

# **UPPER LIDDESDALE & HERMITAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **Scottish Borders**

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### **Minutes of Meeting held on - 25th September 2017**

#### **Present -**

Community Cllr's - T.Tennant, R.Scott, L.Scott, M.Howlett & A.Graham

Ward Cllr's - G.Turnbull, D.Paterson

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>
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Cllr T.Tennant welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies - W.McAteer

<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>
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The chairman asked all Cllr's present if they had read and accepted the minutes of the previous meeting.

Cllr R.Scott proposed the minutes

Cllr A.Graham seconded the minutes.

<b>3.</b>	<b>Notice of Motion</b>
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A new member was co-opted onto UL&HCC. Our new member is

Mary Howlett. Cllr R.Scott proposed Mary & Cllr A.Graham seconded Mary.

Mary was asked to join the Cllr's at the front of the hall. Cllr A.Graham asked

Mary to sign to say that she agree's to abide by the Scottish Border's

Council Code of Conduct for Community Councils. Mary signed and accepted.

#### **4. Police Report**

Community police officer Allan Paterson read out the police report for the period which is attached with the minutes.

#### **5. Teviot & Liddesdale Area Locality Committee**

Cllr R.Scott had not managed to attend the last Teviot & Liddesdale Area Locality Committee meeting due to work commitments.

The ward Cllr's present gave an update.

UL&HCC had received a proposal to form a 'Border's Railway Action Group' together with other Community Council's. Everyone was keen to gather up support for the railway to come down from Galashiels to Carlisle via Newcastleton.

There is also an 'Action Group' trying to drum up support to get the railway to come down from Galashiels to Carlisle via Langholm.

However, a majority of the train line is still intact via Newcastleton whereas going via Langholm the track would need to be laid all the way and would cost more.

Newcastleton CC agreed to join and support the Borders Railway Action Group and UL&HCC would need to respond in order to also join and support the Borders Railway Action Group.

John Scott was objecting to UL&HCC joining and supporting the Borders Railway Action Group as the train track would go right past his house. Ward Cllr D.Paterson explained that if you bought your house within the last 25 years and the house is situated next to or near a disused railway line that it should show up on the search for that house that there is always a possibility that the railway could come back. It is because of this that you are not entitled to

compensation.

Andrew Warburton was also objecting because of what it would cost to bring the railway back and that the money should instead be used for repairing the roads.

It was suggested the railway could potentially take a lot of heavy vehicles off the road such as wood lorries, which in turn would save the strain on the road structure.

Cllr L.Scott pointed out that there was the same fuss and objections back when the railway was going to close.

Malcolm MacGregor was complaining of Cllr R.Scott's lack of attendance to the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Locality Committee and stated that UL&HCC should try harder however, due to work commitments it is not always possible to attend every meeting.

Cllr M.Howlett offered to attend these meetings. Thank you Mary!

## **6. New Planning Applications / Consultations**

UL&HCC received a planning application for the erection of a dwellinghouse on the land South East of Larriston Lodge, Newcastleton.

UL&HCC had to respond no later than the 22nd of August. However an extension was granted until the 31st of August. Cllr A.Graham sent out an e-mail to the community requesting their views on this application so that a response could be sent in.

## **7. Correspondence**

Cllr A.Graham has been conversing with Susan Grey of SBC regarding path clearances. Whitrope path is being cleared in the Autumn as the warden didn't have access to a trailer during the summer and was keen to use his bike and trailer to do the clearances. There was also a request for

the clearance of the path upto Nine Stane Rig and possibly finger posts near to the entrance.

Also another finger post was requested to be placed near to the entrance of the Gorrenbury walks.

Malcolm MacGregor started complaining that UL&HCC should be receiving more correspondence than is being reported and that he had been concerned for some time regarding this although there had been no mention of it until now. Other CC's seem to receive more correspondence than we do.

Andrew Warburton reported that UL&HCC's noticeboard at saughtree had not been updated since March , again, although there has been no mention of this concern until now the notice board will be updated and dealt with.

## **8. UL&HCC Financial Update**

Cllr A.Graham read out UL&HCC's financial update. UL&HCC currently hold funds of £879.65p.

## **9. Forestry**

It was suggested that UL&HCC should work collectively with other's and write to the MP & MSP to lobby against too much forestry and that there needs to be a balance between farming and forestry although there are other issue's not just farming.

## **10. Newcastleton & District Community Trust**

Barbara Elbourne gave an update on the progress that Newcastleton & District Community Trust have been making. There has been much progress regarding the fuel station N&DCT are bringing back to Newcastleton.

The building for the old fuel station was to be demolished on Tuesday 26th of September at 10am. Photographers and camera crew's will be there to capture the moment and everyone was invited to go and show support and to cheer the old building down!

The demolition and clear up is expected to be finished by the end of the week that the demolition took place. The foundations and fuel tanks are expected to be in prior to christmas 2017 and the rest will be in after christmas. The fuel pumps will be unmanned card pumps but will not accept fuel cards. The fuel station is hoped to be up and running by January 2018.

**11. Roads & Bridges**

Geoffrey Kolbe gave the floor an update on the work that is being carried out on Riccarton Bridge. There is nothing wrong with the bridge itself it is the parapet that needs work. The work is being carried out without having to close the bridge to traffic. The work is hoped to be completed by Sept/Oct of this year.

Whitrope foot bridge was again mentioned as there is still concern about the amount of vehicles hitting this particular bridge and whether anything else can be done to prevent accidents in the future at this site.

**12. Mobile Phone / Broadband**

The mobile phone mast at Powisholm is up but not yet in operation. Cllr T. Tennant said that they are reluctant to switch it on 24 hours a day and he is going to chase this matter up. UL&HCC is going to get in touch with openreach regarding the Exchange Only box at steele road.

**13. Borders National Park**

Jane Bower gave the floor an update on the progress of the proposed

'Borders National Park'. The feasibility study is now available to view.

#### **14. All Wind Farm Issues**

UL&HCC have now received the scoping report for the proposed Cliff Hope Community Wind Farm which comprises of 46 turbines at 200m high. The scoping report has now been registered on the Energy Consents Planning Portal under reference number: ECU00000485.

The scoping process is a period of 9 weeks, which commenced on Friday 8th of September and the scoping opinion is expected to be received on Monday 13th of November unless any extensions are otherwise agreed.

The reference number for tracking progress of this Wind Farm, which is at pre-planning stage is: 17/0333/SCO. the person dealing with this is Craig Millar.

Martin William's, the project manager for Cliff Hope Community Wind Farm, is more than happy to attend UL&HCC's next meeting to discuss this proposal and answer any questions which may arise. UL&HCC have not got a quorum to vote on any wind farm matters but can still discuss it with the community.

Cllr R.Scott stated that a decision for this proposal will end up being decided by the Scottish Government and that the Scottish Government go on points of law and not sentiment. i.e spoiling the views etc.

A special meeting will be arranged to discuss this matter further.

#### **15. Public Forum / Local Issues**

Jane Bower suggested that we try to co-opt on another member to bring the number of members of UL&HCC to 6, even though we have been trying for months. Cllr T.Tennant asked Jane whether she would like to

be co-opted on but she declined stating that she was too busy.

Malcolm MacGregor asked UL&HCC to consider the time between their meetings. We currently hold 4 meetings per year, one of which is our AGM. He asked that we consider having our meetings bi-monthly. UL&HCC will consider this suggestion.

**16. Agree Next Meeting Date**

As UL&HCC are going to arrange a special meeting the date of our next ordinary meeting will be arranged at our 'special meeting'.

**17. Meeting Close**