COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Coldstream & District Community Council (CDCC)
Thursday 15th Dec 2022 held in Town Hall.

Alison Campbell (AC))
Iain Dickson (ID)
Mary Hemingway (MH)
Colin McGregor (CMcG)
Wendy Myers (WM) - online
Guy Stephenson (GS)
Joy Thomson (JT)
Henry Wallis (HW)
SBC Councillor Donald Moffat (Cllr M)
SBC Councillor John Greenwell (Cllr G)

Also in attendance David Berry

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Jannette Simm, Diana Findlay, Fiona Shepherd, Carrie Bridge and Mark Rowley.

2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES & DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Minutes for 17th November were proposed for approval by Guy Stephenson and seconded by Henry Wallis. There were no declarations of interest.

3 MATTERS ARISING

- Market Square WM had managed to find a stonemason who was willing to quote to renew the tiles in the town crest, which he felt sure were actually coloured concrete. He believes he can make a tester quantity for an equivalent mixture for all the required shades for £200 (£150 one day's labour and £50 materials) and that there would be a further 3 to 4 days work then to complete the job. Durability is important as the tiles are open to the elements and pedestrian traffic.
  WM to advise the stonemason that we are willing to commission the investigatory work for £200.
  MH to attempt to get a second quote from the stonemason at the Hirsel, Luke Batchelor, to allow us to make a grant application.
  Cllr M advised that the fountain was removed in 1968 when the Coldstream Guards needed the space in the Square for marching display. A petition was created in the 80s with circa 1500 signatures to have the fountain reinstated in its original position. This could not be agreed and proposals by the then

Berwickshire District Council for alternative positions were also not agreed and the fountain was moved to the museum where it remains.

- Scotland Starts Here MH has stepped down from Chambers but now has a role with South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (SOSREP) and she intends to represent the private sector but also will be feeding in anything that helps Coldstream and its community.

- Benches HW is arranging for a bench held at the depot to be used (possibly not directly) to replace the missing bench looking down onto Tweed Green.

- Sweeper HW's sweeper has not yet been returned to him and the snow would make it inappropriate at this point but once he has the sweeper and the weather is better he will use the sweeper to remove moss in the Market Square.

- Defibrillators. The replacement pads have been provided to David Guthrie and we have had confirmation that no battery replacement is currently required.

- IT equipment The laptop for use of future CDCC secretaries has been ordered and will hopefully be collected next week (circa £180). The printer (£360) has been delivered. Once the larder is in its forever home the printer will be located there as a community printing resource.

4 SENIOR CITIZEN'S FESTIVE BASH

We currently have 54 signed up but expect numbers to increase a little. There will be a cut off date of 28th December for numbers. £3 non-refundable payment to be ,made to WM or JT by this date. Helpers have been identified for the day.
JT to draft a poster which AC will print out for noticeboards, post on Facebook and the website (DONE)

GS liaising with Robin from the Newcastle Arms re catering and JT with Adrian Price at the Community Centre. A further sub-group meeting will be held on 21st Dec at 7:30pm.

5 REPORTS FROM SBC - PLANNING
AC to advise SBC that the planning application for rooflights at a property in Leet St was supported.(DONE)

6 POLICE REPORT

The report itself was satisfactory but the lack of any visible enforcement action against blatant illegal parking on the new double yellow lines was discussed at some length. Whilst the Community Council is aware of the pressures on local policing it is clear that without any enforcement action from the police the pinch point will remain a dangerous corner for motorists and pedestrians. It had been made clear to the CAT team on several occasions that this was a priority for the Coldstream Community and assurances had been given.

AC was requested to send an email to Julie Pirone leader of the CAT team copied to Alison Granger insisting that this enforcement work be done as a matter of urgency or a member of the CAT team should attend the January meeting to explain why this vital work could not be done. (DONE). Without enforcement there is no point having double yellow lines.

7 UPDATE FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr M had had some positive feedback from residents about how ASB had been handled with prompt follow up by the police.
Cllr G updated with progress on the Union Chain Bridge restoration. The bridge has historical significance and is over 200 years old. It should reopen again in the new year.
Cllr G advised that SBC have agreed that £35k will be spent on 15 small generators across the Scottish Borders as a response to Storm Irwin and the position of Scottish Power who have now declared that they will no longer provide generators at times of planned outages. The use of these generators will be coordinated by SBC in discussion with the Emergency Services.
Gavinton have purchased a larger scale generator with grant funding and some smaller local community councils are considering following suit.
AC to ask Gavinton CDCC how much their generator cost and how it was funded. (DONE)
C McG advised that the vacant Coldstream Police Station has its own generator. All local Police stations have generators. Cllr G undertook to ensure this information informed all SBC Emergency Planning maps.

