



COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Thursday 19th Jan 2023 held in Town Hall.

Alison Campbell (AC))
Iain Dickson (ID)
Diana Findlay (DF)
Wendy Myers (WM)
Fiona Shepherd (FS)
Jannette Simm (JS)
Guy Stephenson (GS)
Joy Thomson (JT)
Henry Wallis (HW)
SBC Councillor John Greenwell (Cllr G)
SBC Councillor Donald Moffat (Cllr M)

Also in attendance David Berry & Keith Knight (part)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Carrie Bridge, Colin McGregor, Mary Hemingway and Mark Rowley.

2 POLICE REPORT & DOUBLE YELLOW LINES

Alison Granger, Community Sergeant for East and South of the Scottish Borders, attended the meeting and explained that the CAT team are the ones who cover car parking offences and other issues with 12 officers across the whole of the Borders, but they were not available to come tonight. The CAT team can also be called upon to cover urgent issues. If we have any issues in future with the CAT team, CDCC can always contact Alison Granger and Stuart Little.

The double lines have been in place for nearly six months but this had not been policed and people were blatantly parking on the lines. Sgt Granger confirmed that tickets have now been issued on several occasions including today.

There is a manpower issue and the Police, as with all frontline services, are struggling with competing priorities and as such priority decisions are made based on casualty profiles. SBC intend to review how the CAT team is working.

It was confirmed that if SBC were to decriminalise parking then traffic wardens could be employed by the Council perhaps funded by fines.

Stuart Little should be contacting the Community Council before meetings. The Community Council were encouraged to report issues to the Police where they are concerned or have knowledge of issues.

AC to ask the Roads Dept if they could mark bays in areas with no yellow lines to maximise legal parking (DONE)

AC to post Crimestoppers information on Facebook to encourage residents to report issues to the Police (DONE)

3 TREE PLANTING

A presentation of environmental proposals was given by David Berry :- Coldstream used to have more plants but with a reduction in ground maintenance budgets the appearance of the town has suffered. In places some trees are overgrown e.g. trees encroaching on a bench in Home Park. Some grass is not being mown by the council because they cannot reach due to trees or ivy and this ivy is also killing most of the new saplings that have self-seeded. The play park attracts people and it would be great if the whole park were enhanced. There is not much growing in the park which means that with substantial rain the area does get waterlogged.

Footpaths around the town are also overgrown, some with hawthorns, and these should be made neat and tidy with basic trimming. If SBC doesn't have the manpower would we be able to get volunteers to help with this? Pupils from the school might be encouraged to join in where that would be appropriate. If paths are maintained then people will use them.

A sea buckthorn based company are willing to maintain sea buckthorn if we were willing to let it be planted for example at the fence line with the Hirsell. This company uses the fruit to make a juice which has health benefits and have proposed that we could share in some of the profit this might raise to help fund initiatives in the town. The Woodland Trust give away indigenous trees in autumn and spring to community groups and there are other grants that can be accessed. Coldstream people are keen to help the town and if we can make these changes it will improve well-being. SBC have confirmed that they can cut back overhanging trees on private land and bill the resident for this work after 5 weeks of having notified them to remove it without any remedial action.

The aim would be to start improvements in Home Park in March with the messy work done early spring and complete for the summer holiday. David Berry is willing to do the majority of the work but would ask for volunteers.

Who would have responsibility if there was an injury? David Berry would be happy to sign a waiver but we may need to organise public liability insurance although some volunteer groups may already have this. If not then the Community Council may have to ensure that it has insurance in place to cover this work.

Home Park is Common Good land and the area suggested for this work is the proposed site for the extended car park which is being worked up for public consultation. The Community Council is involved in any decisions over the use of the Common Good land. Some of the other green areas are jointly owned by residents so there would need to be some discussion with those affected to agree any works proposed there.

There is some question around whether sea buckthorn is a plant that would naturally grow in this area. David Berry confirmed that if the Community Council would prefer a different kind of plant/trees then that could be considered.

CDCC expressed some concern around the siting of these proposals in Home Park as it did not have any other alternative site available to improve car parking which has consistently been raised as the main issue in the town in questionnaires and in town planning. It was agreed that CDCC did not want to progress with the sea

buckthorn proposal but that other plants/trees might be considered for the school field and perhaps along the Leet and on Monkey Island. The trimming work was seen as a very good idea.

It might be possible to incorporate some more ecological and sustainable elements to make the car park more sustainable perhaps as screening. SBC Grounds Maintenance would also have an opinion on what is planted and this should be discussed with Neil Pringle on the 2nd February on the Grounds Maintenance Walkabout.

4 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES & DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Minutes for 15th December were proposed for approval by Wendy Myers and seconded by Joy Thomson. There were no declarations of interest.

