

AYTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 1 December at 7.00pm
in Ayton Community Hall

Present	Rob Boyd	RB	Kenny Combe	KC
	Michael Cook(SBC)	MC	Graham Dolan	GD
	Isabel Kellie	IK	Dick Noble	DN
	Norman Robertson	NR	John Slater	JS
	Rob Weatherston	RW		

The Meeting was chaired by John Slater. A member of the public attended for Items 1 and 2.

ITEMS

Action

1. Police Report

The CPO was unable to attend but had submitted a report which would be circulated to all Council members. Current priorities included Road Safety (Speeding), Misuse of Drugs, Rural Thefts and Antisocial Behaviour. Two incidents in the village had been recorded in November: two men selling fish from a van had previously been stopped by Officers in Midlothian and warned not to trade as they did not hold a traders' licence; a fixed penalty ticket was issued to a driver for using a mobile phone whilst driving.

GD

2. Open Forum

A member of the public attended the meeting to raise a matter of a personal nature regarding one of the Community Council members. It was determined that this was an inappropriate forum for such matters and agreed that a resolution should be sought outside of the meeting.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Joan Campbell (SBC), Margaret Carey, Jim Fullarton (SBC) and Helen Postle.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 November 2015 were approved as a true record. Proposed by RW and seconded by RB.

5. Matters Arising

- **Defibrillator** – GD to confirm progress on training arrangements with SAS. **GD**
- **Resilient Communities** – the shed was in place. Susan McLuckie was the key holder.
- **Christmas Lights** – the lights were in position and the tree would be erected at the weekend. Thanks were recorded to Ian Logan for his time and effort. Arrangements had been made for the switch-on of the lights on Sunday 13 December at 1600. Reston Concert Band would play carols from 1530 onwards. Refreshments would be available in the Community Hall afterwards. JS proposed a donation of £50 to the band; seconded by RB. This was agreed. **NR**
It was agreed to defer consideration of an extension of the lights to Shearlaw Road until later in 2016.
- **Clock Tower Flagpole** – some frustration was expressed at the difficulty in reaching a resolution in discussions with BHA over the position of the flagpole. It was agreed that RB would speak initially with his contact at BHA following which MC would approach the BHA Chief Executive to see if a way forward could be identified. It might be that this would include indemnifying BHA against any potential damage to the building. JS would contact SBC insurance officer to check on insurance availability. **RB**
MC
JS
- **A1 Action Group** – new cats' eyes had been installed at the junctions. No response had been received from George Henry on signage issues. JS would pursue. **JS**
- **Lawfield Drive Car Park** – a repair order had been raised with contractors on 2/10/15

- **War Memorial Information Board** – Bill Black was in discussions with a print company about the design/layout of the board. Once costs were identified, an application would be made to the Memorial fund.
- **Peelwalls Meadow** – further communication would be made with SBC regarding a perceived failure on the part of the Developer to acknowledge the stipulated condition for a footpath and bridge to provide safe access from the new houses to the village via Bleachfield. JS
- **Domestic Solar Panels (no 3, Old Town)** – it was noted that SBC was progressing this planning matter.
- **NHS Access Strategy** – noted that the Strategy would be discussed at the Berwickshire Area Forum meeting to be held on 5 December.
- **Core Path Maintenance Grant** - £450 was available until the end of February 2016 to fund work to improve access to paths for walkers. A recently established walking group would be asked to identify – weather permitting – any grass cutting/levelling requirements to facilitate access. RW/IK
- **Dog Fouling** – MC advised that no information would be available on SBC's enforcement approach until early 2016. There was discussion on the sensitivity of striking a balance between reporting known offenders and maintaining good neighbourhood relationships.
- **Hedge Plants** – RB had worked up costings and it was agreed to allocate a budget of £500 (half from the Project Fund) for the purchase and planting of fill-in hedge plants (hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose) and top soil to the road leaving the village (north). RB

6. Planning Applications

There was no supporting documentation to enable discussion about an application for proposed vehicular access at 20 The Crofts; JS declared an interest (and left the meeting) in an application for the erection of a dwelling house on land east of Whitfield House. No comment was made on the application. GD

7. Area Councillor's Report

MC gave a brief report on SBC's current agenda including planning for further budget reductions, the integration of Health and Social Care services, a proposal to house ten refugee families in the Borders over the next 5 years with central government funding, and a change to Police Reporting to concentrate more on local issues.

8. Treasurer's Report

NR reported £1703.67 in the Treasurer's Account of which £816.84 was earmarked for the Christmas lights. The Project Account remained unchanged at £1000.61 including £383.19 for the defibrillator. The Christmas Lights Appeal had raised just over £3000 from individuals and local organisations including £280 from the collection box placed in the village shop. The balance remaining after electricity, band and refreshments expenditure had been made would be transferred to the Project Account for next year.

NR would report at the February meeting on existing financial commitments to activities. NR

9. Correspondence

GD was preparing a response to a letter received from a local resident in which the familiar issues of dog fouling and tractors perceived to be speeding through the village had been raised. GD

10. AOCB

- **Dumping of Garden Rubbish:** a report of rubbish dumped near to the Christmas Tree indicated the need for extra vigilance especially at this time of year. All
- **Play Park:** a proposal for additional trees and benches would be considered at a future meeting.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 2 February 2016 in Ayton Community Hall