

MINUTE OF MELROSE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

7.30 PM, WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL 2022, THE ORMISTON INSTITUTE UPPER LOUNGE

1. Attendance and Apologies

Present: Jane Bell (CC)
Mary Douglas (CC)
Simon Harris (CC)
Willie Kerr (CC)
Bruce Jackson (CC)
Michael Sherlock (CC)
Douglas Stewart (CC)
Linda Wilkes (CC)
Bruce Wilson (CC)

Also present: Cllr David Parker (SBC)

Apologies: Martin Baird (CC)
Lorna Paterson (CC)
Cllr Jenny Linehan (SBC)
Cllr Tom Mears (SBC)

2. **Declaration of interests:** No interests of relevance were noted.

3. Minutes of meeting of Wednesday 16 March

The minutes provided by Cllr David Parker (SBC) were approved without modification.

4. Co-option of additional members

It was agreed to co-opt the following additional members to the Community Council: Martin Baird, Willie Kerr, Lynda Wilks.

5. Additional items and order of business

No additional items were noted, but the order was adjusted to reflect the length of the agenda..

6. Nomination of CC member to sit on festival committee.

Lorna Paterson volunteered to represent the Community Council on the festival committee, of which she is a member.

7. Implications for CC of guidance documents received

Guidance had been received and was discussed. The role of the council in the community was discussed particularly in relation to planning procedures. It was noted that the Community Council has important work in the plan development process in forming and influencing the structural plan on, and in responding to specific planning applications as they arise.

Members noted that they had all received the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors document, had read it, and agreed to abide by it.

8. Publicity & web presence: Future management of website and other publicity

The importance of making the community aware of the Community Council work and activities had been noted in item 7. It was agreed that Simon Harris (Secretary) would prepare and distribute agendas and minutes to members and to SBC councillors. Community Council members agreed to post physical copies of these on notice boards in different localities in the Melrose and District area. It was agreed to continue the £29.95 subscription for the company that hosts the Community Council website. Michael Sherlock offered to take on the responsibility of posting notices on the Community Council Website. It was agreed not to maintain or update the Community Council's Facebook page. Mary Douglas proposed to make contact with the Southern Reporter and The Border Telegraph.

9. Planning issues: Management of planning issues; specific planning applications

The council as a whole, whose members reside in the different localities around the district, decided to continue to consider planning applications as they are received by e-mail. Bruce Jackson (Vice-Chair) agreed to distribute these, and to receive responses and to communicate them on as necessary, as had worked well the previous month. Issues can then be raised at the Community Council meetings as required, and further time to do this can be requested from SBC.

The community Council decided that The Lowood Planning application was an application that was particularly worthy of consideration by the whole Community Council. It was agreed to place this application as an a specific agenda item for the next Community Council meeting. Bruce Jackson agreed to reissue the papers for this application, and to request more time to allow the Community Council's full committee adequately to consider it.

10. Future Scottish Borders Community Council Network (SBCCN) membership, attendance, and contact person.

It was agreed that membership and attendance was of value, and Mary Douglas agreed to attend on behalf of the Community Council. Deputies would be resourced as required.

11. Consideration of crime reports & policing.

The Community Council decided to continue to receive the Police reports and to consider them as an agenda item. No comments were made on the January to March reports. Cllr David Parker noted that a new Community police officer is expected to be appointed shortly.

12. Use of car parking surplus funds

These funds, which are a proportion of those raised by charges on the car park next to the Abbey, are controlled by SBC. Suggestions for their use can be made by the Community Council. Funds are being used to renovate the area next to Rhymers' Stone, and will be used by Melrose in Bloom to smarten and rejuvenate Boat Brae.

13. Christmas lights

Robin Chisholm, who has previously helped organise Melrose's Christmas lights, has written up a month by month plan of action for doing this role every year. The Committee Council will be looking for a volunteer or volunteers to take on this responsibility in future. It was agreed to place this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

14. Any other competent business.

The absence of a Melrose Community activity in recognition of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was noted and discussed. The Melrose Scout Group and Melrose in Bloom are marking the event. Funds to support Platinum Jubilee activities remain available from SBC, and the possibility of extending band music in the square, as part of the Melrose Festival would be pursued. .

The opening hours of Melrose Library was raised as an issue of concern and it was agreed to make this an agenda item for the next meeting.

15. Questions from the floor. There were no questions from the floor.

16. Time date and location of next Community Council meeting.

Wednesday 18th May at 7.30pm in the Ormiston Institute was confirmed.