



Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

Minute of the Monthly Meeting of the Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District held in the Old Council Chamber, Chambers Institution, Peebles on Thursday 14th January 2010

Present: J. Calder, J. Key, A. Kubie, A. MacKenzie, J. Pace, D. Pye (Secretary), G. Rennie, A. Stewart, J. Swanson (Chairman), L. Smith, R. Tatler, D. Tawse, J. Waldie, D. Wright, SBC Cllrs: G. Logan (until 8.20 pm.). In attendance: Insp. S. Sandilands and Mr P. Hendy

- 159.1 Apologies: W. Barrett, W. Sandland, N. Scott, I. Wilson, SBC Cllrs: W. Archibald, C. Bhatia, N. Calvert, G. Garvie, W. Herd.
- 159.2 Open Forum: Mr Hendy, Project Manager, Scottish Flood Forum, gave a presentation on the function of the Scottish Flood Forum, which is a three year development project funded by the Scottish Government. It is based in Perth at the SEPA Hydrology Department and represents communities in various forums. Its remit is to establish a network of community flood groups and is geared to getting people to take personal responsibility for themselves and their property and to ensuring business continuity. A flood group initiative will be started in Peebles in the Spring. J. Swanson to liaise.
- 159.3 Minute of Meeting of 10th December 2009: Acceptance proposed by A. Stewart and seconded by R. Tatler. Approved and signed by the Chairman, J Swanson.
- 159.4 Police Report: Inspector Sandilands gave his report to the meeting prior to the Open Forum. The police were coping with the bad weather and now had snow tyres and a landrover available. There is a new initiative, the nominated neighbours scheme, which will start as a pilot in Tweedsmuir during February. If it is a success, the scheme will be extended across the region. The objective of the scheme is to identify and protect the most vulnerable in the community.

The police are continuing to address the anti-social behaviour in Kingsmeadows Road carpark, but the problem will persist as successive young drivers replace those who leave the group. Other measures to solve the problem are being explored, but as the drivers rarely commit driving offences in the town it is difficult for the police to take action. A change to the by-laws would be required for any additional powers to be given to the police. J. Calder thought CCTV could work as it has in other carparks. Inspector Sandilands said that the best thing residents could do was to make a complaint direct to the police immediately they notice any anti social behaviour. J Calder said that the residents were not confident of police support hence their reticence in directly contacting the police.

J Swanson asked the CC to think about ways in which residents can be encouraged to contact the police at the appropriate time and bring these to the next meeting. Inspector Sandilands said that the matter would get as much attention as he could possibly afford. **Action – All**

D. Wright asked the Inspector if it would be possible to resurrect the Peebles Neighbourhood Watch schemes. Anyone wishing to restart such a scheme should contact PC V. Hamilton.

In March or April a second Community Beat Officer will be appointed so that PC V. Hamilton so that cover could be divided north and South of the Tweed.

D. Tawse said that the noise level in Old Town is too high in the late evening as people leave the pubs. Inspector Sandilands said that residents should immediately contact the police if they are disturbed.

159.5 Matters arising:

158.5.1 Pedestrian Crossing in Old Town: No further information, but Cllr. Logan will speak to the appropriate council officer to ensure that it remains a priority. **Action – Cllr. Logan**

