

Ayton Community Council

Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 3 November 2020 via Zoom

Present:	Margaret Carey	MC	Kenny Combe	KC
	Graham Dolan	GD	Isabel Kellie	IK
	Helen Laing (SBC)	HL	Paul Priestman	PP
	Rob Weatherston	RW	Sarah Woodbury	SW

The Meeting was Chaired by Kenny Combe.

Richard Noble

It was with great sadness that the Community Council acknowledged the death of one of our longest standing members. Richard (Dick) Noble had died very suddenly in June of this year. Dick was well known in the village and had been to the forefront of ensuring the success of the annual Christmas lights display and all matters concerning the flagpole on the Clock Tower, amongst other things. **KC** spoke for all CC members in his tribute to Dick and in reiterating our condolences to Rhonda.

Items

1. Welcome Back

KC commented that at our last meeting in March, Covid19 had been mentioned in the passing. A helpline had been established for the village prior to SBC support becoming available and had worked well until its disbandment at the end of July to coincide with the removal of shielding restrictions. The Resilience Group had been revitalised with funding from SBC and BAVS and had also played an important part in supporting the more vulnerable residents in Ayton.

2. Police Report

The Police Report had been restyled as a Multi Member Ward Report covering all East Berwickshire Community Council areas. The October report contained no specific mention of Ayton, but detailed incidents in East Berwickshire falling within the local policing priorities of

- protecting the most vulnerable
- reducing violence and anti-social behaviour
- reducing acquisitive crime
- improving road safety
- tackling serious and organised crime.

3. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Catherine Chisholm.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 March 2020 were approved. Proposed by **GD** and seconded by **SW**.

5. Matters Arising

A number of long standing issues had been concluded or not progressed during the pandemic:

- **Jim Clark Rally** - no progress
- **B6355 Peelwalls Meadows** - no progress
- **Castle View Houses sign** - concluded
- **Dunclutha** - concluded
- **VE Day 75th Anniversary** - concluded
- **Falling Roof Slates** - concluded

Other matters were still extant:

- **50 Houses Development (Beanburn/Lawfield Drive)** - an approved 3 week closure of the Beanburn to through vehicular traffic had commenced Friday 9 October to enable connection of the new foul drain from the development to the existing sewer. Work had to stop at the end of day 6 when, at a depth of almost 4 metres, the crumbling sub structure of the road was deemed too dangerous for work to continue safely. SBC's Planning Committee had previously been well appraised of the size of commercial HGVs and modern agricultural vehicles accessing this old road amid concerns about the integrity of the sub structure. No decision had yet been reached on how to proceed safely. In the meantime, **HL** agreed to advise of an SBC contact who may have information on weight restrictions applicable to this kind of road. **HL**
- **Building of 4 Houses B6355 (Line of Sight)** - protracted correspondence had taken place in June 2020 with Ian Aikman, SBC's Chief Planning & Housing Officer, to try and understand the purpose of applying conditions to a planning decision when they are knowingly ignored. In this case, the planning condition (which had been hard fought for by the previous Community Council) was clearly stated to be necessary in the interests of road safety and was one which had to be achieved prior to the commencement of any other development on site. One house is now built and occupied without any improvement to the line of sight or any acceptable explanation from SBC. Consideration would be given to pursuing this matter further. **KL/GD/IK**
- **Stop Look and Listen** - **HL** agreed to remind Philippa Gilhooley of outstanding works still to be undertaken to the subsiding footpath between Shearlaw Road and the playing field (Safer Routes to School). **HL**
- **Eyemouth Community Campus** - **HL** advised of the recent appointment of a new head of Children's and Young People's services. A new set of options was being developed around the use of school buildings which would lead to a new consultation process. No timetable had yet been set for this.
- **Clock Tower Flagpole** - Ian Forsyth had offered to take on responsibility for the maintenance of the flagpole with the involvement of Rob Boyd. Rethreading of the rope was required before the new flag could be hoisted. It was hoped that this work could be completed before the end of the year.

6. Planning Applications

- **Road Construction Consent** - garage showroom and filling station and adjoining High Street. As planning permission had already been given for the construction of dwelling houses on this site, the application was supported. **GD**
- **Summerhill, Beanburn, Ayton** - internal and external alterations to form holiday let accommodation (change of use from detached garage. Supported. **GD**

7. Area Councillor's Report

HL gave a comprehensive report on

- the local development plan - now available online for consultation until 25 January 2021;
- introduction of 20mph speed limit in Borders towns and villages;
- Area Partnership meeting - would take place 3 December 2020 on line. It was noted that improvements to the area partnership arrangements were being considered following receipt of an unfavourable independent report;
- SBC was engaged on the preparation of a climate action plan to tackle carbon emissions.

8. Treasurer's Report

GD reported a balance of £1284.65 in the Treasurer's Account, reflecting grants for COVID related expenditure by both the CC group and the Resilience Group. The Project Account (ringfenced for Christmas lights and defibrillator) stood at £1112.49.

9. Correspondence

GD had circulated all correspondence received since the last meeting.

10. Christmas Lights

GD had confirmed with Ian Logan and Jamie Lindsay that they would again assist with the installation of the tree and lights, hopefully before the end of November. Additional pairs of hands would be very welcome. COVID restrictions did not allow for any switch on event this year.

GD

11. Remembrance Sunday

KC would contact Norman Whyte regarding Sunday's ceremony at the War Memorial. A wreath had been purchased.

KC

12. Horse Deposits

Several complaints had been made about large horse deposits being left on public footpaths and pavements - one complaint concerned a deposit being left on the open driveway to a house. It was agreed that a polite request to equestrians via the village Facebook page would best address the issue.

KC

13. Annual General Meeting

The Community Council had been unable to hold the usual May AGM this year. It was agreed that this should take place on the first Tuesday in January 2021 ie 5th via Zoom.

KC/GD/IK

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 1 December 2020 via Zoom.