**COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Coldstream & District Community Council Thursday 21st April 2022 held **ONLINE**.

Alison Campbell (AC)
Diana Findlay (DF)
Colin McGregor (CM)
Wendy Myers (WM)
Fiona Shepherd (FS)
Joy Thomson (JT)
Henry Wallis (HW)
SBC Councillor John Greenwell (Cllr G)
SBC Councillor Donald Moffat (Cllr M)
SBC Councillor Mark Rowley (Cllr R)

**Visitors**
For item 3 Luke Fisher from Tweed Forum
For item 4 Christine Johnston, Keith Knight & Kay Smith

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Iain Dickson & Jannette Simm.

2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes for 17th March were proposed for approval by Wendy Myers and seconded by Diana Findlay.

3 TWEED FORUM

Luke Fisher gave a very interesting and detailed presentation on the whole Destination Tweed Project that is being run in part by the Tweed Forum that he represents. The project has many strands but the initial idea came from an attempt to walk the Tweed from Moffat to Berwick-upon-Tweed in 2014 by Michael Moore and David Parker for their Tweed Trek which proved very difficult. In parallel Tweed Forum were considering an area based natural heritage restoration project and were asked to lead the development of the project on behalf of the three local authorities. The project will run for 5 years + and, if the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant bid is successful in June, should start this year to connect communities along a “source to sea trail”. A lot of money has already been secured from other funders. Destination Tweed includes 13 projects across 3 Themes of Sustainable Infrastructure, People & Activities and Landscape & Biodiversity.

The project will include capital works to improve the current route and to add connecting sections and pathways to create a continuous route.; it will include interpretation, artworks, education, and a celebration of the history of the places along the way. Kelso to Coldstream and Coldstream to Norham will be start and end points for day sections of the walk. It is hoped that this could have a significant impact on the local economy. There is also some aspiration of an off-road bike route between Coldstream and Berwick-upon-Tweed.
Some money will be spent on designed landscapes improving trees, and on dealing with non-native species of plants and on the planting of appropriate species of plants to encourage pollination. Some of this work was already being done by Tweed Forum.
The Tweed Watch strand will concentrate on educating children on the environment and giving them opportunities to get involved. Tweed Stories will share information through interpretation boards, artwork or digitally to encourage visitors to move enjoyably through the area, connect and care for it and leave no trace.
Connecting Threads will engage with workshops, celebrations and volunteering opportunities. There will also be some Community grants for small projects that are identified along the way.
The project will be sympathetic to land owners and current users of these spaces. Extensive consultation work has already taken place with, in general, a positive response.
The Tweed Forum website is being updated and a newsletter will be started soon if people want to register online to receive that. The Community Council will be encouraged to stay connected to this project and we should feel free to contact Luke and his team with any issues, questions or suggestions.
The project already has links with SOSE (South of Scotland Enterprise), Visit Scotland, the three LAs (SBC, Northumberland and Dumfries and Galloway). Coldstream is a very important destination on the river's route and should benefit hugely from this project.

**Luke agreed to share the slides with AC for onward distribution.**
Everyone agreed it had been an extremely useful presentation and we looked forward to working with Luke and his team in the future.

## 4 HOW WE ORGANISE A PUBLIC MEETING

It was suggested by the visitors that they felt a public meeting to discuss any CDCC response to the planning permission request would not be helpful and might stir up feelings within the town. They felt that if the meeting did go ahead it should be run by an outside party. AC confirmed that she had contacted Planning Aid Scotland as had been suggested in an email and awaited any advice they might have about how a Public Meeting could be structured to achieve a calm orderly debate.
AC confirmed that ID had attended the Berwickshire Community Council Federation AGM and had asked for advice from fellow Community Councillors who had suggested that a Public Meeting to discuss the issue would be appropriate in this instance and on this basis an extension to the consultation period had been agreed to allow a meeting to take place in early May to capture the feelings of the residents of the town.

