing something about it as the rubbish is not being covered over as it is dumped.

Christmas Event and Lights

The Event is staying highly confidential until such time the group feel is appropriate.

Funding applications gone in as well as Localities Bid of £15,000

3 lighting companies have been met with looking at new lighting and also looking at lights we have already

7. Chairs Comments

Beech Avenue Play park

Under the Langlee Regeneration plans, Waverley Housing intends to take over the play park area in Beech Avenue to build houses on.

However, the Play Park is sitting in our accounts as an asset of the LRA – at a value of £57,042.

Our accountant advised me to contact the National Lottery (the Big Lottery at the time) to ask their advice – as they had given us the largest part of the £104k it cost to build the play park – £84k.

I duly did this and have been advised that the National Lottery may ask for the whole or part of the £84k they gave us to be returned is this play park is removed.

They are taking legal advice on this issue and will get back to me.

Waverley Housing have advised that they MAY put in other play parks in , basically, out of the way places in the scheme.

On a personal basis, I spent many hours working to get the play park – as did others and I feel reluctant to let it go, apart from the financial complications it would cause with the National Lottery.

Although it has been vandalised several times, it is a well-used, and I guess it is no more vandalised than any other one.

I would like this meetings advice/comment on this current situation and what we should be telling Waverley Housing/ our accountant and the National Lottery.

A discussion ensued about the Langlee Play Park and all agreed for Judith and the members of the LRA to stick to their guns and hold on to what has proved to be the biggest asset and that is the Play Park.

Street Naming at Melrose Gait

A decision was made for this first 3 street naming in this phase of development. It was helped along by a 16 strong public.

John Collins Crescent

Bill Lamb Crescent

Adam Kelly Way

Judith introduced newly co-opted Community Council Member Jessie Harrington is particularly good at getting involved and getting her hands dirty.

8. Treasurers Update

The total funds that is now available to the CC of £939.17

Tom has still not heard anything from the legion regarding the invoice for the wreath for the Remembrance Service despite calls and emails.

9. Secretary's Update

Tracey let everyone know that the lovely Walking Festival leaflets were now here if anyone wants them and added Judith's son had once again done a good job with design.

Tracey handed out to all CC Members a copy of the Community Council Code of Conduct which according to a Borders Councillor doesn't exist. Ours was adopted by SBC in 2007 and could now do with revising. Tracey asked that the CC look at the paper and if any areas are considered to be in need of revision please get back to Tracey and she will send comments to SBC.

Volunteer HiVis vests will be ordered this week.

Two benches were discovered broken on a recce of a walk that is part of the walking festival . I contacted Craig Blackie but he said its not his department

10. Vice Chairs update / Planning and Licensing

Rick read out the proposed application to turn the old Roxburgh Dental Practice in to flats.

QA re Tweedbank development – nothing heard yet.

Bill White spoke about the Trails

Residents, Golf Course and Landowners have been met with.

A Facebook page is being put up.

Public meeting end of April

11. SBC Councillors Comments and questions

Cllr Scott

Cllr Scott made his feelings perfectly clear about how he feels about this year's Council Budget from the Scottish Government that signifies exactly why he remains an Independent Councillor and made his thoughts known and highlighted that the Scottish Government is planning on spending £28.6 million on promoting Gaelic He opposed this and the Council Tax Increase also the establishment of a second Police Community Action Team. It's the Tax payers that suffer all of the time.

The Council budget was discussed with all present by all 3 Cllrs in attendance at the meeting in particular Police Scotland and the second CAT Team of which Cllr Aitchison does support.

Cllr Jardine

All is included in his report

Cllr Aitchison

The Community Council budget is staying the same again for this year but it will be reviewed. Tracey pointed out that in her time as Secretary for 12 years the budget has remained the same and times are changing and this Community Council especially is now more active and working than it ever has been under the present Chair. Tom added that the payment always comes through late to the point of it being half way through the year at times before we get it. Cllr Aitchison added that it will be looked at and handled as part of the Eildon Area Partnerships.

QA – regarding the hole in the road at Market Street area, no one ever seems to be working on it . – Cllr Scott said he is working on it.

QA– Where are we with the Tapestry building? Cllr Aitchison said it was confidential at the moment but we are nearly there, he was then asked why it was so hard to get answers to questions when they are asked especially when they are regarding issues that are of a great matter of importance.

