



# Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

**Minute of the 163<sup>rd</sup> 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 13th May 2010**

**Present:** W. Barrett, J. Calder, A. Kubie, A. MacKenzie, R. Noble, D. Pye (Chairman), G. Rennie, W. Sandland, L. Smith, A. Stewart, J. Swanson, J. Waldie, D. Wright

Also In attendance: SBC Cllr N. Calvert, PC V. Hamilton

- 1 **Apologies:** J. Key, R. Tatler, D. Tawse, C. Carlton, W. Goodburn, SBC Cllrs: W. Archibald, C. Bhatia, G. Garvie, W. Herd, G. Logan, SBC Wardens
- 2 **Open forum:** There were no members of the public present so this time was given over to the introduction of new members.
- 3 **Minute of Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> April 2010:**  
Acceptance proposed by J. Swanson and seconded by A. Stewart. Approved and signed by the Chairman, D. Pye.
- 4 **Police Report:** Previously circulated  
PC V. Hamilton listed the events with which the police would be involved during May. The wardens had reported that their presence appears to be reducing dog fouling in the town, but no tickets had yet been issued. JW thought that these would be an effective deterrent and should be issued.  
D Wright asked if the police were still issuing parking tickets or if this had been handed over to SBC. The police are still doing this and there are still traffic wardens operating in the town. D. Wright said the Old Town Vennel was the worst place in town for illegal parking. PC Hamilton will pass this on to the wardens. The chairman thanked PC Hamilton for attending.
- 5 **Matters arising from minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> April:**
  - 5.1 With reference to bullet point four under Police Report, W. Sandland proposed that the Community Council confirms its support for the appropriate police action in curbing underage drinking. This was wholeheartedly agreed.
  - 5.2 Haylodge bus service – Cllr Calvert said that SBC officers are to conduct a computer survey of solutions to the problem of buses turning in the carpark. D. Wright said that the misuse of the carpark was still a major concern. The school traffic should not still be using the carpark because the bollards at the school entrance have been removed. J. Calder said that the new green gates are a danger to children because when they are open they are free swinging and could easily hit a child.
  - 5.3 Leadburn Junction – SBC has written to Mid-Lothian Council and will continue to pursue the issue. Temporary signs sponsored by an independent group campaigning to reduce motorcycle deaths have been installed. The chairman thought the matter should be kept in the public eye at all levels. G. Rennie thought that temporary hazard signs and rumble strips could be installed at minimal cost. D. Wright considered the visibility to be very poor from the Howgate Road and that it should be made into a T-junction.

Cllr Calvert suggested that further contact should be made with the neighbouring Community Councils in Mid-Lothian. J. Swanson said that these CCs had written to Midlothian Council. G. Rennie undertook to write to these CCs. He also agreed to make contact with the police (Insector Simpson, E-division (Dalkeith), based in Penicuik).

**Action – G Rennie**

W. Sandland thought that the measures would not have to be expensive, a speed limit would suffice. JW asked if there was a report giving the pattern of the accidents at the junction. Cllr Calvert said that unfortunately records are incomplete. The chairman asked G. Rennie to be the CC Leadburn Junction champion and this matter will be carried forward.

5.4 Crossing At Old Town – No news

5.5 Peebles Civic Society Letter re Chambers Institution – There had been no real response from SBC to queries raised by the Peebles Civic Society some three years previously. Cllr Calvert said that solicitors had been appointed to deal with the Institution and a lease is being drawn up so that SBC can rent the Institution from the trust.

6 **SBC Councillor reports:** Nothing further to add. The Chairman said that there had been a letter in the press to the effect that staff and parents are not using the pedestrian crossing on the Glasgow Road when taking children to and from the new school. Cllr Calvert agreed to take this up.

**Action – Cllr Calvert**

7 **Planning and Development:** Report previously circulated.

J Swanson, convener, was of the opinion that safety issues should not continue to be covered by this committee.

7.1 Jubilee Park – further 27 homes – Cala Homes had addressed several points of concern that the CC had raised. However, major problems remain, primarily Tweed Bridge and the congestion in the High Street. D. Wright thought that the bridge, an historical structure, was really suffering under the weight of site traffic and no further building on the south side of the river should be allowed until a second river crossing is built. W. Sandland asked if the zebra crossing at the east end of High Street could be changed to a pelican crossing. J Swanson said this was scheduled for 2012. The meeting agreed that the CC would object to all commercial developments south of the river until another bridge is built.