5 MATTERS ARISING

- The stonemason has been instructed to do the trial work on the crest tiles but wanted some additional information first which Wendy is trying to source.
C/F MH is continuing to try and get a second quote from Luke Batchelor, stonemason at the Hirsel
- **C/F WM and AC will redraft slightly and send the placemaking email**
- **C/F JT to talk to Janice Gillie about Civic award trophies (DONE)**

.6 REPORTS FROM SBC - PLANNING

AC to advise SBC that there were no objections to the three applications (DONE)

AC to ask SBC if it is possible for them to send a letter to properties from Mansfield House to opposite the vets where the hedge needs to be trimmed back (DONE)

7 UPDATE FROM COUNCILLORS

SBC budgets are being discussed following receipt of the settlement

AC to advise Neil Pringle that we would like to have wildflowers from the Marriage House to the Police station in addition to those we need for Henderson Park and down from Bluebell Lane. (DONE)

AC to put on community Facebook page requests for any other proposals for wildflowers (DONE)

Cllr M to email AC Cost of living support information to load on Facebook

8 PLACE PLANNING

It was agreed that AC could register for the free 12 months use of a

community planning tool (DONE)

AC had attended a community planning workshop in Selkirk and it was agreed that we would organise such a workshop in Coldstream in March/April run by the same facilitator.

AC to organise ensuring the school are involved in a planning workshop and that it is promoted in the next edition of Community News (DONE)

9 QUICK UPDATES FROM OTHER GROUPS INCLUDING JOINT MEETING

A joint meeting of a Coldstream Events Steering Group, with representatives from Gateway, the Community Trust and the Community Council is to be held on 23rd January at 7pm in Leet Room to discuss Coronation celebration plans and to share knowledge and improve joint working. All groups in the town and those on the Community News email list have been asked if they want to send representatives. There has also been a very positive response from the school.

We are seeking the best way to avoid clashes with Coronation events and ensure that events are better coordinated and working together. If we have a jointly agreed plan we are more likely to attract funding.

Coldstream Community Larder are looking at a strong candidate for their permanent home where they could also house the community printer.

Gateway have taken down the lights, the spring plants have all been ordered and 10th of Feb is the deadline for Community News.

JT will write an article on the Festive Bash. (DONE)

The Community Trust are awaiting a full survey of the roof and envisage that they should be able to get grant funding for at least some of this. The After School Club will be leaving and the Trust will look to find new tenant but the space needs to be emptied first. Warm Hub funding now been received for hot drinks and home baking on Sundays taking the offer to three days a week in the town.

The Legion is refurbishing upstairs including the heating system which had stopped working and are looking for a grant for this. Seating and flooring upstairs is being replaced and they hope this will be ready for the summer. The Veteran's breakfast will restart when this work is done. They have seen an average of 18 folk for their Wednesday Warm Hub and it is going well.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

Cold calling

Carrie has started the process for Victoria Place but the police have said that they would like all of the schemes sorted at the same time.

Berwickshire Green Map

AC is attending a mapping exercise on 2nd February and will report back.

20mph coming into Coldstream from Cornhill

Cllr G has asked the Roads team to look at the signage and what is possible.
Cllr G will try and find out when the Roads team are coming and advise the team so that we can be there for these discussions. He will also find out what is happening near the caravan site and confirm if this is work to the broken flashing sign that had been promised

Cllr G will talk to Roads dept about what is possible to help signpost the 20 miles an hour limit in Leet Haugh (DONE)

11 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the December position on all three accounts. Since then the spend on the Festive Bash has reduced the balance on that account to almost nil despite a healthy balance on the account from pre Covid. There was discussion about how we might fund this year's. We could perhaps sell extra tickets for the raffle, increase the charge to those attending, have fundraising events such as a coffee morning or a combination of these. It had been a great night which had been well organised and was appreciated by the attendees.

ID to write letter to thank those who were volunteers.

ID thanked those on the committee that helped and especially to JT and GS.

12 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Notice boards

**AC to ask Men's Shed to quote to improve the current noticeboard and mark it as belonging to CDCC and for a new small noticeboard at the Town Hall. A second quote should also be obtained from what can be bought online.
(DONE)**

Coldstream Guards

The possibility of reinstating the old metal Coldstream Guards was discussed

Car park

Draft plans were considered with charging points, cycle sheds and lots more spaces. There were questions around supply of electricity and whether disabled spaces should be nearer the front. We need to discuss fencing to the playpark.

Anti-social behaviour

Cllr G & Cllr M were asked to find out how it is decided who gets placed in Homeless Accommodation in the town

After School Club

CDCC expressed its sadness that this is closing.

Cllr G to log that the path into the school needs to be resurfaced urgently

13 NEXT MEETING

16th February at 7pm. Meeting closed at 21:40pm