



COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Coldstream & District Community Council held on Thursday, 18th November 2021, in the Town Hall, High Street, Coldstream.

Present:

Alison Campbell (AC)
Iain Dickson (ID)
Colin Milne (CM)
Joy Thomson (JT)
Henry Wallis (HW)
SBC Councillor John Greenwell (Cllr G)
SBC Councillor Donald Moffat (Cllr M)

Online

Wendy Myers (WM) -part of meeting.
SBC Councillor Mark Rowley (Cllr R) part of meeting.
SBC Officer Jason Hedley (JH) part of meeting.

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jeanette V. Milne has sent a formal email to Scottish Borders Council (SBC) in which she agrees to abide by the Community Councillors' Code of Conduct

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Fiona Shepherd (FS), Diana Findlay (DF), Colin McGregor (C McG), Jannette Sim (JS) & Jeanette Milne (JM)

3 REPORTS FROM SBC presented by Jason Hedley

CEMETERY UPDATE

Work has started to build the new cemetery with 670 new burial plots and 24 parking spaces at a build cost of circa £465k. The access road will run off the A697 and the works are planned to finish by end of February 2022 and available for use from Spring 2022. As with the new cemetery at Kelso new strip foundations are being used which will ensure that there is no future health and safety issue with headstones falling over. It is thought that some of the plots will be available for pre-purchase but that is being confirmed. JH confirmed that there are controls around the design of headstones and all are preapproved to ensure they are appropriate.

BIODIVERSITY/TWEED GREEN UPDATE

The approach to maintenance of the Tweed Green has changed over time, partly as it is no longer in use as a campsite but also as SBC has changed its approach partly to save money due to budget cuts but also to reflect a move towards a more environmentally sustainable approach to grounds maintenance. In 2018 the maintenance for the Tweed Green, as for most SBC managed land, moved from a fortnightly cycle to a monthly cycle and grass was allowed to grow longer in certain areas to encourage bees and other insects and small animals and birds.

There has been a new initiative piloted in some Borders locations to plant wildflowers. If Coldstream wished to be considered for this then it is best to prepare the ground in November/December. It was agreed that this would probably be more appropriately considered for next winter and discussions should involve other interested parties in the town e.g. Gateway and Fiona & David Shepherd who maintain Henderson Park.

The weedkiller Glyphosate is used and is licensed for use in the EU although some environmentalists disapprove of its use. It is a contact herbicide used for hard to reach areas and avoids the need to trim which itself can cause health and safety issues (RSI for operators and stones sent flying by trimmers). The herbicide is normally applied once a season at edges and around bins and benches etc. SBC would be willing to stop using herbicides if that is what the Community want but that would result in more weeds.

Access to the river could be built into the maintenance plan and SBC would be happy to see proposals indicating where access is proposed.

HW to bring draft proposal to future CDCC meeting

SBC would be happy to work with a group to agree how we might change the maintenance regime and have done similar work with other communities including Peebles. The new regime would be put in place from early spring. It was agreed that we **organise a walkabout with SBC officers including Craig Blackie in January – perhaps a Thursday lunchtime? AC to organise**

PARKING/TRAFFIC ISSUES

There are a lot of parking and traffic issues in the town, some of which have remained unresolved for a while. Some are large and affect lots of people, some are smaller and only affect a few but for many the potential solutions are contentious and need to be fairly agreed, implemented and then enforced.

JH agreed to ensure that the relevant SBC staff be encouraged to update CDCC with what was possible to resolve the individual traffic issues already in play.

Cllr DM confirmed that as he attends the Community Action Team meetings monthly, if there are items that need to be enforced, we may be able to obtain some police attention in specific areas.

Councillors confirmed that the limited number of speed warnings in Coldstream compared to some other Borders town is due at least in part to the CDCC being in abeyance when schemes to introduce these measures were being proposed but that there may still be monies available for such works

AC to ask SBC for advice on whether such monies are still available and to ask Samantha Elliott to attend the meeting in December to discuss

For the larger elements at least SBC want CDCC to engage with the new “place making” approach that is being encouraged by the Government to embed the principles of Local Place Plans (from Planning Act) and the engagement of the community in decisions which is required under the Community Empowerment Act. There is to be a presentation to the Area Partnership in Berwick on 2nd December which we are recommended to attend on the use of the “place making” tool. We are also strongly recommended to use this tool and the staff newly employed by SBC to implement it as this should allow us to develop a Local Place Plan which will then in turn unlock lots of large pots of grant funding for Coldstream District.

AC to obtain and send details of the area partnership meeting on 2 Dec where Place Making will be discussed.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for 21st October 2021 were proposed for approval by Henry Wallis and seconded by Colin Milne.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- An additional sign for the playpark has been requested
- Cllr JG suggested **AC contact Gillian Jardine re any available planning monies**
- Remembrance Day service had gone well

6 UPDATE FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr JG said that funding was available for a cycle station in Coldstream for riders to use to fix their bikes. A site behind the bus stop at Henderson Park was identified.

AC to email Samantha Elliott to confirm that CDCC would like a cycle station.

Connect Youth are considering applying to use the two community rooms in the old school building.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

South of Scotland Enterprise Engagement Tour

Representatives from CDCC will attend and update the others – details have been sent to all.

EBDA Award nominations

It was agreed that Meeting of Minds would be nominated

AC to complete the nomination form

Social Media/Comms update

It was agreed we should work with Community Trust and “piggyback” on their website which is due to be updated if the Trust can identify funds.

ID to talk to Martin Brims /Phil Stephenson about whether a similar approach is appropriate with the Coldstream Community Facebook page

SEPA/Garden Waste update

AC to contact Ross Sharp Dent to see if a more helpful response can be obtained from the council re fly-tipping.

8 TREASURER'S REPORT

The grant is being processed and should be received soon.
The update to bank signatories will be made as soon as signatures can be obtained.

"Fix my street" app did work. WM to provide details so these can be displayed on CDCC community centre notice board

9 PLANNING (Cllr DM did not take part as he is part of Planning Committee)

It was agreed that CM had the authority of the Committee to correspond directly with SBC as appropriate.

Former Toilet Block at Abbey Road

Agreed proposal to suggest off street parking be included

Windows Duke Street

Agreed appropriate

10 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Play Park damage (CCTV?) and activities for teenagers in the town (Facebook coverage)

It was suggested that this item be discussed again at a later date with perhaps proposals around how we might work with facilitators to engage the community in finding a solution
AC to add to December's agenda for further discussion

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund

Funds available up to £2,500 per application. Joint working and plans with some legacy would be favoured.

AC to add to December's agenda for further discussion

Next meeting

16th December 2021.

Meeting closed 9:15pm