Comment made and questions asked regarding SB Health and Social Care closing down all day centres in the Scottish Borders? Lots of people need respite and day centre services.

Cllr Jardine read out an email from one of the leading voices in this field. (Cllr Jardine sought permission for it to be included in the Minutes)

Older Peoples Local Area Co-ordination (LAC) Service – Elected Members Briefing

Following the successful introduction of older peoples local area co-ordination (LAC) in the Berwickshire area, the Scottish Borders Health & Social Care Partnership is extending this approach to older adults across the Borders; covering Cheviot and Central areas in Phase 2, followed by Teviot and Tweeddale in Phase 3.

Over the last 4 years there has been a dramatic decrease in people attending older people's day services and an increase in people using self-directed support arrangements to take part in activities of more interest to them and in their own communities. By disinvesting in fixed buildings based teams and investing in the right types of support in the community via the LAC approach, including the introduction of community link workers, older people will receive the appropriate support to maintain their existing networks or develop new ones if they become socially isolated.

The award winning Older Peoples' Community Capacity Building Team has been very successful in supporting older people and the new LAC team will incorporate this team into the new structure.

Alongside this development the H&SC Partnership will continue to fund social centres currently running in 12 towns across the whole of the Borders. A combination of effective community based support and existing social centres still proving to be popular will maintain and expand the social offer for older people.

The new provision is also in line with key priorities set out in the H&SC Partnership's Strategic Plan for 2018–21 which include a commitment to improving the health of people in the Borders, reducing the number of hospital admissions and improving the capacity within local communities for people to better manage their own conditions and support those who care for them.

This development has been considered in the light of existing buildings based resources, most of which are not affected by these proposals, but also enhances the community based element of the care pathway. Current provision includes Day Services, Social Centres as well as other Clinical Assessment teams and day hospitals which support people recently diagnosed with dementia and other complex care needs. Most of this provision is building based and often duplicated within towns, i.e. all major towns have a Day Service a Social Centre and a Day Hospital.

There is considerable overlap between Day Centres and Social Centres such as providing transport, meals and social opportunities, but where they differ is the provision of personal care. Day Centres provide personal care whereas with Social Centres, personal care would be provided by other means, e.g. a personal assistant or other carer.

Current users of Day Services will be supported to explore and access social opportunities with the right support in the community to meet their assessed need. The final shape of services going forward will be determined by engagement with current service users and their families to identify suitable alternatives. It is anticipated that this would be complete by the end of June for Phase 2, which involves changes in Kelso, Jedburgh and Galashiels. This will be followed by Phase 3 covering Hawick and Peebles by late Autumn 2019.

As an exception the Day Service in Galashiels will continue to be provided, although not in its current form. Work will be undertaken on appropriate models.

A table that outlines the shift in each town with Day Centres and Social Centres is available from Secretary

A group of residents from the Lucy Sanderson cottages were present and were in need of advice as the Lucy Sanderson Hall which is important to them all is failing and needs upgrading badly. QA – Where and what happened to the George Knox fund which was left for the elderly of Galashiels? This fund is dealt with by the Gala Local Relief fund and the AGM is next week and its envisaged that big changes are going to be taking place re distribution etc.

Awards for All was suggested as a good route to go down to apply for funding and Judith said she would make arrangements to pop along to speak to the residents.

A member of the public brought up the issue of the problems that are still on going on the C7 road and the recent planning application that was refused. A discussion was held and issue of the roundabout that was promised a couple of years back arose . All were told by Cllr Aitchison that work is ongoing on this and there has been a legal issue.

12. AOB

The disgusting state of the Abbotsford Arms Hotel and surrounding area was spoken about following an email sent around by a Community Council member Helen Calder and what are the council going to do about clearing up the area: of all the drink and drug paraphernalia that is there. It is the first thing people see when getting off the train and it's an eyesore. Following the email Alan Geldner will arrange to meet with Helen on site and the police will be increasing their monitoring of this area. Craig Blackie's team will go in and clean up the area.

It was learned that there is not just one owner of the Hotel. Cllr Aitchison will find out who took down the Stirling Street sign down.

Meeting ended 8.45pm

Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 3rd April 2019 – 6.30pm – Focus Centre