

CRAILING, ECKFORD & NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2018 – ECKFORD VILLAGE HALL – 7PM

DRAFT MINUTE

Attendees: Sylvia Seivwright (Chair), Peter Jeary (Treasurer), Linda Coles (Secretary), Caroline Cook, Councillor Scott, Dorothy Willis, Marie Hogg, Sheila Campbell, and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Charlie Robertson, PC Gary Chisholm.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that an email had been received prior to the meeting from Mr Colin Gomez, who was present at the meeting, regarding an issue which he wished to bring to the attention of the Community Council. The Chairman welcomed Mr Gomez and advised that this item would be taken first before the formal business and invited Mr Gomez to speak. Mr Gomez explained his concern regarding the matter of how dangerous the junction was at the Teviot Smokery/Morebattle junction and the road both ways leading up to it. He lives next door to the Smokery and was finding it increasingly difficult and dangerous to get out onto the road due to speed of traffic. He felt it was only a matter of time until there was a fatality. There had already been quite a few near misses. He asked if we could bring up the matter with the Police and also SBC Roads dept regarding a possible speed reduction to 40mph in that area.

ACTION. It was agreed that the Community Council raise the matter with the our Community policeman, PC Gary Chisholm, who had been helpful in having 30 MPH speed limits introduced at Ulston and Nisbet and that Mr Gomez be kept informed. **ACTION (SS)**

2. Minutes of previous meeting of 13 November 2017 were approved. Proposed by Dorothy and seconded by Peter.

3. Matters Arising.

(a) It was noted that a Vice Chairman was still needed and that, in the meantime, we would continue on a meeting by meeting basis until one was appointed. It was further noted that Linda Coles has stepped down as Secretary and that Victoria Wood would be taking over the duties, as an external member of the Community Council. The Chairman thanked Linda for her help and support over the last few months.

(b) Broadband. Peter advised that he had contacted Digital Scotland by email and phone suggesting they come along and explain what was happening in the area to us, but he had had no response. It was suggested that we contact Mr Lamont to see if he can get a reaction.

In the meantime Peter advised that he had done some checking on the internet and advised Fibre Broadband became available in January in part of the Crailing Telephone Exchange area. Fibre Broadband provides a much faster speed than Standard Broadband but to take advantage of this a customer must arrange a new contract with their service provider. Normally the service provider will allow a change without penalty for early cancellation of the existing contract. However, a new contract may be more costly.

The new service is available now to most households in Crailing and Eckford. Nisbet and Ulston will have to wait until later in the year. Information on the service available and the likely speed to your house is available on www.scotlandsuperfast.com

For Crailing residents, Superfast speeds (in excess of 24 Mbps) should be available to houses near to the Crailing Exchange. Superfast speeds should also be available to Eckford village residents. Whilst fibre broadband will still be available to most houses outwith the main communities, it is likely to be at a much reduced speed. Peter advised that he would give Sheila Campbell some information to include in the next edition of the newsletter.

(c) Railway line at Nisbet. It was noted that the work had been completed.

(d) Honorarium – it was noted that the agreed honorarium would be offered as agreed to the secretary and treasurer. It had been included in the budget.

(e) The Chairman advised that a letter of thanks and voucher had been sent to Elliot and Vera for their work on the oil scheme.

(f) Flo Gas – Renewal of Contract. Charlie to give update at the next meeting. **ACTION.(CR)**

(g) Jed Marathon. It was proposed to revert back to the prior arrangement of the money going to Crailing and Eckford Village Halls. The cheque came directly to the CC this year to cover costs for batteries for the defibrillators. **ACTION. It was agreed to carry the proposal forward to the AGM, when there would a clearer picture of our finances at year end.**

(h) Visibility of the bus stop at Crailing was brought up. The tree branches are overgrown and the bus driver has trouble seeing it. It was suggested that John Pearson of West Lodge be asked to keep them trimmed back. **ACTION. LC to speak to Mr Pearson.**

(I) Mr Gomez expressed concern at the state of the watchtower at Eckford. He advised that he would contact the council again to see if they would repair it. It was noted that Scottish Borders Council had been advised and had agreed to note the interest of the Community Council in buying it, should it come on the market. **ACTION. It was agreed to review the position at the next meeting.**

4. Treasurers Report- Peter passed around copies of the Accounts to date. Charlies work on the Jubilee Path was very much appreciated and it was suggested that he be given a small token of our appreciation. **Action. (PJ)**

It was noted that the Balance in the bank was £2730.50 but that after anticipated expenses on defibrillators, hall rents etc along with reprinting of the path brochures, there was a balance of £645.00.

