



**MEETING OF MELROSE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD ONLINE ON WEDNESDAY 19th JANUARY 2022**

MINUTE

Present: William Windram (WW) (Chair), Val Miller (VM), Graham Barker (GB), Robin Chisholm (RC), Agnes Waldie (AW), Andrew Panter (AP), Dorothy Cameron (DC), Aziza Taylor (AT) (Secretary).

In Attendance: SBC Cllrs David Parker (DP) and Jenny Linehan (JL).

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| 1. | Apologies for Absence: Lorna Paterson, Cllr Tom Miers. | |
| 2. | Condolences: Councillors paid tribute to the recent passing of John Miller, husband of the vice chair, who had provided great assistance to many Council projects and other activities in the town. | |
| 3. | Declaration of Interest: WW reminded members that they should declare any interest they may have in advance of an item being discussed. | |
| 4. | Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 15 December were approved after a correction at item 11 to read Dean Place. | |
| 5. | <p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>Christmas Lights: RC expressed his thanks to Bruce Colvin for all the work done on the Christmas lights. The lights will remain in place rather than be taken down.</p> <p>Bollards: DP reported that problems with bollards were widespread across the Borders. SBC will replace the ones that have been knocked down. VM asked if they could be repainted.</p> <p>Boat Brae Banking: MIB were unsuccessful in their bid for grant funding to carry out work here. Other options are being explored.</p> <p>Path near the Chain Bridge: No date for when the repair work will be done.</p> <p>Litter Bin near Lowood Bridge: SBC will attend to this.</p> <p>Rhymers Stone: DP has received a quote for £3,000 for the work. DP will advise on funding options.</p> <p>BGH Underpass Lights: JL and RC will check if these are now working.</p> <p>Newstead BT Phone Box: It is possible that BT may wish to discontinue the service in the future, but at present the phone box is still live.</p> <p>Royal Bank of Scotland Site, Melrose: Some activity has been noted in the building.</p> | <p>DP</p> <p>JL, RC</p> |

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| | <p>Dean Place, Newstead: JL will chase SBC over the work required here.</p> <p>Darnick Salt Bins: AP is in discussion with SBC over the provision of salt bins.</p> | JL |
| 6. | <p>Community Council Elections: The process to hold elections will commence in January 2022. SBC councillors will distribute a newsletter to all households encouraging people to come forward to serve on the new Community Council. A press release will also be issued shortly to local media.</p> | |
| 7. | <p>Police Matters: The Police Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report covered the period to the end of December but no incidents relating to Hogmanay were noted. This may be due to any events being reported on 1 January. It was welcomed that fewer incidents in East Port were mentioned. PC Calum Wilson is due to retire at the end of March. It was agreed that the Community Council would give a retiral gift to him in recognition of his service. DP will consult DS Stephen Granger about a suitable gift. There has as yet been no meeting with the Police Board.</p> | DP |
| 8. | <p>Traffic Matters: Excessive Mud on Local Roads: There were complaints of excessive mud on both Annay Road, and in the vicinity of Broomilees farm. DP will notify the roads inspector who may be able to take this up with the agricultural contractors.</p> | DP |
| 9. | <p>Planning Sub Committee: WW expressed an interest in the planning application from the Trimontium Trust.</p> <p>Hall, Ormiston Institute, Melrose – Alterations and extension to museum: No comments.</p> <p>Land at Tweedbank Industrial Estate, Tweedbank – Erection of Class 1 retail store and 5 units (Class 5 and Class 6) with associated car parking, servicing and access: Concerns were expressed by the Community Council on the impact this may have on the retail shops in Melrose High Street.</p> | |
| 10. | <p>Community Events: Nothing to report.</p> | |
| 11. | <p>Matters Raised by Councillors: Newstead Community Action Plan: GB reported that work is underway to develop a Community Action Place. An online meeting has been held and a survey is being conducted.</p> <p>Chiefswood Road: The 20 mph speed limit has been confirmed.</p> <p>Bogle Burn Traffic Gates: RC reported that motorists had been taking cars beyond the staggered gates designed to stop vehicles. This is possible as the gates are not locked and can be opened easily. JL will take photographs and discuss the matter further with DP.</p> <p>Missed Refuse Collections: GB reported that some refuse collections had been missed recently. DP confirmed that this had been caused by staff shortages due to Covid and some vehicle breakdowns. The situation is now improving.</p> | JL, DP |

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| | <p>Banking near the Cauld on the Tweed: VM reported concerns on erosion causing the banking to become unstable. DP reported that SBC had been monitoring the situation for some time and were seeking permission from Historic Scotland for any repairs that may be needed.</p> <p>Possible Targeting of Horses: AP raised concerns that horses in local fields may be being targeted by thieves.</p> | |
| 12. | <p>Matters Raised by the Public: None</p> | |
| 13. | <p>Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 16 February 2022 at 7.30 pm. on Zoom.</p> | |