COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Coldstream & District Community Council (CDCC)
Thursday 19th May 2022 held in Town Hall.

Alison Campbell (AC)
Iain Dickson (ID)
Diana Findlay (DF)
Mary Hemingway (MH)
Colin McGregor (CM)
Wendy Myers (WM)
Fiona Shepherd (FS)
Jannette Sim (JS)
SBC Councillor John Greenwell (Cllr G)
SBC Councillor Donald Moffat (Cllr M)

Visitors
Siobhan Petrie (Director, Borders Chambers of Commerce) for item 3.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Henry Wallis & Joy Thomson.

2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes for 21st April were proposed for approval by Colin McGregor and seconded by Fiona Shepherd. There were no declarations of interest.

3 BORDERS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (BCC)

Siobhan Petrie addressed the committee with our newly appointed community councillor, Mary Hemingway, who is also the only representative of BCC based in Coldstream. The BCC is looking to widen its audience particularly in areas outside the central belt and want to work with the Community Council here in Coldstream to understand the best way to widen their membership and to support local businesses in the town. The BCC works closely with Scottish Borders Council (SBC) and South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) and can offer advice, networking, events to promote businesses and access to the job taster scheme. This scheme is being promoted for the next 12 months and allows 15-30 year olds with no current positive work or training destination to try out working with volunteer businesses. There is no cost to the business and all this is done in collaboration with SBC Education and Support Officers.

BCC is a non-profit making body that charges businesses for membership based on number of employees starting from £10/month. BCC have rebranded and are keen to restart initiatives such as the Job Fairs that used to take place pre Covid, to promote Business Excellence Awards and provide an offer of 2-3 events per month for its members, most of which will be face to face.

BCC are willing to host an event for us to showcase what they can do for members and local businesses. Networking events can pull in businesses from neighbouring towns and other partners such as SOSE and SBC to help businesses to get answers to questions such as “How do I start a business?” and “How do I market my business” and to access grants etc. BCC want help from CDCC to target what is offered to local businesses to ensure it is right for the town and the businesses here. BCC should be able to bring Developing Young Workforce (DYW) with them to events advise on apprenticeship opportunities for businesses.

BCC would like CDCC to collate a list of businesses in the town that can be contacted and to canvas opinion of what times might best suit – a weekend date would be possible. Their marketing team would prepare promotional material that both sides could share to attract attendees.
AC to coordinate collation of a list of businesses in the town

4 MATTERS ARISING

- There have been problems getting two quotes for the tile work to the town crest in Market Square. ID provided details of an additional business who may be prepared to quote. **AC to contact this tiler and ask for quote (DONE).** Quote from White Rose is due but problems with suppliers has delayed it so far.
- ID had attended the Burns Club Bridge Ceremony on behalf of CDCC.
- **JS felt the area on Tweed Green had not been maintained as agreed and will provide a photo of the offending area for AC to take up with SBC**
- Wildflower seeds had arrived for Henderson Park but none for the newly cleared area on the Tweed Green below Henderson Park and the brambles were not completely gone. **AC to contact SBC and ask for the brambles to be completely removed and to query the whereabouts of the wildflower seeds for this area once she has spoken to HW.**

5 REPORTS FROM SBC AS APPROPRIATE

Planning permission is being sought for change of use of No 43a High St to hot food takeaway and a response is requested from CDCC by 2nd June. Whilst in principle the committee would like to support business in the town and the bringing back of an unused shop they were keen to understand more about the proposals.
AC to ask for an extension to the deadline for comment and to ask for further information on what type of food takeaway is proposed, what hours it expects to trade and what licences are being applied for. (DONE)

6 UPDATE FROM COUNCILLORS

There had been a lot of upheaval due to the elections but it was expected that by 26th May full Council Meeting there would be clarity on roles and responsibilities for

SBC committees etc.
An offer of help from the Estates team to plan how we take forward the car park had been made. **AC to arrange attendance by a representatives of this team to the July meeting**

