



**Galashiels Community Council
Burgh Chambers
Wednesday 9th January 2019
6.30pm**

Minutes

Present

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Rick Kenney Tom Ingoldsby, Eileen Frame, Bill Jeffrey, Celeste Di Vito, Marion Romeril, Liz Jardine Drew Tulley, Tony Brown

In Attendance

Cllr Anderson Cllr Aitchison Cllr Scott Cllr Jardine

PC James Harrison

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

Meeting commenced 6.30pm

Chair Judith Cleghorn opened the meeting.

1. Apologies. Helen Calder Bill White,

2. Minutes Approval

An accurate Minute of the Meeting December 5th was approved by Marion Romeril and Seconded by Liz Jardine

3. Matters Arising

Judith had raised an issue about the Focus car park being used as the coach park for coaches waiting after drop off at the Tapestry building. Cllr Jardine raised the issue with the project management team and they gave the following response.

The proposal is to convert the existing on-street car parking bays on Sime Place, along the west frontage of the Tapestry building, to a multi-purpose parking zone. The zone will be approximately 29m long, which it is proposed to subdivide into a 22.5m coach drop-off/loading bay to the rear and a disabled parking bay at the front. The rear bay is long enough to accommodate a 15m luxury coach and provide enough manoeuvring room to allow the coach to pass a parked car in the disabled bay.

Once visitors are dropped off the coaches will park elsewhere in the town, until collection is required

In appendix 2 of the attached report shows the location of the coach drop-off/loading bay and disabled bays. We also provided graphical representation of the wider parking provisions within Galashiels together with an area highlighted in blue to the Southwest of the town for bus layover that is currently allocated for Lorry parking adjacent to the Focus Centre.

We have yet to agree the final bus layover position with our traffic/road safety colleagues and are open to suggestions which may include the long stay car park on Currie Road as an alternative.

Another issue raised to the Chair was that of loose slates in Market Sq and many are uneven. SBC said that no work was planned on these. Cllr Scott will speak to Craig Blackie.

4. Police Update and Questions

PC Harrison went through the police report.

QA – How successful was the Drink/Drive campaign? A lot of spot checks were done. PC Harrison will have figures for next meeting

PC Harrison made a comment about road safety especially the C77, this road is extremely dangerous vehicles have increased 10 fold.

Comment made: We were previously told by SBC that there would be minimal overload but the road is lethal with congestion and overall danger its only a matter of time before a child is killed.

QA- When is the roundabout being put in which was promised years ago? Cllr Aitchison will chase this up, during a morning when the school run is in full force this area of Town is badly congested. Comment made: All areas where there are schools have issues during a morning and picking up time.

5. Speakers

No speaker this month

6. Galashiels Academy

7. Sub Groups Update

Gala in Bloom

Concert at the Focus Centre on 15th December had to be cancelled due to bad weather but is rebooked for the spring. And Judith will be meeting with Chris Achenbach on 7th January to confirm a date.

Planting for 2020 being looked at.

Planning and Licensing Applications

Rick went through his planning report for this month 4 planning applications were in for our comments.

Gala Waterways

On Saturday 05 January eleven volunteers tackled a variety of tasks near the Skinworks Cauld. Trees on the floodplain of the Gala Water were pruned to improve the view of the Cauld. Weeds were cleared from the edges of paths and 31 kg of litter was collected. Scrap metal left on the bank of the river in September was recovered, and two traffic cones were removed from the river. The Groups next work party will be on Saturday 02 February.

For more information contact David Usher on 01896 753620 or davidjusher@btinternet.com

8. Chairs Update

Judith started off her update with a Personal speech delivered to the Community Council “ May I wish you all a very Happy New Year? I think this is the year that the Community Council can really make a difference in the town, and as we develop both the official and the ‘working’ meetings throughout the year, I am sure we can do this”

Judith also hoped everyone was enjoying the meeting at the new venue of the Focus Centre.

The Trails was touched on briefly with the ideas to encourage more cyclists

Waste Transfer Station

I have had an email and photos from Tom Douglas about the Waste Transfer Station, currently being built at Easter Langlee. Tom is asking that we get ‘someone from the Council’ to talk to us about this – Tom considers the site to be an eyesore on the landscape, an issue for the volume of road traffic and voices a concern about unpleasant odours emitting from the site.

