

Innerleithen and District Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held 15 May 2023

Present: Susan Meikle (Chair), Gordon Daly (Secretary), Daniel Davis Wood (Minutes Secretary; Treasurer), Sheila Daly, Ylva Dahnsjo, Colin Williams, George Brown, Cllr. Julie Pirone, Cllr. Robin Tatler.

Apologies: Cllr. Marshall Douglas, Lesley Johnstone, Andy Weir.

Absences: None.

No members of the public were present. One member of the press was present.

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Administration

1. *Welcome remarks from Chair.* Susan welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised attendees of the fire safety procedures for the Memorial Hall.
2. *Attendance, absences and apologies.* These were noted as above.
3. *Minutes from previous meeting.* Proposed: Daniel. Seconded: Sheila.
4. *Election to unfilled offices.* The office of Vice-Chair remains vacant. Given the absence of two members of IDCC, it was decided to elect an office-bearer at the next meeting.
5. *Notification of any other competent business (AOCB).* None.

Business

1. *Public forum.* No members of the public were present.
2. *New business.* No new business was brought forward.
3. *Councillors' reports:*
 - a. Cllr. Pirone:
 - i. *Community speed watch.* There will be a meeting this week on this community speed watch scheme. A working group is in place to determine who can take part and what the training looks like. The scheme will soon be taken to community councils to register interest.

- ii. *Speeding at Cardrona*. Pop-up bobby has been at Cardrona recently, following recent complaints of speeding. Cllr. Pirone has asked police to re-install it at Kirkhouse and Traquair in the near future.
- iii. *New fence around schools*. Parents have recently complained about the height of a new fence around St. Ronan's Primary School and Walkerburn Primary School; Cllr. Pirone understands that the installation of the fence was consulted on, though there may have been miscommunication around the proposed height of the fence.

b. Cllr. Tatler:

- a. *Lighting*. Cllr. Tatler announced that the capital works programme for Tweeddale includes £25,000 for lighting on St. Ronan's Terrace. The works will be taken care of sometime between June and September.
- b. *Tweeddale Access Panel*. The TAP has contacted Cllr. Tatler about the condition of Maxwell Street. Cllr. Tatler said the street has not been adopted by SBC, so he is trying to find out who is responsible for it.
- c. *Traquair Road parking*. There is a proposal to put yellow lines at the top of Traquair Road, coming off the High Street and extending almost to the Traquair Arms. Philippa Gilhooly will have the roads team attend to this when they next do markings in Innerleithen. Susan asked whether it would be possible to get double-yellow lines on Traquair Road; Cllr. Tatler said that it could only be on one side of the road, not down both sides. Philippa has also said that instead of putting advisory cycling lanes on Leithen Road and Traquair Road, her team will put bicycle symbols at regular intervals down the sides of the road. This is an experimental way of creating an advisory cycling space; it doesn't exist elsewhere in the Borders.
- d. *Memorial Hall*. Cllr. Tatler is pursuing contractors about finishing off the unfinished painting of the Memorial Hall.
- e. *Temporary flood defences*. Cllr. Tatler is awaiting an update on the progress of a more permanent fixture to the river erosion.
- f. *St. Ronan's Wells*. There is a process underway to establish a working group for the maintenance and staffing of St. Ronan's Wells. A consultation will emerge from this to discuss ways forward.
- g. *Burgh Hall*. The Burgh Hall in Peebles will be open to the public, to receive comments on the refurbishment and the future plans for the Chambers Institute.
- h. *Tweeddale Area Partnership*. On behalf of Cllr. Douglas, Cllrs. Tatler and Pirone reminded IDCC that the next meeting of the Tweeddale Area Partnership will be on June 13 at 7pm in the Burgh Hall.

