



## **COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL (CDCC)**

Thursday 16th February 2023 held in Town Hall.

Carrie Bridge (CB)  
Alison Campbell (AC))  
Diana Findlay (DF)  
Mary Hemingway (MH)  
Colin McGregor (CM)  
Guy Stephenson (GS)  
Henry Wallis (HW)  
SBC Councillor Donald Moffat (Cllr M)

Also in attendance David Berry & Jonathon Hunter

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Iain Dickson, Jannette Simm, Joy Thomson, Fiona Shepherd, Cllr Greenwell, Wendy Myers and Cllr Rowley.

### **2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES & DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Minutes for 19<sup>th</sup> January were proposed for approval by Diana Findlay and seconded by Carrie Bridge. There were no declarations of interest other than Mary Hemingway who declared that she is a tenant on the Hirsell Estate.

### **3 STORM ARWEN REPLANTING – THE HIRSEL ESTATE**

CDCC had been informed that, as part of the replanting plans following Storm Arwen, it had been proposed by the Hirsell Estate that a deer fence be erected in part of Dunglass Wood/Kincham Wood to protect new trees to be planted in this area and this had been put on the agenda for this meeting for discussion. CDCC were however informed that the planting would now go ahead without the need for a deer fence.

The estate were keen to reassure the Community Council that, as part of the reinstatement works after Storm Arwen, they will be repairing any damage to the tracks and paths caused by the harvesting operations. Further thinning works are planned in Dunglass Wood and following this they will tidy up the tracks in that part of the wood.

### **4 MATTERS ARISING**

### Crest

WM has made progress with the stonemason and WM to arrange to meet with GS and HW and the stonemason to look at the concrete sample.

**HW to provide more contacts for stonemason quotes for the market square tiles**

### Place planning briefing

**AC and WM to redraft the Place Planning letter following initial contact via the Joint meeting working group and to include promotion of the Place Planning Workshop on 26<sup>th</sup> April**

### C/F Actions

- **C/F DM will pass AC the welfare leaflet to post on Facebook and put on the noticeboard (DONE)**
- **C/F 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 (DONE)**
- **C/F Cllr G & Cllr M were asked to find out how it is decided who gets placed in Homeless Accommodation in the town (DONE)**

## 5 REPORTS FROM SBC – PLANNING

No objections raised against proposed extension at 1-2 Dovecote Duke Street.  
**AC to inform SBC of CDCC support for this application (DONE).**

## 6 POLICE

The report included the detail of the police incidents in the town in January that had been discussed at our meeting in January and as such had made unfortunate reading.

## 7 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WALKABOUT

There had been a proposal to vary the day and time of this walkabout. AC has agreed to look to do this after the meeting already organised for April. It is felt unlikely to be possible to have an “out of hours” meeting with SBC staff.

## 8 UPDATE FROM COUNCILLORS

The Scottish Borders Council budget includes up to £500 being allocated to individual Community Councils for Coronation events. The Community Council agreed that if, it were to agree to take this money, it would be good if we could target it to ensure it supports the members of the community that need it most.

The Pingo bus service is being extended for one year with a view to rolling out across the Borders.

The Coast to Coast cycle route is being launched on 14<sup>th</sup> March. It would be

worth considering items we would like in Coldstream to support cyclists e.g. repair stations, bike racks and e-charging.

## 9 PLACE PLANNING

The first Place Planning session include the Primary 6/7 kids from the town has been booked for 26<sup>th</sup> April from 10:00 to 12:30 and this is being advertised in Coldstream Community News and will be heralded on social media and noticeboards. We are keen to get as many people as possible and all Community Council members were encouraged to put the date in their diary to support what we hope will be a wonderful facilitated event which should help us clearly demonstrate the priorities within the town and give us the ammunition we need to ensure we can deliver them with the help of Scottish Borders Council and grant funders.

## 10 QUICK UPDATES FROM OTHER GROUPS IN THE TOWN

The Community Larder is moving closer to securing permanent premises. They are also working with OSCR to register as a charity.

