

SWINTON & LADYKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of Meeting: Monday 11 March 2019 (19:00) **Venue:** The Wheatsheaf Hotel, Swinton

PRESENT

Des Eggie (DE), Victor Lucas (VL), Jim Brown (JB), Bill Purvis (BP), Robert Sloan (RS), Fiona Wilson (FW), Michael Lawrence (ML) & Meg Reid (MR)

SBC Councillors John Greenwell (CllrJG) & Mark Rowley (CllrMR)

PC Ian Porter

APOLOGIES

Kenneth Morton

SBC Councillor Donald Moffat

Minutes Taken By: Fiona Wilson

Next Meeting: Monday 13 May 2019 (19:00)

MINUTE

ACTION

Police Report:

- PC Porter introduced himself and reviewed the points in the latest Police Report.
- Berwickshire Safety Panel requires new members with first meeting at BHA Newtown Street, Duns on 24 April.
- New campaign aimed at violence against night economy workers which could be considered as Hate crimes.
- Four police incidents in the area and probable hare and deer coursing.
- There was discussion re speeding through the village. Speeds of 32/33 mph will not warrant a stop under the Lord Advocate guidelines. Berwickshire Safety Panel will have two "pop up" policemen available to villages for optimum use of 2/3 days.

Minutes of Last Meeting :

Proposed by VL & Seconded by RS.

Matters Arising:

None

Treasurer's Report:

Balance at 14/01/2019	£494.00	
Two year WordPress subscription		£51
Balance at 11/03/2019	£443.00	

Planning Applications:

None at the time of the meeting.

New S&LCC Member:

Nomination of Mr. Kenneth Morton (Crossview, Swinton) approved unanimously.

Swinton Village Green Electricity Distribution:

DE reported that he had been told by SBC officers that the application for funding of the works required will be considered for the Localities Bid Fund (2).

However, it was agreed by all present that, for a number of reasons, LBF2 is not considered appropriate.

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CMR undertook to expedite the issue with SBC.

CllrMR

Regional Councillor Updates:

- The Chairman thanked CllrMR for his role as facilitator of the public meeting held in January, with the developer of the proposed new houses in Swinton. CllrMR reported that the organisation & format of the meeting is to be presented, at the forthcoming Housing Summit, as a model of good practice, in bringing a reluctant developer together with a community.
- CllrJG reminded the meeting that organisations such as Swinton Village Events are welcome to attend Area Partnership (AP) meetings. A strategy document, based on the themes identified at previous AP meetings will be available for consultation in early May.
- CllrJG reported that he had visited "Horses for Forces", based at Little Swinton, and heartily recommended it and the other equine therapies available for ex-service personnel suffering from PTSD.
- CllrJG outlined the improvements being made to the Localities Bid Fund in line with Scottish Government's target for 1% of council budgets to be under direct control of communities.
- CllrMR reported that SBC's "Fit For 2024" outlined plans for a single point of contact with a single application form, in order to ensure an equitable distribution of funding across communities.
- CllrMR reported that South of Scotland (Borderlands Deal) is to receive £42M of funding aimed at promoting economic development.

John Lamont MP "Community Council Clinic":

DE & JB attended the event held in St. Boswells, on Friday 08 March 2019, during which the following key issues were raised:

- Criticism of Area Partnerships and lack of consultation by SBC with CCs, particularly on future funding. Some CCs have been told that that different grants have been amalgamated and they will have to bid for funding in future.
- Need to treat broadband as an essential utility and plan for the future. CCs were encouraged to contact JL with specific examples of poor broadband so he can forward them to Openreach/DSSB.
- CC's discussed extending the Borders Railway, but more generally spoke about the need for better bus links in the region.
- Discussion about development and better use of derelict and abandoned land with new provisions in the Community Empowerment Act to provide for greater use of CPO's
- Many rural CC's expressed concern regarding the speed of traffic through villages.
- CC's expressed frustration over SBC's lack of ambition in sustaining vibrant town centres, that it is not pro-active in working with smaller businesses and that business rates are in need of reform.
- A future meeting will focus on broadband and someone from Openreach and DSSB will be asked to attend.

CMR highlighted the importance of connectivity and that the Borderlands Deal will support infrastructure, but that GPS/Internet providers sometimes decline to install their equipment on masts funded by public monies. ML stressed the importance of the availability of superfast broadband to the tourism industry in the Scottish Borders.

Swinton Village Hall – The Next Step:

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It was agreed that if/when the proposed Swinton housing development gains SBC approval, a public meeting be held, with the aim of identifying residents willing to become active members of a Swinton Village Hall Committee (SVHC).

**S&LCC &
SVE**

It was also agreed that, if established, the SVHC must be independent of both S&LCC & Swinton Village Events (SVE), though was felt that it would be beneficial for a representative of each of those organisations to be a member of the SVHC.

It was unanimously agreed that the initial remit of that committee be to carry out a feasibility study, aimed at establishing:

- The key stakeholders in any future project to develop a village hall e.g. S&LCC, Swinton Village Events, SBC Education Department, interest groups, etc.
- The needs for a village hall i.e. the various purposes for which a hall would realistically be used.
- Possible village hall development funding streams.
- Possible means of funding the ongoing management, operation & maintenance of a village hall.
- Possible alternatives to a new village hall to meet the identified needs.

Correspondence:

We have received, from the owners of a holiday home on The Green, an inquiry regarding possible use of the Swinton village marquee tents for a wedding, which would be held on The Green.

Meg Reid undertook to contact the interested parties, to obtain further details.

MR

A.O.C.B

DE reported that a revised version of the S&LCC Constitution has been approved by the appropriate SBC section, and that the document will be circulated to all S&LCCs asap.

DE stressed requested all Community Councillors to read the document in full, as it would be proposed for adoption at the forthcoming S&LCC AGM on Monday 13 May 2019. If any CC wishes to propose changes/corrections to the document, they should do so by e:mail to DE asap.

Next Meeting:

Monday 13 May 2019 at 19:00 in The Wheatsheaf Hotel.

NOTE:

Scheduled meeting 19:00 – 20:30

AGM 20:30 – 21:00