It was agreed that at the end of the financial year consideration be given to offering a contribution to Crailing and Eckford Village Halls for the electricity used for the defibrillators. **ACTION. Consider at next meeting.**

5. Police Report- Gary Chisholm sent apologies and forwarded a report via Email which was read out. There had been no serious incidents in the previous month.

6. Three Year Plan 2014 - 2017

(a) Jubilee Path. It was noted that Charlie had received an email regarding leaflets being reprinted. The price quoted was for 500 and included a couple of amendments which needed to be made. As it appeared that the more that was ordered, the price per leaflet became less. It was agreed that a price for 1,000 would be sought. **ACTION. (CR)**

(b) AEDs & Batteries. The actual cost for the batteries due to be replaced in the spring had not yet been received. The cost would be around £200 per battery and the batteries would require to be changed in August 2018. It was suggested that a fundraiser could be held to pay for future batteries.

(c) Resilient Communities. No update. It was however noted that the supply of head torches, was in hand.

d) Website update. The Chairman welcomed Sheila Campbell to the meeting to give us an update on the website.

Sheila reminded the meeting of the functionality that the website has. Sandu Media created the website but have not been particularly reliable over the past couple of years due to the changes to the company and the ill health of the Technical expert. There are still some amendments required to the website and It is time to reconsider who should host the website. Sandu Media and Border Webworks have each provided quotes

Annual Costs for Website (either Sandu or Border Webworks)

Hosting £120 per year

SSL Certificate £120 per year

In the event that we transfer the Hosting to Border Webworks that would be a further £100 plus VAT = £120

TOTAL £360

Amendments requested are: Oil System via website, E-Newsletter automatically from Events and News on website , Item re-order in CC Section, Photo Resizing Homepage For Sandu to carry out the work requested would be £285 on top of the above (including oil system) and for Border Webworks to do the same work (excluding oil system) would be £1300 + VAT.

Sheila recommended that we ask Sandu to carry out the work by a deadline of 31st March 2018. If it is not completed then we could live with the system as it is and transfer the Hosting to Border Webworks who appear to be more reliable.

This was agreed. **Action:** SC to follow up with Sandy and Border Webworks.

7. New Three Year Plan

It was noted that Charlie had mentioned we should have an exercise using villagers as soon as possible to try out the defibrillators. The old pads could be used for training.

8. Community Updates from Community Councillors

(a) Crailing- the village Hall Committee has events planned for Feb with more to follow. They have had 3 estimates to put in secondary glazing in the hall.

(b) Eckford- Concern was expressed at the number of people waiting in the rain at the road junction near to the Teviot Smokery entrance for buses or lifts. With the opening of the Jubilee Path and people starting the walk and ending the walk at the Smokery, there seemed to be more foot traffic in the area and the possibility of having a bus shelter near The Smokery was suggested. **ACTION. (SS) to contact Alistair Finnie of SBC.**

(c) Nisbet- Building works at the Stables is in progress. There has been no localised flooding during the recent wet spell.

(d) Ulston- Nothing to report.

9. SBC Update- Councillor Scott advised that there was an Admin meeting coming up regarding the SBC budget. The New Campus at Jedburgh is going ahead. The Rugby Club is having a £350,000 upgrade of facilities with a 2/3 yr plan including Girls Rugby /weddings and funerals. Millfield Care Home has a buyer.

10. Cheviot Area Committee- Sylvia had a letter from SBC regarding future meetings. It was noted that each Community Council would no longer be invited to attend Area Committee Meetings. The Old Area Committees were being replaced by a new Committee structure which would have only 4 local Community representatives, who would in turn report back to the rest of the CC's.

11. Planning Applications- None

12. Correspondence- Circulated and discussed.

13. AOB- Sylvia had a letter from John Lamont regarding the possible closure of RBS branches locally. A public meeting will be held Feb 9th in Duns at 12.30. Hawick 4pm and Melrose 6pm to which all are invited to attend.

14. Date of Next Meeting. It was suggested that both the AGM and next normal Community Council meetings be held in May. Actual dates to be confirmed at later date.

Suggestions were put forward for speakers at the meetings. The suggestions were for a speaker to talk about interesting historical tales of the area and perhaps someone to advise of the various phone and computer scams on the go that we should be aware of.