Some residents of Melrose Gait have also complained about the smell.

We are all aware that the WTS went successfully through SBC Planning, and, when questioned, Martin Joyce, Director of Assets and Infrastructure, advised me that there is not a ‘Plan B’, so I am not sure that we can do anything about it.

Please advise me as soon as possible, of your thoughts on this, and if the consensus is that I should ask an SBC representative to attend our meeting in February, I will do so.

Localities Funding

As you will all be aware, the 2nd tranche of Localities Funding opens for applications on 7th January and closes at the end of February. I think it is important that we apply for some of this funding – and before our ‘working meeting’ on 16th January, I will take some time to go through the rules, which I believe have changed since the first applications.

It would be helpful if you could think about this chance for funding and let me know what you would consider a possible good idea for the application

Christmas Lighting 2019

I have not yet spoken to Craig Murray about the Christmas lights for 2019 – as you know, he is a businessman and extremely busy in December; but I hope to speak to him before our meeting, to find out how he feels about the Community Council doing more to help with this project in the future.

National Parks

From those that replied with their views on National Parks the general feeling was that although there is a 24 page document that we were given to read and report on, there still doesn’t seem to be enough information and we feel we need someone to talk to us about this. Traffic and Visitor congestion seems to be a major disadvantage.

Encouraging people to cycle is an advantageous proposal and the use of the work in progress Langlee Trails was touched on.

9. Treasurers Update

The total funds that is now available to the CC of £1674.80. £600 Honorarium money earmarked for February

10. Secretary’s Update

Tracey reminded everyone that once again this year Gala will be running their weekend walking festival of which she is Chair, and like every year Tracey asked for volunteers to come forward to help. Tracey was contemplating standing down this year as the lack of help is so disheartening. Last year the whole Walking Festival, the looking after the Focus Centre and serving of food and drink was basically down to 4 people and 3 of us were left there doing 11 hour shifts which are unacceptable when there are people who could be helping us out.

11. SBC Councillors Comments and questions

Cllr Aitchison

Cllr Aitchison had been to a meeting of CA Team.

Neighbourhood Services Seminar with all Managers present will now probably be March.

Summer garden bedding is ordered.

Locality BID fund now open.

Coulter’s Candy Sculptress has now been chosen.

Cllr Anderson

Nothing to report

Cllr Jardine

New Bin is going up in Balnakiel area.

Cllr Scott

Improvement to signage at Ladhope Junction this might hopefully make some difference to this dangerous area of road.

Emma Gordon – Student asked if CC could do a questionnaire for her University course which was sent through please.

12. AOB

Comment made – Development at Mossilee has been stopped which in turn has eased some of the pressure of parking . SBC need to be looking at legislation for more car parking space to be provided.

Burgh Yard – Cllr Aitchison will find out what is happening with this.

Development at Tweedbank/Lowood Bridge – No replacement for the Bottle Bridge – in the current local paper there is a mention of increasing the roads. SBC need to be taking a lot in to consideration when discussing these.

Comment made: pavement at Netherdale to Town very dark and the students walk this way so could it be upgraded.

QA – The green wheelie bins that are not being used could they be rounded up?

QA – If there can be a By law to restrict drinking in public places why can there not be a By law to stop dog fouling at Netherdale? It’s a difficult subject but they have to be caught in the act.

There needs to be a reintroduction of by laws in the Borders.

Comment Made by Tony Brown – Chair Judith Cleghorn welcomed Tony back after a very long illness. Tony commented that dog fouling is bad for wheelchair users.

Representatives from TD1 Youth Hub were present at the meeting and informed us that they had been very lucky to get just over £100,000,00 from the Henry Smith Charity.

Comment made - Out at Easter Langlee there is building going on out on contaminated land, could SBC get professionals in to get it verified.

69 Houses –found to have traces of asbestos which has not appeared over night and this needs to be rectified. It should not be allowed to be built on until this is done. There is a 25% Methane Gas increase. Cllr Jardine will take this on.

Swimming pool needs refurbishing and also public needs to know when it's actually open as its hit and miss with it at the moment. Charges for Sports venues and other public buildings are going up, these have to go up otherwise they would face closure.

13. Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 6th February 2019 – 6.30pm – Focus Centre