

MINUTE OF MELROSE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

7.30 PM, WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2022, THE ORMISTON INSTITUTE UPPER LOUNGE

1. Attendance and Apologies

Present: Martin Baird (CC) Bruce Jackson (CC)
Jane Bell (CC) Lorna Paterson (CC)
Mary Douglas (CC) Douglas Stewart (CC)
Simon Harris (CC) Lynda Wilks (CC)
Bruce Wilson (CC)

Apologies: Michael Sherlock (CC) Cllr John Paton Day (SBC)
Cllr Jenny Linehan (SBC) Cllr David Parker (SBC)
Ian Porter (Police Scotland) Willie Kerr (CC)

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

3. **Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 21 September 2022:** These were approved with a couple of minor corrections.

4. **Live Borders: Discussion with Ewan Jackson, head of Live Borders**

Ewan outlined how there was an 80% return of services since the covid driven shutdowns. Take-up had recovered much more in some services (e.g. swimming and outdoor sports) than in others (e.g. health and fitness, Libraries, Visitors and events). Fitness and swimming are the main sources of revenue. Costs were increasing rapidly.

Library services had been opening reasonably effectively, in stages, and the collect systems and the digital service was being well used, though the physical opening had been slow, with priority given to the busiest times. The Melrose opening times had been increased from 6 hours to 14. The numbers using the libraries were still massively reduced. The reasons for the rate of lapse were being investigated through surveys but it was clear that 35% of lapsed members were still not prepared to return. A discussion took place about what might encourage more use and activity.

A discussion then took place into how the Library/Ormiston Institute/Corn Exchange building facility, geographically at the centre of the Melrose and district community, might be employed in a more effective way that would enhance its attractiveness as a community resource and add community benefit. Ewan was encouraged that such thought might be welcomed and agreed to pursue these ideas, and explore possibilities, with colleagues.

5. Matters arising from meeting of Wednesday 21 September 2022

It was noted that the opening of Miller House by the charity Carr Gomm would be delayed until sometime in 2023. The intended young person attending the Community Council meeting had stalled, but further invitations would be made.

6. Additional items

Extensive disquiet was expressed at the absence of any Scottish Borders councillors at the meeting.

A concern was raised as to whether suitable insurance cover was in place for the Christmas lights and related work. This would be ascertained.

The level of communication from and to the Community Council was raised again, and it was noted that hits onto the community council website had fallen. The pros and cons of using Facebook were considered again. It was decided to form a list of community groups in the area, so that links could be made to those. Some of these groups were suggested at the meeting and it was agreed to share more at the next meeting, under a specific agenda item.

A range of issues relevant to Melrose's Christmas Lights were discussed. Volunteers were required to check and replace bulbs, and ex-Melrosians would be asked to do this, as they do with the flags at the festival. A copy of the electrical registration documents would be sourced from SBC. The switch-on date will be 26 November, with switch off on 7 January, illumination between 15.00 and 02.00.

A wreath would be sourced for Remembrance Sunday and Community Councillors were invited to join the parade.

7. Planning issues

Planning issues had all been dealt with by e-mail

8. Policing

Policing reports had not been received.

9. Any other competent business No other issues were raised

10. Questions from the floor. No issues were raised

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

Wednesday 16 November 7.30pm in the Ormiston Institute.