7 CORRESPONDENCE

- It was agreed that the placemaking response form should be submitted as presented to the meeting. **AC to submit the form (DONE)**
- Benefits workshop with officers. It was agreed that we need to find a way to confidentially help those who need financial advice whether that be re pension credit, benefits or anything else that makes it easier for them to make ends meet. "What Matters to You" hubs can be effective. SBC are trying to have all the services assisting those who suffer from poverty working together more cohesively. MH suggested that Pensionwise were a very useful resource for those wanting to draw pensions early without impacting on their benefit entitlement.
  JG to provide contact details for staff at SBC working on this

  AC then to contact them to ask them to arrange an event that could provide this advice.

- Police report had been circulated but did not yet include the theft of >£30k of biking equipment. DM confirmed that the Police have been visiting Henderson Park and the Playpark. He may ask if the mobile cameras might be requested to be brought to the town to assist.

- The noticeboard outside the Premier store in the town is badly worn and in danger of the glass falling out completely. This had been raised with the secretary in person and posted on Facebook. There was some suggestion that in the past access to this noticeboard had been denied to the CDCC who had had to buy one of their own which is outside the Community Centre. **ID to discuss with Martin Brims and others and confirm with the Premier shop whether they are still happy to have a noticeboard on their external wall and report back to next meeting.**

- A resident of the town had written in to complain about the general grounds maintenance in the Market Square with weeds and rubbish. FS also pointed out that there were issues with weeds growing out of the walls on Nursery Lane which must be affecting the structural integrity of the wall. **HW to advise whether these are things that we should be expecting SBC to do and if so then AC to contact the council for it to be resolved.**

- The Parish Church have written to CDCC for representatives to attend the Jubilee Sunday Service **– ID and his wife to attend on behalf of CDCC. ABC to confirm (DONE)**

8 TREASURER'S REPORT

The position was as reported at the AGM with minimal changes to balances and progress being made on getting full access to the bank accounts.

9 COMMUNITY LARDER

An informal committee has been set up with 2 representatives from the Community Trust, 2 from the Parish Church and 2 from CDCC – AC ad FS. AC has spoken to Andrea Goodwin at the Co-op and the Co-op are keen to help where they can. An application will go in for community partnership funding which could generate funds from October onwards if shoppers in our Co-op select the larder as their preferred project.
Discussions have been had with those running other larders and food banks including Suzie Hopewell who set up the Eyemouth Community Larder. All are supportive but suggest that a manned site is more likely to mean the food goes to those most in need. Various sites have been considered – A new shed outside the Community Centre, a part of the Parish church, old garage site, empty shop etc but we are hopeful that the article in community news might flush out some other proposals that might be a better fit. The Community News article stresses the desire to reduce food waste too as this is an extremely important function of a Community Larder and it asks for volunteers.
The Community Trust have kindly agreed to let the project ride under its formal structure at least until it is fully set up which will allow us to apply for grants etc. Hubbub have been approached as they are funders of community fridges and generally support community larders. There remains an awful lot to do – registration with environmental health, training of volunteers, risk assessments etc. etc. but the project has started.

10 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- It was agreed that bunting would not be raised for the Platinum Jubilee but Jubilee flags will be raised on 28th May in Henderson Park along with some saltires.
- **ID to finalise and send out questionnaire analysis**
- **AC to chase trampoline repair for the playpark**
- **AC to review what was agreed to by SBC re speed signs and chase any not delivered especially at the ends of the town.**
- **AC to ensure all correct steps are taken to register new community councillors**
- **AC to write to SBC team and thank them for their work on the new cemetery but point out that the Lennel cemetery needs some attention (gate needs painting and grass needs to be sorted)**
- The speed camera going out of the town has been covered over (due to moving of the speed limit sign) **– DM to raise with camera partnership whether camera can be moved and whether there can be a speed check put in place to see whether there is an issue (as reported to him) with speeding around St Marys church by vehicles leaving the town**

Next Meeting is 16TH June at 7pm – **ID agreed to organise a minute taker.**

The meeting closed at 21:14.