7.2 Installation of solar panels at 18 High Street – no objection as they will not be obvious even though it is a conservation area.

8 **Treasurer's Report:** Projected balance for end May is £1,071.56 and by the end of June it will be close to £500. The Treasurer recommended that the June meeting should discuss core funding. Bonnie Peebles accounts were available to view.

9 **Committee Reports:**

9.1 Bonnie Peebles: Report circulated. The railway plaque is complete but the stone has not yet arrived. The bin survey is complete and SBC will be repairing and replacing (with other bins from the town) the bins in the High Street. Ushers Wynd is to be resurfaced and refurbished. D Wright suggested that the road entrance be widened to allow better access for lorries.

9.2 Community Projects: Peebles in Bloom judging day is 24 July, with 10 July as the first selection day. AS to arrange for the judge to come to the next CC meeting to give instructions on what to look for. G Rennie will ask Bonnie Peebles members if they would like to come. The next meeting will start at 7.00 pm.

**Action – A Stewart / G Rennie**

9.3 Common Good: Report circulated. Ninian's Haugh Playpark is to be refurbished and modernised by a joint Roundtable / CC effort. A £10,000 'awards for all' grant has been applied for and two other grants will be applied for to cover costs. Cllr Calvert said that similar funds could be raised for play parks in Haylodge Park and Victoria Park. The chairman thought the CC should do more exploring of such sources of money.

D. Wright asked if installing pay to use toilets at Haylodge would save this facility. SBC are considering putting the running of these toilets out to tender and it may well be that a fee will be charged for use, in the mean time they will be opened on an event basis and charged at a pro rata daily rate to event organisers. The Benson-Wemyss Estate are in the process of taking on responsibility for the Meldon toilets.

9.4 Tweed River and Island Project: A meeting of the new committee will be held in June.

**Action – A Stewart**

10 **Committee Structure and Nominations to other bodies for 2010/2011:**

The chairman outlined what the committees are and what they do. Membership of the committees will be discussed in June and current members will continue until then.

- 11 **Reports from other organisations:**  
Positively pebbles Business improvement District: This is moving forward. A £20,000 grant has been received from The Scottish Government and it is possible that this will be matched with other funding. A Continental Market will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July to promote Positively Pebbles.
- 12 **Other Items:**
- 12.1 Peebles Activity Week: The website is designed and up and running thanks to a great deal of effort by R Tatler. There are notices on various town notice boards. Help is needed for the hill run; registration at 6.00 pm 19 May at the Gytes for the run to start at 7.00 pm.
- 12.2 Town Gateway Signage improvement – discuss next meeting.
- 12.3 Footbridge at Northgate Vennel – although the bridge is closed children are still playing on it. The chairman to progress the repair. **Action – D Pye**
- 12.4 Old Manor Brig – W. Sandland was dissatisfied with the repair to the bridge. He will draft a letter to Ian Mitchell on behalf of the CC with a copy to Historic Scotland and Lyne and Manor CC. The chairman was aware of a time-served stonemason employed by SBC who had not worked as a stonemason for several months and he could have repaired the bridge. **Action – W Sandland**
- 13 **Miscellaneous Correspondence:**
- 13.1 Floral Gateway Entry 2010 – Bonnie Peebles has this in hand.
- 13.2 SBC Local Paths Maintenance Grants for Community Councils – DW to submit an application. **Action – D Wright**
- 13.3 SBC Community Council's Insurance Cover – Documentation is to be kept for forty years.
- 13.4 Lothian and Borders Outdoor Diar 2010 is available from the Tourist Information centre, Harestanes and the ranger services. **Action – L Smith**
- 13.5 SBC Social Work Services Biennial report 2007-2009 – LS to read.
- 13.6 Safer Borders – circulated
- 13.7 Queen's Award for voluntary service nominations - circulated
- 14 **Any Other Item which the Chairman Decides is Urgent**  
None

The chairman thanked all for attending.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 7.00 p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.38 p.m.

W Sandland gave his apologies for the next meeting as did A Kubie