

SWINTON & LADYKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 7TH June
2023 at 7.00pm in the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Swinton

PRESENT:

Iain Woolley (IW) (Chair), Bill Purvis (BP), Kenneth Morton (KM), Tim Morris (TM) , Meg Reid (MR), John Cochrane (JC), and Fiona Wilson (FW). Six members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Donald Moffat, Michael Lawrence

Minutes taken by: Fiona Wilson

Next meeting: 2nd August 2023

Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He and BP had attended the BCCF meeting and had spoken to Police Scotland regarding recent road accidents in the village and CC's concerns on speeding.

Apologies: Councillor Donald Moffat, Michael Lawrence. It was noted that no SBC councillors had attended a CC meeting for some time.

Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting on the 3rd May 2023 were read and agreed.

Proposed: KM **Seconded:** JC

A member of the public questioned the absence of minutes on the website. Scott Spence who manages this on our behalf is currently in hospital and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Matters Arising:

- Road markings. Sec. has contacted Councillor Greenwell and the issue has been passed to the relevant SBC dept.
- Salt bin. Current proposal is to relocate to original site at west end of the Green. The bin was removed from that location as it caused substantial discoloration on the house it abutted. Several members of the public voiced their concerns about this proposal and the perceived lack of consultation with them. After discussion, it was agreed to consult with SBC but our preferred option is the south west corner of the village green.
- Grass Strimming of right-of-way. As previous contractor is unable to undertake this because of other work commitments, it was agreed that between the villagers who currently mow or strim sections and new volunteers, the right of way is pretty much covered. One outstanding area is the Core Path from the Green to the School where the Type 1 surface needs weed killer annually and also where improvement work on the Path is part of the planning conditions for the Development.

Treasurer's Report:

Not available due to absence of Treasurer. Claim for annual grant almost ready. The CC voiced disbelief that the amount of the grant has not been increased for decades.

Police Report: Not available. Concern was voiced that recent road accidents in the village would not be recorded.

Planning Applications: None at this time. However, a villager (who does not require planning consent) brought his proposal for a garden room with a window overlooking the right-of-way on the north side of the village to show to the CC. All agreed that it would be a most attractive addition to that area and thanked him for his courtesy.

Update on Hudson Ladykirk Development (Everley Meadow):

- Chair is in contact with Planning Department regarding the play contribution. There is concern that the monies could be used for day to day maintenance of the current equipment rather than the intended use of seed monies for funding for new.
- Jamie Hudson is on holiday and cannot be contacted. There appears to be some Health and Safety issues as we have reports of children playing on the site.
- It was agreed that at our next meeting August that, we take our concerns to our SBC councillors if there are no resolutions by that date.

Swinton Hub/Church:

- Chair of Hub Group is looking at funding options including Community Ownership Fund with grants up to £1,000,000. The Church has funds in excess of £30k designated for fabric repairs and maintenance that may be available to the Hub. Neighbourhood Support Fund could also possibly be accessed.
- Duns Presbytery Plan allows for the Church to be transferred to a Swinton Trust. This is being explored but would have to be agreed by Lothian and Borders Presbytery and national office of Church of Scotland.
- Hub Group setting up Facebook page setting out a vision for a Hub, including land purchase, village hall. Community engagement is essential. Stall at Gala Day to find out what people want.

Swinton Village Enhancement Group:

- Members of the group are meeting on Tuesdays at 10am to litter pick, tidy up, weed etc.
- Bulbs and wild flowers will be planted in autumn and next spring.
- Goal posts to be repainted
- Proposal for a Boules/Petanque pitch(piste) on the Green at west end. Whitsome Ark has one and their C.C. reports it is a great success. Any funding application needs community engagement. Closing date for this year's Neighbourhood Support Fund applications is 24th July.
- A member of the Group has spoken to an SBC worker regarding maintenance work on the Green play area. He has promised that the bench will be repaired and stabilised, structures repainted and swing seats repaired. She will follow up the meeting with a request for this in writing. It was agreed that SBC has a statutory Health and Safety obligation to maintain the equipment and if this does not happen, we should take up with SBC councillors.

- Chair told the meeting that sub-groups such as Village Enhancement can be covered by CC Public liability insurance for activities such as goal post painting, litter picking, grass cutting etc as long as we are made aware of these actions prior to them taking place. Jenny Head from the Group undertook to contact Chair with details and dates.
- John Cochrane is to continue pursuing War Memorial issue with SBC.

Telephone Exchange:

MR has contacted the contractor who has previously mown the grass area beside the exchange and suggested grass removed and replaced by gravel. A member of the public reported that a welcome installation of a fibre system for the village is likely in the near future- an Openreach surveyor having been spotted.

Speeding:

- BP has contacted the Community Policeman regarding speeding issues and parking at the Wellfield entrance. It was noted that that unsafe parking may have been responsible for the accident involving a cyclist and a delivery van.
- To support the 20 mph limit for Borders settlements, we can have additional warning measures – repeated roundels, either on the road as linings, additional roundel signs and on waste bins, dragon's teeth, and Gateway formalising which can incorporate planters.
- Our CC may be able to have speed gun training as it is rolled out.

Dog Fouling:

Continues to be problem for all Community Councils. Meeting reminded that repeat offenders should be reported on 0300 100 1800 or on SBC's on line form.

Correspondence:

As circulated

A.O.C.B.

- A recent Housing survey indicates that insufficient affordable housing is available in Berwickshire for couples and single people. It was noted that new developments often focus on four or five bedroom homes. One of the issues facing our public services in the Borders is the lack of affordable housing for workers.
- Composting garden waste and grass cuttings. No-one has come forward with a spare bin. There are issues for elderly villagers who may only have a small amount of garden waste and no access to the Waste Disposal site at Duns. Apparently you **can** just put that in your general waste bin.

All business being concluded the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Next Meeting 2nd August 2023.