

# Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage Community Council

## Annual General Meeting 11 May 2023

### Draft Minutes

**Location:** The meeting was held at Hermitage Hall starting at 18:45

**Those present were:**

Community Councillors Geoffrey Kolbe (Chairman, GK), Rosie Webster (Vice Chairman, RW), Ian Hunter (Secretary, IH), Martin Steed (Treasurer, MS), and Dell Tucker (DT)

Ward Councillors: Annette Smart.

There were also 10 members of the public.

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Ward Councillor Jane Cox sent her apologies.

#### **2. Minutes of the AGM of 3rd March 2022**

GK moved that the minutes be agreed as a true and accurate account of the meeting. DT seconded the motion, which was carried.

#### **3. Chairman's report of the previous year.**

GK read out his report, which is appended.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report.**

John Scott (JS) was Treasurer until the end of March and so he spoke to his report, which is appended. JS confirmed the financial statement had been independently examined. DT moved that the report be accepted as a true and accurate statement of the accounts. IH seconded and the motion was carried.

#### **5. Re-affirmation of Community Councillors to abide by the Community Councillors Code of Conduct**

All Community Councillors signed a statement, "We agree to abide by the Scottish Borders Council Code of Conduct for Community Councils", which is appended

#### **6. Any Other Business**

There was no other business

# Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage Community Council

Chairman's report for the AGM on 11th May 2023

A new year and we have a new Community Council who are finding their feet and getting to grips with the local government landscape within which we act for our community.

The driving principle for this Community Council is that we must be prepared to interact with people and organisations who want to make changes to our local environment, or we could well find that our familiar local landscape which we know and love is changing in ways with which we are not happy and are not what we would wish. We also need to decide as a community ways in which our environment could change for the better and work to facilitate those changes.

To that end, we have started on a Place Plan, or community action plan for this community. We have done the survey and the results are being analysed and distilled. From this, it will be possible to create a powerful document showing how this community wants the area to develop, and just as important, how this community does not want the area to develop. This Place Plan will, I believe, be probably the most important piece of work which this present Community Council does.

With regard to changes to the landscape, we have a number of challenges ahead of us. Wind farm developers will be putting in a number of applications around our area and we need to work to ensure the needs of this community are not ignored in the dash for renewable energy.

In the near future too - certainly within the life of this Community Council - we may well find ourselves within one of the new National Parks proposed by the Scottish Government. We will need to work with a new National Park Authority to ensure we can maximise the potential benefits for our community of being in a National Park.

So, there are plenty of challenges ahead and this Community Council will continue working to ensure this community's voice is heard in matters that affect the interests of all of us.

Geoffrey Kolbe



# Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage Community Council

"We Agree to abide by the Scottish Borders Council Code of Conduct for Community Councils"

Geoffrey Kolbe.....

Rosie Webster.....

Martin Steed.....

Del Tucker.....

Ian Hunter.....

Annual General Meeting, Dated 11 May 2023.