4. Matters arising from the previous meeting:

- a. *King's Coronation funding*: the funding arrangements and proposals for the coronation event run by Innerleithen Church of Scotland were misreported at last month's meeting and representatives of the Church have issued a correction. It is now understood that the Church of Scotland did not require the use of a coronation grand from the local authority, given that the organisers received food donations and wished to avoid the politicisation of the event. The event was open to all members of the public of all ages and was well-attended. **ACTION: Issue closed.**
- b. *New noticeboard at The Bike Shop*. No progress on the invoice as yet. **ACTION: The Bike Shop will forward the invoice for the noticeboard.**
- c. *Horse-riding*. As Andy sent his apologies for this meeting, this issue will be carried forward to next month's meeting.
- d. *Placemaking*. Gordon said we need to decide what projects we want to do. He is uncertain about putting up a poll on Facebook. He said the Community Trust supports the placemaking initiative and is willing to suggest things, but doesn't want to run it. Susan said we need to make a realistic and achievable list of projects; Gordon and Cllr. Pirone said that we need a larger meeting outwith IDCC to solicit input on this. Cllr. Tatler said it would be useful to talk to Walkerburn CC to get their advice; they solicited input by hosting a coffee morning for residents to socialise and offer ideas. **ACTION: Gordon will confer with IDCC to arrange a meeting outwith the usual IDCC schedule, ideally to be attended by Kenny Harrow and other parties who can give advice.** Susan said we should try to arrange a meeting in June, looking ahead to more involved discussions and meetings after the summer.
- e. *Parking wardens*. Daniel wrote to SBC on behalf of IDCC, to express support for the decriminalisation of parking infringements across the borders and the employment of parking wardens. SBC has passed on this correspondence to the relevant officers/committee. **ACTION: Issue closed.**
- f. *WHP Telecoms*. Daniel wrote to WHP Telecoms, TVTA, and the Borders Rangers Service to express disapproval of the proposed telecommunications development on the Minch Moore. **ACTION: Issue closed.**
- g. *Brodies Mill redevelopment*. Ylva said that the exhibition designers are working on a headline proposal to submit by the end of May; Ylva and others are giving input into this to get it in shape.

5. Standing items:

- a. *Planning report*. Three applications were considered; no objections raised.
- b. *Police report*. No comments were made on the last two police reports.
- c. *Treasurer's report*. No further updates aside from the noticeboard costs.

d. *Wind farm updates:*

- a. *Scawd Law:* Colin reminded IDCC that the Scawd Law application was submitted at Christmas, allowing organisations to submit responses from January. IDCC submitted in February. Colin has been monitoring other responses. Other community councils have responded as well, most of them objecting to the development. SBC has requested an extension to the window for responses, until sometime in autumn. This is not unusual, as the SBC response will consolidate a number of responses from within the council. There has also been a response from RSPB, making note of the golden eagles that were reportedly nesting on Scawd Law in 2022. It would appear that Fred Olsen is involved in an ongoing dialogue with NatureScot with regard to this issue and other fauna concerns. Gordon asked about the possible impact of Walkerburn's objection. Colin said that because Walkerburn is a host community council (ie. the infrastructure will be within its boundaries) it has a right to consultation, but how much weight this is given in the planning process depends on the professional judgment of the planning officer. Colin said that we are still at least two to two-and-a-half years away from a decision on this case, and longer than that if SBC objects to it and the application goes to a public inquiry.
- b. *Leithenwater:* A public exhibition was held. Colin attended and felt that it was a well-presented event and well-attended. He observed many people asking questions and looking at materials. He asked that the viewpoint visualisations include Lee Pen, rather than the Buzzards Nest carpark in Glentress, and other frequently used MTB trails. He also asked how they expect to progress consultation on community benefit funding; the brief proposal is to convene three community councils (Peebles, Innerleithen and Eddleston) in the first instance. IDCC would want to progress this dialogue. Colin anticipates that a planning application will be submitted in the next six months. He said he doesn't foresee the same ornithology issues as the Scawd Law developments. He also recommended that IDCC continues to engage. Ylva added that she was impressed by the way public engagement materials have been bringing people back to the issue behind this development ("Do you believe we are in a climate emergency?").

e. *Campaigns updates:*

- a. *Anti-dog fouling.* No further updates, pending Daniel becoming a signatory to the IDCC bank account.
- b. *Cycling on pavements.* Observed incidents of cycling on pavements throughout April were around 4%. Ylva asked about local rules regarding A-boards, chairs, and tables on pavements. Councillors said that there must be a metre to the outer edge of the pavement. A-boards, etc., should be as near the premises as possible, not in the pavement. Any obstructions should be reported to the council.

10. *AOCB*. None.

11. *Correspondence*. The following correspondence was circulated prior to the meeting:

- a. Brian Davey, West Lothian Joint Forum of Community Councils
- b. Craig Blackie, Greener Gateway Awards

12. *Thanks and congratulations*. Cllr. Tatler thanked the Coop for permitting the car boot sale on Sunday, which was very successful and raised over £500 for Cycling Without Age; IDCC also thanked the Rotary for its role in organising things. Cllr. Tatler hopes that this can become a more regular event, three or four times per year.

13. *Forthcoming events*. None.

14. *Items to be taken in private*. Two items were taken in private.

Next meeting: Monday, 5 June 2023, 7.15pm, Memorial Hall Council Chamber.

Chair: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____