

Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage Community Council

Ordinary Meeting 10 May 2021

Draft Minutes

Meeting was held virtually via Zoom. Geoffrey Kolbe was Host for the meeting.

Those attending:

Community Councillors - Geoffrey Kolbe (GK) Chairman, Andrew Warburton (AW) Vice Chairman, John Scott (JS) Treasurer, Lawrence Scott (LS)

SB Councillors - George Turnbull (GT)

.

Member of the public - three

Meeting started at 7:15 pm

1. Apologies for absence

Councillor Watson McAteer

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 15th February 2021

AW proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. JS seconded the motion, which was carried

3. Matters arising

Community Trust

JS reported that he had now made contact with Lucy Esplanade of the Development Trust Association, who is now our contact within the organisation. She will come down at a convenient time to talk to us about setting up a Trust. JS suggested that this might be a public meeting.

Insurance.

JS reported that the documents had been submitted for the CC to be insured for the next year.

Resilience

JS reported that a Resilience Plan had now been received, commented upon by the resilience team and returned. JS commented that we were now very close to having a comprehensive resilience plan, which would be of benefit to the whole community. Once the final plan is received back from SBC, it will be posted on the ULHCC website.

4. Treasurer's report

JS stated that he had nothing to add to the report already submitted to the AGM immediately preceding this meeting.

5. Defibrillators for B6357 area and Hermitage Road Gorrenberry/Twislehope

GK proposed that the CC seek grant funding for two defibrillators, one for the B6357 road and one for the Hermitage Road before it enters the Dumfries & Galloway area.

For the B6357, GK noted that the temperature of a defibrillator should not be allowed to go below freezing, and so they would need to be in a heated cabinet. GK noted that the only viable place for mains power was the telephone kiosk near Saughtree, but this was somewhat removed from the population area on the B3657 centred on Riccarton/Larriston which the defibrillator was to serve. Consequently GK proposed that the defibrillator be housed near the resilience shed opposite Larriston and be housed in a well insulated cabinet, which could have a heater powered by a battery charged by a solar panel. GK noted that temperatures significantly below zero in this area were usually accompanied by sunny days which would keep the battery powered via the solar panel. It was agreed that funding for this defibrillator arrangement be sought.

JS raised the issue of a locked v unlocked cabinet and the need for easy access to the defibrillator, especially with no mobile contact with the ambulance service currently available. It could be that insurance would cover a defib in an unlocked cabinet as historically there have been very few – if any – thefts of this very particular piece of equipment.

JS noted £650 has been ringfenced in the UL&H CC account for this defibrillator and should be used as the UL&H CC contribution in any funding application.

For a defibrillator at the Gorrenberry/Twislehope end of the Hermitage Road, GK reported that Sarah Laing had expressed the need for a defibrillator sited at Twislehope farm for the walkers who pass the farm house on the way to the hills behind the farm. LS noted that walkers on the hills would have a mobile phone signal, and was sceptical that the journey down to a defibrillator at the farm steadings and back to a person of need would be quicker than using the phone to call in an air ambulance. LS also noted that there was no one place where people tended to park when walking over the hills and so there was no particular car parking area where a defibrillator could be sited. GK noted that Twislehope was half a mile from the road and asked if it was worth putting a defibrillator in the barns at Gorrenberry for the local population. But after some discussion it was agreed that there were insufficient people, and not enough passing traffic, to justify a defibrillator on the road there. It was therefore not agreed that funding for a defibrillator for that end of the Hermitage road be sought.

6. Response to Scoping Report for Teviot wind farm

GK proposed that prepared draft response to the Scoping Report be accepted and submitted to Energy Consents. JS commented that rather than the phrase that it will “interesting to see” how the water is obtained for the proposed hydrogen production, the developer should be required to state how the water is to be abstracted from the site and that the effects of this operation on the hydrology should be examined.

GK noted that the work on clear felling the forest, and on digging out the holes for the platforms for the turbines and cranes, could lead to muddying and pollution of the spawning ground for the salmon and trout in the Teviot and the Slitrig, which are feed waters for the Tweed, the best large fishing river in the country. This could have very damaging consequences for the fishing based tourist industry along the length of the river, which is worth a great deal of money and it is not mentioned in the Scoping Report.

7. Teviot & Liddesdale grant funding report

GK noted that there had been a meeting of Teviotdale area CCs to discuss area funding models on 26th April. A report of that meeting had been circulated by GK. GK explained that it had been proposed by Newcastleton CC that there be two types of funding, Type A and Type B. The meeting had agreed that this was a way forward and Scottish Borders Council were happy to adopt it. GT was asked about the timing of the fund, when applications could start. GT said he would find out.

JS proposed that UL&H CC should agree to the model proposed by Newcastleton CC. AW seconded the proposal, which was carried

8. Flood management in the Liddel valley

GK presented a report on the flooding that happened in February 2020 and February 2021. He asked that the CC adopt this report and forward it to the relevant people in the Council. It was agreed that the report should be adopted, and GT was asked to whom the report should be sent. GT thought that Duncan Morrison who deals with flooding issues, John Currie the assets manager, and Gordon Edgar of Selkirk area, an elected Councillor with an interest in flooding issues.

Ian and Lynda Graham of Steele Road End cottage reported on the issues with the drain passing by their house, where the ditch had been widened and improved, but the pipe under the road to carry the water away had not been enlarged. In consequence, the flood water had scoured out the ditch and deposited gravel on the B6357 road to the extent that it became a traffic hazard. GK said that this had been reported and that the pipe was due to be enlarged this summer. He also noted that the increased efficiency with which this flood water would be removed and put into the river meant an increase in the flood risk in Newcastleton. GK noted that in conversations with Duncan Morrison, there appeared to be no “joined up thinking” in relating Council work to improve drainage and a policy to improve natural flood prevention.

9. Dark Skies designation funding

There was general agreement that UL&H CC should apply to the Council to have this area designated as a Dark Sky area and that we should proceed with the observations required.

10. Any other business

There was no other business

11. Date of next meeting

Monday 5th July 2021

Balance in bank as at 18 November 2019 (last ULHCC meeting)	£1,396.17
Plus Scottish Borders Council 2019/2020 Grant 13/12/19	540.00
Plus SBC reimbursement of Hermitage Hall hire expense 13/12/19	<u>119.14</u>

Balance in bank as at 03 February 2020	£2,055.31
--	-----------

Outstanding Ring-fenced Amounts:

Resilience Plan	£150.00	
Community Trust	121.84	
Interpretation Boards	500.00	
B6357 Defibrillator	500.00	<u>£1,271.84</u>

Unrestricted Available Balance as at 03 February 2020	<u>£783.47</u>
---	----------------