



**Galashiels Community Council  
Burgh Chambers  
Wednesday November 7th 2018  
6.30pm**

**Minutes**

**Present**

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Tom Ingoldsby, Liz Jardine, Drew Tulley, Eileen Frame, Bill Jeffrey, Claire Howden, Bill White, Helen Calder.

**In Attendance**

Cllr Jardine Cllr Anderson Cllr Scott Cllr Aitchison

Gregor Booth, Gavin Yuill – Waverley Housing Association

Henry Coyle Julia Mulloy – Scottish Borders Housing Association

PC James Harrison

Katherine Wylie – Southern Reporter, Callum Hodgson .Border Telegraph. Ally McGilvray – Radio Borders

19 Members of the Public were in attendance.

**Meeting commenced 6.30pm**

Chair Judith Cleghorn opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

**1. Apologies**

Kevin Ryalls, Celeste Di Vito. Rick Kenney

**2. Minutes Approval**

An accurate Minute of the Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> October was approved by Liz Jardine and Second by Drew Tulley

**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 Rick the planning Officer had gone away and no site meeting took place and now we find out that our views have already been submitted. The CC is able to request the submission of views time be extended in situations like this. It's a good job that the application was withdrawn because goodness knows what we would have been faced with. The Chair added that she wasn't aware of this and our planning officer Rick was absent so not able to answer for himself as to his awareness of this.

Cllr Aitchison will find out the planning regulations on garages and come back to CC.

**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 proactive regarding drugs.

There has also been an increase in noise complaints this last month.

PC Harrison voiced that he has also now been given a bicycle.

Comment made; Judith has a letter from Langlee Drive resident who has complained about this issue of speeding for years. A 350 signature petition is now being circulated, John Lamont has been involved and its time something was done – Cllr Jardine has been to see the person about the complaint. There was also another comment made about a couple of boy racers on Monday evening.

PC Harrison left at 6.45pm

**5. Speakers**

**Gregor Booth - Waverley Housing Association and Gavin Yuill- Cameron Architects** gave a talk about the future refurbishments of Beech Avenue. One to one consultations went on during the summer and most agreed that the name should be kept. 155 properties are being demolished and 68 being refurbished to be replaced by up to 121 new homes. There is more consultation to go ahead but so far all of the feedback received has been good, however the idea of 4 play parks was received negatively

QA in light of the current issue up at Mossilee Road, the question was what is the provision of garages? There are already 100 in the area but there will be 25 extra garages elsewhere on the estate. There won't be the same number of garages as housing but there will be plenty of parking spaces.

**SBHA -Julia Mulloy C EO and Henry Coyle – Customer Services Manager** gave a power point presentation about new developments in the Borders. 70 new homes will be built over the next 3 years. Each year 700 SBHA homes were let, 700 houses presented as homeless -this was not including the hidden homeless and there are currently 4000 people wanting to rent SBHA homes. There are 300 – 400 new applicants each month. Henry Coyle added that the Mossilee development application had been withdrawn. This area will be re-evaluated and looked at in the future.

QA What Community Benefit is there? Bathrooms, kitchens and Central heating are being upgraded. SBHA offer Apprenticeships and work placements and Grounds maintenance projects.

QA. Regarding Wheelchair access in the new developments? There are homes especially adapted for wheelchair users at ground level.

QA. Have policies been put in place to make garages and parking spaces larger to cope with the fact that cars have got bigger than they were years ago. A resident from Mossilee spoke and said that he was pleased that the application has been withdrawn but there are still issues that the residents would like answers to. SBHA and architects will work with the residents to look at the issues to tweak all aspects as required.

QA . Will the garages at Mossilee continue to be maintained by SBHA Henry Coyle said he wasn't sure if all of the garages were in fact let.

Cllr Anderson arrived 7.30pm

**6. Galashiels Academy**

Judith, Tom, Bill W and Cllr Jardine attended the Remembrance Assembly which was excellent. Judith later attended the special unit which her Granddaughter attends. They are lacking sensory toys so Focus Centre gave £100 for new toys.

**7. Sub Groups Update**

**Gala in Bloom**

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

Planting in Bank Street for 2020 will be looked at and how we can take this forward.

**Planning and Licensing Applications**

Rick absent but his application available in the report.

### **Gala Waterways**

Waterways are ready to send out letters to those residents that live near to and around the Mill Lade..

### **8. Chairs Update**

Judith thanked Tracey and her crochet ladies for the awesome cross covered in 639 poppies. There was one poppy for each person who lost their life in Gala in World War1. The 8ft cross was originally supposed to be going on to the grassed area by the War Memorial just in Albert Place but there was a bit of controversy about who was digging it in, health and safety, insurance and more so vandalism so now it makes a statement in the Foyer of the Focus Centre. We also have a cabinet with WW1 postcards and medals and some WW1 poetry of the time.

3 Weekly Bin uplifts- unless you recycle or have a small family this will not fit in to your lifestyle. Recycling needs to be done and we need to make people more aware of the need to recycle. Comment – on bucket day you can go around town and find milk cartons with milk still in it and boxes still intact instead of breaking them up to flat. CC will look at getting out notifications out to the public to highlight the public on recycling.

Comment made: on the issue of the localities BIDS- this money would be better off spent elsewhere instead of having to go through a process to get it. Cllr Aitchison responded to this – As BIDS were recently scrapped for the foreseeable future – a new meeting will be planned to look at how and what will be the criteria to get funding.

### **9. Treasurers Update**

SBC Grant now received £1780 bringing a total available to the CC of £2136.63.

Tom has prepared a new document for the Sub Groups which lays down clarity on spending. This will be sent out to all members to look at and be brought back to the next meeting and then the document signed by Cheque signatories.

### **10. Secretary's Update**

n/a

### **11. SBC Councillors Comments and questions**

#### **Cllr Jardine**

Cllr Jardine brought empty telephone boxes to the attention of the Community Council. BT is anxious to sell them off at the cost of £1 than it would be to demolish and remove them. Could prove useful to CC

They can be used for many things miniature libraries, shops, housing for Defibrillators, Fish Aquarium.

#### **Cllr Scott**

SB Cares have now moved out of the Focus Ability Centre and Harry is still working on getting the lease for the Focus Centre. Plans for the future of the centre are being looked at and the field at the back of the Focus has been taken over by Nature Unlimited who is working on clearing it to make it accessible.

Business Plan is almost completed.

### **12. AOB Tweedbank Commercial Development.**

Comment made ;This is a big issue, we need a hotel in Gala before we need one in Tweedbank and it will also take some of the trade out of town as well as there being issues here in Gala there is also unrest in Melrose as it will also be taking the footfall from Melrose.. we need to ask is there no other site available ? No point Cllrs taking it forward as it will need to run its course but we need to be ready with a good strong case against it for when the planning application comes through.

Bill White ran quickly through some of the events that Gala Remembers had been involved with and some which were still to happen

Poppy display from War Memorial

Banners in Market Sq done by students

Crochet poppy Cross at Focus Centre

3 films

4 lectures

Exhibitions at Library and Old Gala House

Afternoon Tea at Focus

Festival of Remembrance on Friday

Remembrance Service on Sunday – 11am

Angels Wings

Church Bells all over the world ringing at 12pm.

Judith reminded the CC she expected to see a good turnout on Sunday for the parade

### **13. Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December – 6.30pm Burgh Chambers**