The After School Club has closed and this along with a lack of childminders in the town is causing problems for some who are now no longer able to work as they cannot get any childcare.

## 11 CORRESPONDENCE

### Scrutiny

**It was agreed that AC should ask the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee to look at the unused trading estate on Lennel Road** which has no tenants and has stood unused for over ten years. We would like to understand what SBC is going to do to ensure that whatever extra it takes to make it a useful site is invested so the grant monies used to create the site are not wasted and actually generate a return and jobs for the community. **(DONE)**

### 20 mph

A letter had very recently been received from a resident near the Marjoribanks Monument which had not yet been circulated regarding speeding on the entry to Coldstream across the bridge from England. It was agreed that the resident should be invited to attend the meeting which SBC will attend (possibly online) in Spring to consider traffic calming measures.

### Website

Community Councils in Scotland had received an email with an offer for a free website to 10 rural and island community councils. **AC to ask for more information about the website and log our interest (DONE).**

The website coldstreamcomm.co.uk, which hosts among other things all of the minutes and agendas for the Community Council, is owned and run personally by the secretary of Community Council. There was some concern that this should not

be the case. Potentially a second website could be created to migrate the Community Council items to but the secretary was not keen to populate two websites. Perhaps the new website could be created in parallel and separated at a later stage?

## 12 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer had prepared the January position on all three accounts which had been circulated.

It was unanimously agreed that **WM should pay the usual £50 payment to Gateway for the flowers.**

## 13 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

### Community Resilience Shed

It was agreed that **AC should approach the Men's Shed and ask them to fix the roof of this shed (DONE).**

It was agreed that **WM should purchase a new hasp and padlock for the shed.**

The Resilience team is run by Martin Brims. **AC to contact him and advise him of these decisions and ask if we can have contact details for the team to put on the website and potentially display on or in the shed (DONE).**

### Bunkhouse visit feedback

Alison C and Colin M had visited Newcastleton village to see their bunkhouse housed on the top floor of their community building (via a separate entrance). The original building had fallen into disrepair and The Trust there had agreed to use grant monies to turn it into a real community asset. The bunkhouse has three ensuite rooms in very good repair, sleeping 4 or 6 each and each room has an outside pod where people can lock bikes.

Newcastleton flooded just at start of the building and Covid followed quickly and therefore the project has had significant overspend. After Covid, Storm Arwen closed the forests so they don't have the footfall they had hoped yet but hope the Forestry Commission will open their sites again on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

The Newcastleton team have also started a laundry that services the bunkhouse and other customers. The team continue to work with the community to make sure that the local businesses are used and engaged in the process. The team emphasised the need to do all the feasibility studies and clearly establish the need.

Coldstream needs to identify what the town needs and to do feasibility studies and prepare business cases around that need. Plans may also need to include a Plan B if we are going to ensure grant funding. We need to be sure that whatever we choose to put our resources and energy into is what the community needs and wants. Any decision to move forward on such a project would require

the Community Council to work with the existing Community Trust or create a new vehicle to build and manage any assets and employ staff if required.

#### Car parking

The people in the town need to be updated with what is happening and although we do provide updates in Community News we perhaps need to try to use as many different methods of informing the town as we can.

#### Visitors

There was lack of clarity around when are members of the public allowed to speak as they are not subject to the requirement for confidentiality that we sign up to as community councillors. **CB will contact Jenny Wilkinson at CDCC for some clarity on members of the public at community council meetings (DONE).** It was suggested that perhaps having an early agenda item for feedback or questions from members of the public might be worth considering. Cllr M confirmed that in other community council meetings he had attended the chair has decided if individual agenda items are private and not open to visitors and usually they are placed at the end of the agenda and visitors are asked to leave before these are discussed. Items that require this level of confidentiality are unusual and the vast majority of the agenda is open to the public to attend .

### 13 NEXT MEETING

16<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. Meeting closed at 21:03pm