

SWINTON & LADYKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 5th June 2024
at 7.00pm in the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Swinton

PRESENT:

Iain Woolley (IW) (Chair), Bill Purvis (BP), Tim Morris (TM), Meg Reid (MR), Kenneth Morton (KM), John Cochrane (JC), Michael Lawrence (ML) Treasurer, Fiona Wilson (FW). Councillor John Greenwell, PC Chris McLeod (Police Scotland) and three members of the public

APOLOGIES: Councillor Donald Moffat

Minutes taken by: Fiona Wilson

Next meeting: 4th September 2024

Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting on the 1st May April 2024 were read and agreed.

Proposed: KM **Seconded:** MR

Matters Arising:

- £100 donation for electricity received from 100 Club.
- Further concerns regarding grass cutting.
- Charity Cycle Ride staying overnight at Wheatsheaf has raised over £6000 for Cavendish Charities

Police Report.

PC McLeod introduced himself and his colleague PC Suzanne Jacobs, covering Berwickshire from Eyemouth to Westruther.

Over the last fortnight, there have been two speed gun checks in Swinton on Main Street with several drivers spoken to. While Police Scotland will not be *routinely* enforcing speeding issues, his team will do checks if communities identify particular problem times i.e. mornings at 6.30 till 8.00. He also suggested further speed reduction measures and Phillipa Gilholley to be contacted. The Chair thanked PC McLeod for his attendance which was most useful.

Treasurer's Report:

- Balance with marquee rental of £300 is £599.62.
- Annual Grant will increase from £670 to £693. All necessary documents have been submitted.
- New electricity supplier from 1st June. We are currently £20.82 in credit with Scottish Power.

- Further £300 for marquee hire in July
- Including payment to Unpaid Work Team for bench clean, SEG has spent £327 of £414 grant

Planning Applications: No applications to consider.

Secretary to make enquiries regarding solar panel installation on The Green which has not received planning permission.

Update from Regional Councillors:

- Interim Head to be appointed at Berwickshire High School
- Swinton Primary School – concerns over uncompleted works on upper floor that puts building at risk from damp.
- Because of heavy rains, Grass Management Officer has received many complaints re overgrown verges
- Current review of Live Borders. Disconnect between management structure and required service provision. Hard decisions to be made which could result in some services being taken back in- house
- Duns Pool successfully changed heating method during COVID to more economical system.
- Councillor Greenwell to take forward change to traffic movement on bridge
- Reported blocked drains on Main Street still to be cleared

Swinton Hub Group:

MR had attended the public meeting on 4th June. Hub Group is to conduct an online survey. Some discussion as to how that could be accessible to all

SEG:

- Though SEG to continue as very informal group of volunteers, it will still manage and evaluate any grant monies.
- Black benches on Green have been repainted
- Duns Road and Green wood benches returned after cleaning
- Bench opposite Memorial has been expertly mended and painted by SEG volunteer

Verge next to School on Coldstream Road:

- Member of public resident at Everly Meadow circulated photos of damage caused by vehicles and condition of pavement. Councillor Greenwood to progress.
- Because internal development footpaths haven't been completed, residents with wheelchairs and mobility scooters can't access village central safely. Hudson Ladykirk to be contacted
- Can pencil bollards be extended? Karen McGrath to be contacted

Trees in Wood and Duns Road wall:

- Nothing further to report at present.

- TM to chase Tree Officer Simon Wilkinson re ash die-back affected trees on tight of way

Initiatives and Public Engagement:

Newsletter. It was agreed to try to obtain sponsorship for late summer autumn edition. ML as Wheatsheaf owner will support. FW will work with member of the public over the summer.

Correspondence as previously circulated:

- email from a member of the public asking if we were going to cut the path through the wood and if we were going to supply more dog poo bags. Due to lack of volunteers, we were not able to cut any footpaths at present although we would have our strimmer inspected to see if it is still serviceable. Dog poo bags were originally supplied through BCCF free of charge as a temporary measure to encourage dog owners to pick up. A decision was taken not to provide further bags and to remove the existing dispensers.

A.O.C.B.:

- District Heating Systems. 25 properties in Swinton have responded for survey by Southern Uplands Partnership. Surveyor appointed. Swinton has good chance of being in pilot.
- Chair has circulated ongoing email correspondence with SBC regarding Community Amenity Land
- Councillor Greenwell confirmed that electric cars must NOT be plugged in with cables crossing public pavements

.All business concluded, the meeting closed at 8.38m.

Next meeting Wednesday 4th September 2024 at 7pm in the Wheatsheaf.