8 PLACE PLANNING

AC updated on the meetings she had attended discussing how to resource this work across Berwickshire – it seems to be suggested that the Third Sector Interface manage any external coordinating and support resource with funding from SBC.
ID is now the figurehead for the place planning work and an email will be sent out in his name to all local groups offering that the place planning team attend meetings in the new year.
Coldstream is being used as a pilot in Berwickshire for a community workshop in early 2023 which will be facilitated but there will be an emphasis on making sure that facilitation and other skills are passed on to the team as this workshop will be the first of many.
The lack of progress on the car park over decades is seen as a real barrier to community engagement but discussions have begun again with the council about what kind of car park proposal might be supported and Sincera have offered their help in preparing initial drawings and costings that can be used in discussions with the Council. The parking causes issues for residents and businesses and is impacting on Coldstream's ability capitalise on its position as a Gateway to Scotland.

9 QUICK UPDATES FROM OTHER GROUPS IN THE TOWN

A joint meeting of representatives of Gateway, the Community Trust and the Community Council is being held on Monday 19th of December to share knowledge

and plans and improve joint working.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

Berwickshire Green Map

AC continues to hold the green agenda for Coldstream until suitable people with knowledge of local green initiatives and aspirations can be identified to take over. There is a Mapping session proposed for early Feb for Green groups across Berwickshire to come together and improve joint working and information sharing. **AC to approach an individual who has previously expressed an interest in the green agenda to assess whether he would be willing to work with her in the first instance or potentially even take over the lead in Coldstream for this important agenda (DONE)**

Berwickshire Area Partnership

WM updated the meeting about items discussed at the Dec Area Partnership meeting in Coldstream:-

- Sgt Granger had said that police issues should be raised directly with her as her staff did not have time to attend local community council meetings.
- Coldstream Fire Service will become a wildfire support station with a 25% increase in manpower. The Fire officer can provide CPR and fire safety training and the town hall had been offered as a training venue.
- Anne McNeil, vice chair of A Voice for Duns had talked about Place planning and the need for resources
- There had been a presentation on Borders Greenway a multi-use 40 mile network of paths between Tweedbank and Eyemouth which they hope will be improved, made more accessible and signposted
- Juliana from BAVS had discussed the Poverty Alliance Network
- A new NHS dentist practice is due to open in Duns.

11 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the November position on all three accounts. Since then £135 has been received and banked from those due to attend the Festive Bash and payments have been made for the laptop, the printer and the defibrillator pads.

14 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Awards

CDCC had previously administered civic awards which were made annually. It was suggested that there had been two – one for a group and one for an individual. Some nominations have been put forward and a proposal that there be a third category for under 18s. It was agreed that **JT will discuss with the previous secretary, Janice Gillie, who should be able to fill in more details and perhaps locate the civic award trophies.**

We could publicise the awards in Community News to allow others to be nominated and perhaps have an award ceremony as part of the Coronation celebration.

Winter Road Maintenance / Gritting

There have been some complaints from local residents that not enough gritting has been done of either the roads or pavements. Whilst we all understand that resources are limited there was criticism that the route for the fire engine along Duke Street and Lees Brae had not been cleared with cars getting stuck on the latter.

The information that we have is that winter maintenance operations are continuing to tackle the exceptionally cold conditions we have been experiencing since last Tuesday. This has been exacerbated by, in some places, the heavy snowfall on Sunday, which was significantly more than forecast. This fell upon already frozen ground and was followed by overnight temperatures as low as -12C.

Despite additional resources being brought in to assist, it was not possible to clear all secondary and tertiary routes on Sunday as primary routes required repeated treatments. Unfortunately combined with persistent freezing temperatures, including during the day, this has led to compacted snow and ice on some routes. This has meant difficult conditions on our secondary and tertiary network and on some footpaths, despite SBC's best efforts and continued treatments.

Whilst surfaces have been repeatedly salted, the exceptionally low temperatures and reduced traffic not on primary routes and footpaths has impacted on the salt's ability to clear the compacted snow and ice. This is in contrast to the primary network, which had been cleared of snow and treated on Sunday and twice daily every day since. The SBC Winter Service Plan agreed earlier in the year and all available resources have been deployed. This has included treating car parks and footpaths at vaccination centres and responding to individual requests for assistance where resources have allowed and it has been deemed appropriate for SBC to respond.

A snow and ice warning is in place for the majority of the Borders throughout Friday, with further snowfall also anticipated on Sunday.

SBC will continue to do all we can to improve the situation on routes still affected by snow and ice prior to these next weather systems coming in. Fortunately early forecasts do suggest that early next week the temperatures will rise significantly, which will vastly improve the effectiveness of salting and clear any remaining ice.

We are all encouraged to report on the SBC portal any remaining issues with this and any other council service so that SBC can be clear what the issues are. Drivers are asked to drive to the road conditions.

Warm spaces

Cllr G confirmed that there had been 32 people attending across the two sessions at the Legion so far and soup and tea and coffee had been provided.
WM has produced a poster for this and the Parish Church warm hub and this will be posted on noticeboards, the website and Facebook.

The Chairman thanked all members of Community Council for their hard work over the year and wished them all a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2023.

15 NEXT MEETING 19th January at 7pm. Meeting closed at 20:40pm.