

Ayton Community Council

Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 6 April 2021 via Zoom

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

The Meeting was Chaired by Kenny Combe.

Items

Action

1. Multi Member Ward (Police) Report

KC outlined the main issues presented in the East Berwickshire report for March. An update from the Community Sergeant highlighted

- launch of a joint initiative with the Borders Food Train delivering scam prevention packages to raise awareness of current trends in communities
- involvement with the Scottish Borders Partnership in Rural Crime, working together to reduce acquisitive crime
- a successful CID cross border investigation in relation to a number of linked thefts across the region.

Local policing priorities were unchanged. 6 assaults were reported - 5 in Eyemouth and one in Reston; numerous incidents involving anti-social behaviour and vandalism in Eyemouth were reported as well as 4 incidents of theft; 8 incidents throughout East Berwickshire relating to road safety were noted.

Anyone with information relating to any criminal activity can contact Police Scotland by dialling 101 or by calling **CRIMESTOPPERS** anonymously on **0800 555111**.

2. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting (via Zoom) held on 2 March 2021 were approved. Proposed by **SW** and seconded by **RW**.

4. Matters Arising

- **50 Houses Development (Beanburn/Lawfield Drive)** - the Site Agent for the development had reported some slippage in the handover timetable. The first six units were now expected to be handed over to BHA by mid June with the remaining 24 units on track for July. A specialist drilling company had begun work on the sewer connection today, 6 April.
- **Building of 4 Houses B6355 (Line of Sight)** - **HL** had raised the matter of imposing unenforceable planning conditions at a full Council meeting as requested and had asked what mechanisms should be in place to prevent a recurrence. It was noted that a Planning Working Group would consider the specific issue in question to determine why this planning condition had not been maintained in perpetuity, as required. **HL**
- **Stop Look and Listen** - it was noted that Safer Routes to School were no longer designated by SBC, having reverted to parental choice. Nonetheless, the path from Shearlaw Road to the playing field was still in need of remedial surface works. **HL**
- **Christmas Lights** - **GD** advised that a separate group had now been established to manage the Christmas lights arrangements. The group comprised Kenny Combe (Chair),

Graham Dolan (Treasurer), Roger Postle, Chris Nitsche and James Bewsey. A transfer of some ringfenced funds from the Project Account to the new group was requested and supported. The transfer of £800 was proposed by **MC** and seconded by **PP**. Insurance cover was still to be investigated. **GD**

- **Area Partnership Meeting - HL** advised of changes being considered to the existing arrangement of Community Fund disbursement. One potential change would see Area Partnerships establishing Assessment Panels to scrutinise applications to the Community Fund. The Assessment Panels would have no voting rights (controversial) with the final decision still resting with the Area Partnerships. This issue was referred for discussion to the next AP meeting.
- **Potholes** - temporary repairs had been made to some of the potholes. It was noted that residents of Lawfield Drive had reported similar problems. **HL**
- **Dunclutha** - there was no apparent improvement to the pavement flooding or proposed investigative works. However, it was accepted this matter might be related to item 9 below - Ayton Flood Risk.

5. Planning Applications

Two planning applications were noted and supported:

- Orchard House, High Street, Ayton - Extension to Dwelling House
- Vicarsford, High Street, Ayton - Alterations and Extension to Dwelling House. **GD**

6. Ayton Resilience Group

CC advised that an information leaflet on the Ayton Resilient Communities Plan had been distributed to every house in the village, together with a questionnaire inviting interest from volunteers. Food boxes from the Reston Larder continued to be issued to families every fortnight and it was noted that Morrisons had donated Easter eggs and compost for the School's 'Outdoor Learning Zone'. Anyone with unwanted snow shovels from the resilience store should contact the Co-ordinator for uplift.

7. Area Councillors' Report

HL reported on

- problems with fly tipping at the Fernieside lay by/bottle bank. It was noted that an Ayton resident had complained about the lack of a bottle bank in the village but had not made any suggestions for a suitable site
- the 20mph speed limit had been extended to the Bleachfield road end off the Beanburn
- an Open University link for Community Council training.

CH reported on

- the return date of 19 April for all school children
- the proposed siting of an electronic traffic speed sign outside the previous RBS building. It was suggested that a second sign be requested for the Old Town Eyemouth road. **KC**
- the Fernieside lay by mess - human excrement had been reported. This required removal by a specialist team first before general fly tipping could be removed.

8. Treasurer's Report

GD reported a balance of £224.77 in the Treasurer's (working) Account and £1240.78 in the ringfenced Project Account.

9. Ayton Flood Risk

A series of well researched reports following the February floods had been prepared by an Ayton resident with involvement from SBC's Flood and Coastal Management Team Leader and a representative of Ayton Castle. SBC's Officer had undertaken to draw the findings to colleagues in Planning and Building Standards in the first instance.

10. Correspondence - all previously circulated.

11. AOCB

Trees on High Street - a request had been received for a financial contribution from the CC towards the removal of trees in a gap site between houses on the High Street. Their removal had previously been approved by SBC. The Community Council felt that this cost should be borne by SBC as the owner of the gap site. **HL** would pursue with Neil Pringle (SBC). **HL**

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held via Zoom at 7.00pm on Tuesday 4 May 2021.