

Crailing, Eckford and Nisbet Community Council

Draft Minutes of General Meeting held on 2nd March 2020 at 7.00pm, Eckford Village Hall

Welcome by the Chair: The meeting was opened by Chair MM who thanked those present for their attendance.

Attendees: Charlie Robertson, Linda Coles, Peter Jeary, Malcolm McGregor, Dinah Faulds, Douglas Scowen, SBC Cllr Sandy Scott.

Apologies were received from Caroline Cook, Elliott Lewis, SBC Cllrs Scott Hamilton and Jim Brown, Community police Officer Gary Chisholm.

- 1) Minutes of Previous Meeting, (9th Dec 2019), held at Lothian Hall, these were accepted as a true and accurate record, proposed by DS and seconded by CR.
- 2) Matters Arising:
 - > Grit bin at Crailing was due to be replaced.
 - > CR asked if there had been progress on a dog waste bin at Lothian Hall, this was still outstanding.
 - > Additional 8 tonne limit signs had been erected by SBC, 300m before the Nisbet bridge, on the Crailing side.
 - > Flashing 30mph signage for Crailing village: MM to check with Cllr. SH at next Cheviot Area Forum, concerning any progress. He reported on correspondence with Cllr SS and SBC Officer P Gilhooly, concerning the continued vexing issue of the excess speed of traffic on the 'Crailling Strait', (copy attached to Chair's draft minutes).
 - > Potholes in Eckford Village: CR reported that these had still not been filled. MM to contact Brian Young at SBC Roads dept. to action before next Half Marathon. DS also pointed out that there were large potholes in the C- class road near his property.
 - > Mr John Pearson of West Lodge, Crailing asked by letter for the trees to the left of the junction at the Lothian Hall, to be reduced to improve visibility at that point. MM to pursue.
- 3) **Treasurer's Report:** PJ distributed account sheets and explained the transactions and balances, to date. PJ reported he was concerned that SBC may be halting the annual grants, with respect to the support structure of village halls, though the situation was still unclear. CR enquired about the annual grant from SBC for the upkeep of footpaths etc.... PJ explained that this was in hand and he had made a full claim to SBC to cover the works carried out. MM asked colleagues to consider for the next the meeting the possibility of an honorarium for Jane Vickers, as recognition for her work with the CEN community group oil purchase scheme.
- 4) **Police Report:** the recent reports for November and December, in the new format, had been received electronically from PC Chisholm, and were read out to the meeting.
- 5) **January Cheviot Area Forum Report, (MM):** The meeting had been mainly focusing on the Quality of Life and Community Fund update. At the start of the financial year, the community fund was originally allocated by SBC £161,000., Area Forum meetings are held, approximately

every 2 months, (the first in June 2019), and at each meeting, any grant applications are considered by the attendees. At the January meeting, the total grants awarded to date had been £26, 664., including one to the Lothian Hall for disabled access. There were several applications still in the pipeline, which if granted would make the total monies spent by the end of the financial year, around £45,000. This would leave approximately £116,000., remaining in the Cheviot Community Fund. From the floor, MM had asked the Chair, (SBC Cllr SH), whether the remaining balance would be carried over into the new financial year, to supplement the grant for 2020/21 and facilitate a greater number of grant applications, now that folks were becoming more familiar with this new system? He was told that SBC had not yet made a decision on this. CR suggested that CEN CC needed to consult with the community for project ideas, raise awareness of the community funds and that the CC should organise an 'ideas evening' to raise the profile. MM agreed to contact Community Grant Officer Jan Pringle and invite her to give a talk at the May AGM. (see grant finance sheet attached to Chair's draft minutes)

