

MINUTE OF MELROSE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

7.30 PM, WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2022, THE ORMISTON INSTITUTE UPPER LOUNGE

1. Attendance and Apologies

Present: Martin Baird (CC) Michael Sherlock (CC)
Jane Bell (CC) Douglas Stewart (CC)
Mary Douglas (CC) Linda Wilkes (CC)
Simon Harris (CC) Bruce Wilson (CC)
Bruce Jackson (CC) Cllr Jenny Linehan (SBC)
Lorna Paterson (CC) Cllr David Parker (SBC)

Apologies: Willie Kerr (CC) Cllr John Paton Day (SBC)

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

3. Matters arising from meeting of Wednesday 17 August 2022

The minutes had been approved by e-mail. It was noted that it was intended that Miller House would be opening in January; its intended use was clarified. It was thought that the drains in Newstead had been cleared, but their frequency of being blocked without a sufficiently regular programme of clearing remained a concern.

4. Additional items / Order of business

i.) An approach had been made to the Chair to allow a local young person to join the Community Council, to embrace diversity of representation and to educate about local representation and democracy. The council agreed to the idea, and thought that it might become permanent, perhaps on a rolling basis, as was thought to be the case in Earlston.

ii) There is a need to sort out the storage, and state of the Christmas Lights; the Festival Committee needing the space they occupy under the stage. Suggestions were received for those that might sort these out and Willie Kerr kindly agreed to meet them.

iii) Police reports had just been received and the new community police Constable, Ian Porter, was in attendance

5. Road Signs

It was highlighted how a sign was needed to alert cars exiting Abbey Car Park not to turn right. Councillor Jenny Linehan agreed to raise this at Scottish Borders Council.

6. Speed limit changes

Notification had been received that, following the trial period, a final stage of consultation is underway prior to the 20mph speed limits being made permanent. One change is in Melrose itself, whereby on Waverley Road, the start of the 20mph zone would begin near Tweedmount road rather than at the boundary of the village. The pro's and cons of this move were debated, and being finely balanced, no view on the matter would be expressed.

7. Communication with the community: web and notices

It was considered that too few people knew about the Community Council meetings and activity. The decision not to have a Facebook group was discussed again, with some members using Facebook, others not, and some not prepared to do so. The community Council's own website was up and running, though after early increase in traffic, this had fallen away. A range of ways of increasing awareness were suggested. It was agreed to compile a list of online groups with whom awareness of our activity and website could be shared, and to make this an agenda item at the next meeting. The system for distributing notices was, however, working.

8. Funding opportunities, including for mental health & wellbeing.

Notices had been received for making people aware of sources of support in the Covid/post covid era, communication of this information being a difficulty. Copies were distributed to members who would post then up around the locality.

9. Live Borders: Library meeting

No confirmation had been received as to an attendance at the Community Council from the Library service or Live Borders, but the invitation remained open.

10. Planning issues

Planning issues had all been dealt with by e-mail

11. Policing

Our new Community Policeman, Ian Porter was introduced to the community council and discussed how he saw his role, and outlined the large range of responsibilities that he has to fulfil. No comments were made on the reports just received.

13. Any other competent business

No other issues were raised

14. Questions from the floor.

A concern was raised concerning the poor use of the Ormiston Institute, where the use by the community of its facilities had declined a great deal. One reason may well be the increase in the fees for its use, with groups choosing other facilities (of which there are many) which may charge less or not at all.

A further concern was raised regarding the condition of public seating around the town, with a number of benches appearing to be in a state of disrepair.

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

Wednesday 19 October 7.30pm in the Ormiston Institute.