- 158.5.2 Tweed Island: Cllr. Logan read the conclusions to the report on the Tweed island, which were that it has no significant effect on the levels of flooding, therefore removal will not be cost effective. However the thinning of the trees and other growth is recommended.
- 158.5.3 Toilet Facilities in Peebles: Haylodge Park toilets may be reassigned as a Common Good asset; the Peebles Common Good Working Party will discuss this at the February meeting. Drainage of the park will not be charged to the Common Good Fund but will be paid for by SBC.
- 158.5.4 Kingsmeadows Carpark: Previously covered.
- 159.6 SBC Councillor Reports:
- 159.6.1 Cllr Logan: Gritting and other bad weather difficulties – SBC should have given out information about low grit stocks earlier. Stores were full at the start of winter. This is sufficient for eleven to twelve days of gritting. A. Stewart asked about local grit bins and Cllr Logan said that many had been removed over the past few years and not been replaced. D. Wright thought that local contractors had not been called in until it was too late to clear the snow. Cllr Logan concurred that it was cost that prevented the contractors being deployed sooner. J. Waldie said that Damcroft was cleared by the residents but although the road was clear they had not had a refuse collection for three weeks. A. Mackenzie said that he thought that the council workers had been working flat out, but that it was circumstances that had overwhelmed them. D. Tawse said that the pavements in Old Town were dangerous because the packed snow had turned to ice.
- 159.7 Planning and Development: Report previously circulated.
J. Swanson said that responses to several of the applications had been submitted prior to the meeting due to early deadlines. The tourist information office board remained to be discussed, but there were no objections to the proposed changes.
- 159.8 Treasurer's Report: Current balance is £1,007.20. Several bills were to be received (some £800.00 in all) were to be presented in the next four to six weeks and it would be critical that the annual maintenance grant was received early in the new council year.
- 159.9 Committee Reports:
- 159.9.1 Bonnie Peebles: There was no meeting in January.
- 159.9.2 Community Projects: There was no meeting. R. Tatler had spoken to Mike Pearson and a revised route for the hill run has been devised. Members were reminded that a fundraising coffee morning will be held on 20th February. An application for lottery funding will be submitted before the end of January.
- 159.9.3 Community Safety Committee: There was no meeting in January.
- 159.9.4 Common Good: A meeting with Cllr Calvert and Mrs A. Isles will be held at 7.00pm, 28 February. A. Kubie had been in touch with Kirstin Scott, Selkirk CC, who has been extremely useful and sent copies of her correspondence with SBC regarding Selkirk Common Good assets. A. Kubie has also submitted an Freedom of Information Act to SBC, for a list of Common Good assets held in Peebles.
- 159.9.5 Positively Peebles: There will be a meeting in the Eastgate Theatre on Wednesday, 20th January, 5.00pm in the studio and 7.00pm in the main auditorium. There will be three main speakers and three hundred invitations have been sent, one each to every business in the town centre, Cavalry Park and to a number of community groups. Funding for one year has been applied for from the Scottish Government and a decision has yet to be received. This would fund a full consultation process prior to forming a Business Improvement District (BID).
- 159.10 Reports from other organisations:
- 159.10.1 Friends of Jubilee Wood: Meeting 28th January.
- 159.10.2 Venlaw Community Woodland: AGM 26th January.
- 159.11 Other Items:
- 159.11.1 East Station car park: Parked cars have created a problem for the teams clearing it of snow.

159.11.2 Tweed Bridge concerns: A. Kubie had raised concerns regarding the large potholes and cracks in the paving stones that have appeared on the up river side of the bridge. SBC have surveyed the bridge and say that the bridge is structurally sound. However the meeting wished to register their concerns that the combination of high flood waters and severe frosts may have damaged the bridge. J. Swanson thought that the CC should wait for the hydrologists report before taking further action.

159.11.3 'Going forward in 2010': G Rennie gave a presentation on how and why the CC should remodel and revitalise itself. R. Tatler commended Garry for all the work he had done. The secretary thought that the major problem for the CC to address was in it's interaction with the community. The meeting agreed that 'champions' for specific areas of interest would be a good idea.

159.11.4 CC response to Peebles Forum: The secretary advised the meeting that Peebles Forum had not been satisfied with the CC response to its document 'The Way Forward', however the meeting agreed that no changes should be made to the response.

159.11.5 Town Gateway signage: Despite discussing this issue last year, the issue had not been progressed by the external group that had taken this task up and the secretary thought that the CC should now take this project up. The secretary would like suggestions for the next meeting.

159.12 Miscellaneous Correspondence:

159.12.1 Lothian and Borders Police newsletter – circulated.

159.12.2 Peebles Abbeyfield Charitable Trust – Individuals who might be able to benefit from this should get in touch with the trust.

159.12.3 Planning Aid for Scotland – course in Dalkieth, L. Smith and A. Kubie to go if possible.

159.12.4 BT phone kiosk scheme to be re-discussed by BT and SBC.

159.12.5 Social services contact centre is closing and the visitor centre is moving into the premises.

159.13 Any Other Item which the Chairman Decides is Urgent

159.13.1 Asbestos has been found on the old Dovecote estate which is in the process of being demolished. J. Swanson will raise this with the appropriate persons in Health and Safety. **Action – J. Swanson**

The chair thanked all for attending the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 11 February 2010 at 7 p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.