

Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage Community Council

Annual General Meeting 3rd May 2022

Draft Minutes

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

Those present were:

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

Ward Councillors: Watson McAteer.

There were also 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Ward Councillor George Turnbull sent his apologies.

2. Minutes of the AGM of 15th February 2021

JS moved that the minutes be agreed as a true and accurate account of the meeting. AW 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.

JS spoke to his report, which is appended. JS confirmed the financial statement had been independently examined. JS moved that the report be accepted as a true and accurate statement of the accounts. AW seconded and the motion was carried.

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

All Community Councillors agreed a statement, "We agree to abide by the Scottish Borders Council Code of Conduct for Community Councils" via email, which was accepted by the Council.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business

Chairman's Report

After another year when we have been held back by continuing Covid lockdown, it is good that the shackles are finally loosening and the Pandemic appears to be over. Now, life can begin once more and plans long delayed can have their engines started and put into motion!

This Community Council has not been completely somnambulant over the past year however. One notable success is the accident black spot near Singdean on the B6357 Jedburgh road to Bonchester Bridge. In recent years as the word got around the biking community that this is a great route with lots of twists and bends, bikers have come in increasing numbers - and they are most welcome. But there is a tricky bend going northwards on the road on the approach to Singdean which can catch you unawares, and a lot of bikers - and even a few cars - were coming off the road by the forestry gate on that corner. Unfortunately, there was a deep tank trap posing as a drainage ditch hidden in the undergrowth there and last summer, several serious accidents finally culminated in a death as a biker broke his neck plunging into the ditch.

We prevailed upon Tilhill to fill in the ditch and landscape the area to make a safe off-ramp for bikers losing it on that corner, and with Councillor Watson McAteer we persuaded the Council Roads Department to put up road signs and chevrons to warn of the approaching hazard. I am sure now that the dangers of this death trap have been reduced to where the risk is minimal and we look forward to a summer where the air ambulance does not seem to be landing nearby nearly every other day!

We were also successful in a bid for funding for a defibrillator from the Borders Build Back Better fund, which will be put next to the resilience hut on opposite Larriston Farm on the B6357 Jedburgh road to Bonchester Bridge. The project is challenging as it will be an 'off grid' defibrillator, with solar panels and a battery to keep it warm on frosty nights and cold days so that it remains in useable condition in the coldest weather. All the parts have been purchased and it will be installed within the next month.

This past year has been no exception in its winter weather challenges. We did not have floods this February as we did in 2020 and 2021, but Storm Arwen last November surely made up for it. Much of the area was without power for up to ten days and communications were difficult too. Having been slowly putting in place our Resilience Plan over the past three years, it was revealing to see how the plan stood up when tested with a real resilience event. The main lesson we learned was that the Resilience Team does not have an awareness of who in the area is particularly vulnerable to a given resilience stress, be it flooding or power cut or phone outage or pandemic. So, this year our Resilience Team hope to survey the area so they can be better informed and so better respond in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Community Councillors for their work on behalf of the Community this past year, and also the Ward Councillors who have looked after us so well.

This is the last Annual General Meeting of this Community Council before re-elections in October. I have to say, the great challenge for this year will be to get people to step forward to give some time for their community as members of the next Community Council.

Geoffrey Kolbe, Chairman.

Treasurer's Report

Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage Community Council **Financial Report for Fiscal Year 01 April 2021 – 31 March 2022**

Income:

Community Council Annual Grant £ 505.20
SBC Build Back Better Recovery Fund Grant £1,974.00

Total Income £2,479.20

Expenses:

Defibrillator (on B6357) £ 2,623.43
Deficit for fiscal year 2021-2022 as at 31 March 2022 (£144.23)

Bank balance as at 01 April 2021 £ 3,534.45

Bank balance as at 31 March 2022 £ 3,390.22

Notes to 2021-2022 Financial Report:

Ringfenced funds:

1. ULHCC resolution 03 December 2018:
- Formation of Community Trust £ 250.00
Less expended: £ 128.16
£ 121.84

2. ULHCC resolutions 18 November 2019 and 15 February 2021:
- Interpretation Boards £750.00

3. ULHCC resolutions 08 March 2022:
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee Event £200.00
- Resilience Equipment £250.00
£450.00

4. SBC Resilience Support £1,000.00

Total £ 2,321.84

Balance of funds available for ongoing ULHCC activities in FY 2022-2023 £ 1,068.38

I certify that the above accounts have been prepared by me and accurately reflect the financial provisions relating to the period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

John Scott
Treasurer

Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage Community Council

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

Geoffrey Kolbe.....

John Scott.....

Lawrence Scott.....

Andrew Warburton.....

Annual General Meeting, Dated 3rd May 2022