

CRAILING ECKFORD & NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DRAFT MINUTES
ECKFORD VILLAGE HALL – WEDNESDAY, 24 MAY 2017 at 7pm

Attendees: John Campbell (Chair), Sylvia Seivwright (Secretary/Treasurer), Ron Leddy (Vice Chair), Donald Linton, Caroline Cook, Elliott Lewis, Charlie Robertson and Sheila Campbell (Projects). Nominees Viv Crompton, Dorothy Willis, Peter Jeary, Cllr Scott Hamilton and seven members of the public

Apologies: Linda Coles, Marie Hogg

Presentation by Finlay Calder on the new Jedburgh Distillery

The Chairman welcomed Finlay Calder the Project Director for Jedburgh Distilleries. The project is being led by Mossburn Distillers which is part of Dutch drinks firm Marussia Beverages BV. Mossburn Distillers is also a parent company to Torabhaig Distillery Ltd on the Isle of Skye which has already provided jobs in the area and is starting to produce whisky during 2017.

Finlay explained that he had initially taken on the role on a part time basis but has now become fully immersed in the venture. He gave some background to the owner of this privately owned business and how the project had come about.

There are only 100 distilleries in Scotland with 87% of the market captured by multinationals. Although 13% of market is in private hands these businesses are fiercely protected and tend to be kept in the family. With no distilleries available to purchase Dr Polson (the owner who has had a long career in Pharmaceuticals) set about creating a distillery on Skye and is now in the process of creating a second one at Camptown near Jedburgh. An example of Talisker was given to demonstrate the longevity and sustainability of the whisky industry since they have been in operation since 1871 and now employ 18 tour guides alone.

The long term aim is to produce an excellent product as well as provide a great visitor experience which will develop the local economy by creating employment and increasing visitor numbers to the area.

The Jedburgh site was seen as ideal due to the land available, the river and the former Jedforest House Hotel, built in 1850, which although dilapidated had many features worth preserving. Numerous studies had to be undertaken e.g. river, bats, road noise, otters, gas etc. Credit was given to Scottish Borders Council for their helpfulness and professionalism through the planning and study phases and also their recognition of the need for inward investment. Robert Laidlaw's of Jedburgh were praised for their craftsmanship in relation to the restoration of buildings.

A question and answer session followed which further clarified the fermentation process and the factors required such as water, malt, yeast fermentation, copper exposure, stills, washbacks etc. The value of wooden casks which can be used three or four times but Scottish whisky has to be in oak for over 3 years before selling.

The first Distillation from Jedburgh will be in around 10 years time as the building will

take 3 years to complete then distillation will take at least a further 3 years. Where possible local products will be used as whisky buyers value both uniqueness and provenance.

1. **Minutes of the previous AGM on 25 May 2016:** The minutes were approved having been proposed by Sheila Campbell and seconded by Ron Leddy (Vice Chair).

2. **Matters arising from the Minute** – There were no matters arising.

3. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman gave an overview of the activities undertaken over the year including:- the launch of the Jubilee Path; launch of the community website; provision of heated cabinets for the AED's (defibrillators) with Scottish Borders Community grant support; continued success of the Group Purchase Scheme including oil which is being administered by Elliot & Vera Smith; the Resilient Communities team updates; production of a promotional leaflet; e-news circulation; planning applications and support to Margaret Jeary in her efforts to add a further name to the War Memorial at Eckford Parish Church. It was also noted that Nisbet had dealt with a flooding issue, worked with Scottish Water to remove a tree and had a new notice board and 30 mph signage during the last year. The full Chairman's report can be found on the website www.craillingeckfordnisbet.co.uk

4. **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented the Annual Accounts which had been Independently Examined by Jock Henderson, and gave an explanation of forthcoming commitments. No queries were raised and the accounts were duly signed off Proposed Caroline Cook, seconded Ron Leddy (Vice Chair).

5. **Appointment/Election of Community Councillors**

It was noted that John Campbell (Chair) and Sheila Campbell (Projects) and Donald Linton were retiring fully from the Community Council. Elliott Lewis was due for re-election and Ron Leddy (Vice Chairman) was stepping down from his role but was remaining on the Community Council.

The following office bearers were elected: Secretary (Linda Coles), Treasurer (Sylvia Seivwright), Chairman and Vice Chairman to be agreed at next meeting.

Three new members were duly elected they were Peter Jeary (Kalemouth), Viv Crompton (Easter Wooden), Dorothy Willis (Nisbet) and Elliott Lewis remains as a Community Councillor.

In the absence of a new Chairman John Campbell continued to chair the rest of the meeting.

6. **Secretary/Treasurer Honorarium**

The Secretary/Treasurer Honorarium was last set at £140 per annum (for the

dual role of Secretary/Treasurer) but neither Sheila Campbell nor Sylvia Seivwright had claimed an Honorarium during their periods in office.

It was decided that this matter should be discussed at the next meeting of the Community Council.

7. **Acceptance of Code of Conduct**

All Community Councillors accepted the Code of Conduct.

8. **Any Other Business**

Ulston AED: Ron Leddy explained the need for the AED to be moved from Elliot Smith's garage to a more public space. He had negotiated with Scottish Water for the AED/Cabinet to be re-located to their booster station unit where they would supply the source of electricity in exchange for publicity. It was unanimously agreed that this was an appropriate solution.

Action Ron Leddy: To finalise arrangements with Scottish Water and Elliot Smith and communicate with appropriate people in Ulston.

Crailing Callants Festival: Invitations had been received and these events will be attended by Sylvia Seivwright and Dorothy Willis. Plans for the Crailing Rideout will progress as normal with a Quaich and Refreshments provided.

Crailing, Eckford & Nisbet Paths: A concern was raised that the path should be renamed as it does not pass through Crailing. Clarification was provided and it was noted that the title 'Jubilee Path' refers to the current circular route however there are numerous options under the header of "Crailing, Eckford and Nisbet Path" to create off-shoots from the route including one that could link Crailing directly into the route.

High Speed Broadband : It was noted that there had been works along the Crailing Straight and a Green Box erected at Crailing. There was some speculation as to when the high speed broadband would become available and who would benefit from it e.g. would it only be people who were within 2 kilometres from a green box.

Action Cllr Scott Hamilton: To investigate progress, timescales and beneficiaries and report back to next CC meeting.

Projects Handover: In the week prior to the AGM SC had circulated an email update on all projects she was involved in to all Community Councillors. She offered to update this and circulate to all remaining and newly elected Community Councillors. She also offered to provide training/guidance on all projects to appropriate people and to continue working on the Website/e-updates if the Community Council was happy for her to do so. This was unanimously agreed.

9. **Date Of next Meeting**

To be confirmed.