

Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage Community Council

Ordinary Meeting 5th July 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,
SB Councillors - Watson McAteer (GT)

Member of the public - two

Meeting started at 7:00 pm

1. Apologies for absence

Councillor George Turnbull. CC John Scott (JS)

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 15th February 2021

As there was not a quorum, a vote could not be taken to approve these minutes

3. Matters arising

Defibrillator for the B6357 GK reported that efforts were ongoing to find grant funding for this project.

Councillor McAteer suggested the "Build Back Better" fund could be used for this project.

Infoboard signs GK thanks Councillor McAteer for the email address for the SBC signs shop. But having sent an email, he had not received any reply. Cllr McAteer asked that the email be forwarded to him for action.

4. Treasurer's report

CC John Scott asked that the following report be read out at the meeting:

There has been no change to the Financial Report presented at our last meeting on 10 May/21. We have £3,534.45 in our bank account of which £2,521.84 is ring-fenced, leaving £1,012.61 available for expenditures in the current fiscal year. Following the approval of our 2020-21 financial accounts at the AGM on 10 May.21, those accounts have been filed with Scottish Borders Council and a request made for payment of the current year community council grant.

5. Report on the SBCCN meeting

GK noted that the main thrust of the meeting was that the Council did not seem willing to accept that the Local Government Act 1986 had now been effectively replaced by the Community Empowerment Act 2017, in which it was required that Local Authorities promote and facilitate the participation of members of the public in the decisions and activities of the authority, including in the allocation of its resources. There was still a struggle by area partnerships to allow the 1% of the Council funds which are supposed to be set aside for the community to choose how it should be spent, and to allow community participation in decision making. Cllr. McAteer commented that this matter had been discussed at Council level, but that they had asked for reports in 12 months, which was just kicking the can down the road as there would be a new Council at that time. In Cllr. McAteer's view, this was "not satisfactory". He commented that the scheme proposed by the Teviot and Liddesdale area was "streets ahead" of any of the other areas and he thought

this had scared Councillors. He said that change will come. Teviot and Liddesdale had unfortunately lost the opportunity to trial its own scheme this time around.

6. Consideration of the proposed SBC Community Fund - ULHCC Framework

GK noted that JS had drawn up a framework for an assessment panel and a scoring matrix for the panel to work with. Cllr. McAteer stated that he thought this was a model scheme for other CCs to adopt and asked that it be forwarded to Gillian Jardine for that purpose. GK noted that since the panel was to be four people and the quorum was to be three, there might be a problem if more than one person had to declare a conflict of interest. There was no clause setting out how an application could move forward in those circumstances. Cllr. McAteer suggested a reserve could be put in place against that eventuality. GK suggested that as there was already provision for an application to go to review if the scoring criteria were not met, this could be a possible solution. It was agreed to put the proposed scheme back to JS for consideration of this point. Cllr. McAteer agreed that the scheme should be approved as soon as possible and advised that it did not need a voting approval at a constituted meeting to do that. The agreement of all the CCs would be enough.

7. Any other business

GK noted that the latest police report was on the website.

GK noted that there were various pots of money for community paths, which had been circulated amongst the CCs. It was agreed that an application should be made to upgrade the Seven Stanes path. AW agreed to get an idea of costings from the person in SBC who looked after paths and we would proceed from there.

GK noted that it was important to raise awareness/interest in the local community in supporting and becoming members of the CC, or at the next election there was a threat that it would become moribund. GK offered to put together a plan to raise awareness in the community and this was agreed.

Cllr. McAteer noted that there had been a lack of warning and proper planning of roadworks on the B6399. The road had been closed at times which had not been advertised, and open at times when it was advertised as being closed. Cllr. McAteer had complained to the roads department about this, but had not had much in the way of a positive response. GK suggested that as the B6399 was one of only three roads into the area, it should be given a higher status than a regular B road, like the B6357 which is a designated timber road. Cllr. McAteer agreed and suggested writing to Netta Meadows, the new Chief Executive of SBC, to put this point.

8. Date of next meeting

Monday 6th September 2021

Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage Community Council
Financial Accounts as at 03 February 2020

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
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Plus SBC reimbursement of Hermitage Hall hire expense 13/12/19	<u>119.14</u>
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Balance in bank as at 03 February 2020	£2,055.31
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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>
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