- 6) **Scottish Borders Community Council Network Meeting:** MM reported that this meeting had been concerned with the Scottish Government's Audit of SBC, with respect to the Council's implementation of the Community Empowerment legislation, (2015). SBC were required to accelerate this implementation, with particular emphasis on local decision making and 'Participation Requests'. The Chair of the SBCCN expressed the view that with respect to participation requests, i.e., members of CCs being involved in SBC Committee Meetings, historically since the CE Act came in to effect, SBC had been relatively slow.
- 7) **VE 75 Day:** MM reported that SBC had set aside £60,000 for groups to make applications up to a maximum of £2,500. Nisbet was considering a commemorative Street Party. Eckford were thinking along the lines of a black and white period film, eg., 'Whisky Galore', along with a mobile fish & chippy. Crailing were interested in having the War memorial cleaned and renovated. Applications have to be submitted by 31st May.
- 8) **Community Councillor Vacancy, (MH resignation):** This had been placed on the CEN Community website by SC, highlighting Ulston community, but unfortunately, to date there had been no interest. DF to contact some of the residents in Ulston to discuss further.
- 9) **Community Updates:**
 - > Crailing: nothing new to report.
 - > Eckford: DS reported that the new planters were complete and ready to plant. CR reported that the Eckford Hall trustees had been granted title by Buccleuch Estates and were relaunching themselves, though there would be no change to the Hall itself, just the way it is governed. There was still to be some negotiation with Buccleuch Estates concerning some adjacent land.
 - > Nisbet: MM reported that residents had complained on the state of the grass verges in Nisbet village, (farm traffic), also on state of the B6400 and verges from Nisbet Mill Farm to East Nisbet Farm, due to heavy farm vehicles. He had invited to a site meeting SBC Cllr Scott Hamilton, SBC Roads Officer Brian Young and Nisbet Mill Farm owner Mr R Balderson. All points of concern were considered, (see list attached to Chair's draft minutes), with a full and frank discussion, in which every stake holder's perspective was recognised. A number of solutions were to be pursued, including non-statutory signage for the village. CR suggested exploring whether funds from the community fund could be used to rectify the state of the village verges.
 - > Ulston: nothing reported.

- 10) **SBC Update: (SBC Cllr Sandy Scott).** He was still awaiting information on the new budget for 20/21. There had been a reduction in complaints about SBC Services for the year 2018/19, down from 927 to 896. VE celebrations monies had been allocated by SBC. The 'Joint Older People' review had received a good endorsement. MM asked about bus route 20 and SS agreed to look into it.
- 11) **Planning Applications: Ulston** – erection of dwelling house with integral garage, Plot 5 at land , Easter Ulston. Application 20/00186/FUL. This was a vacant plot between existing converted steading and Fairfields. The plot is subject to recent renewal of previous outline consent 19/00266/PPP. Four neighbouring properties notified. No objections to date. Also, no objections had appeared on the SBC planning portal idox. There had been informed discussions with neighbours by the applicant concerning a storm water drain. Malcolm to reply to SBC with a no objection from CEN CC.
- 12) **Correspondence;** MM distributed a printed sheet of all the correspondence distributed to members since the last meeting. He had recently received a letter from Scottish HART, (SB Defib organisers), concerning a fund raiser and the CC agreed to hold a raffle for this.
- 13) **AOB:** CR referred to the Jedburgh Walking Festival in September and that we should try and include the Jubilee Walk route for one of the week's walking events. Susan, the SBC Ranger had contacted CR and suggested Wednesday 9th Sept., with respect to a walk from Eckford to Jedburgh and if we could get locals involved. CR to pursue and respond.
- > CR commented that the Lothian Estates President's Route would link nicely with the Jubille walk and he could prepare a guide for the Lothian route and the CC could consider funding a joint leaflet for both walks. MM to raise with Ben Burrige, Lothian Estates Factor.
- > MM reported that he had recently renewed the documentation for the CC insurance policy. He commented that he was finding his role very demanding as he was also having to carry out all the secretary responsibilities too, SC to be contacted to see if an advert could be placed on the website, once again for a CC Secretary.
- 14) **Date of next meeting:** AGM at Crailing on 18th May 2020.