There was some discussion about how such a meeting could be publicised with Facebook being suggested as being unhelpful. There was some suggestion that leaflets should be dropped at each home if the meeting were to be held.
There was some concern also that the meeting would only be recording the views of "those with the loudest voices" on both sides.
At this point the visitors left the meeting.

AC confirmed that the request from SBC for feedback had not come until after the last meeting and that the date for response was originally set for 21st April which had not allowed time for full debate ahead of the deadline. A vote was held on whether there should be a public meeting with the majority agreeing that the public meeting should not be held.

It was noted that even though the official opening was only this month the caravan park has already made a difference to the footfall of tourists in the town and has created new jobs in the town.

After further debate a vote was held on whether the committee supported the application or not and the majority agreed that the application should be supported.

**AC agreed to word a short appropriate response to the Planning Committee and send it round all committee members before sending on.**

**ALL Community Council members were asked to respond by Monday 2nd May whether they agree with the wording to allow the response to be submitted by the deadline.**

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Rose Hogg is working on her actions and has met with Colin McGregor.
- The wheelie bin is in place on the Lees. The Leet Green is not appropriate for a dog waste bin due to flooding issues.
- The new sign for the park is expected soon.
- The police will attend Henderson Park when they visit the town.
- **AC will continue to chase quotes for the town crest.**
- **AC will add questionnaire to next agenda for discussion in May.**
- Susan Burnett has agreed to coordinate the litter picking early in May. **AC to advise that HW has got some more pickers, rings and bags for this.**
- Meetings taking place about Community Larder and suggestion made of potential site. Subgroup of 2 reps from each of Comm Council, Comm Centre and Parish Church has been set up and meeting set for early May. It was agreed that FS and AC should be the Community Council reps. **AC to send details of meeting to FS.**
- It is hoped the traffic lights at the cemetery will be removed before end of April – the delay was caused by Scottish Water. SBC wanted to thank the people of the town for their patience.

6 REPORTS FROM SBC

**AC to confirm to SBC no objection to renewing wall at old toilet block house.**

7 UPDATES FROM COUNCILLORS

- 4th June Legion celebration of Queen's Platinum Jubilee including Abba tribute band.
- We need to keep the dialogue going with Tweed Forum – the more we engage the more likely we are to reap the benefits.
- A net will be put up by the football club with SBC funding in the next 2-3 weeks to stop balls entering the children's play park and hitting children playing there.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

- Borders Chamber of Commerce will attend the next meeting to discuss what they can do to help traders in the town
- **AC to add to agenda for next time proposal to organise a Benefit Workshop with officers.**
- Police report had been issued to all committee members. AC has questioned why there are no local statistics this time.
- There were discussions around who might attend the Burns Club Bridge Ceremony on 8th May **– it was agreed that HW and ID would attend. AC to confirm with ID and advise the Burns Club**

9 TREASURER'S REPORT

All 3 accounts are now accessible and we have internet banking. The Accounts to March 2022 are nearly complete and appropriate payments have been made. A small amount needs to be repaid that was paid to us in error.
John Elliott has agreed to audit the accounts for us and the committee agreed unanimously that we should accept this offer.

10 FEEDBACK FROM PLACEMAKING SESSION

The session was attended by WM, DF and ID and feedback was not good. There seemed to be no coherent description of what Placemaking meant and some anxiety at the potential cost of consultants involved in its delivery.

11 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- **FS enquired whether we knew when the wildflower seeds would arrive for Henderson Park. HW agreed to chase this up.**
- JT confirmed she is discussing with Connecting Threads how the comms around the Story Wagon should be managed. She is considering whether the caravan park should be an appropriate place for this rather than the Tweed Green which is prone to flooding and has accessibility issues.
- **AC to liaise with WM around what is required for the AGM**

Next meeting 19th May 7:30pm in Town Hall following the AGM at 7pm
Meeting closed 21:22 pm