

MINUTE OF MELROSE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

7.30 PM, WEDNESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2023, THE ORMISTON INSTITUTE UPPER LOUNGE

1. Attendance and Apologies

Present: Martin Baird (CC) Cllr David Parker (SBC)
Jane Bell (CC) Cllr John Paton Day (SBC)
Mary Douglas (CC) Lorna Paterson (CC)
Simon Harris (CC) Michael Sherlock (CC)
Bruce Jackson (CC) Douglas Stewart (CC)
Cllr Jenny Linehan (SBC) Bruce Wilson (CC)
Willie Kerr (CC)

Apologies: Lynda Wilks (CC) Ian Porter (Police Scotland)

2. Welcome to John Reid, Chair of the Trimontium Trust

John Reid outlined the recent progress of The Trimontium Trust with its raising of £1.4 million, its opening of the new museum in April 2022, and its recruitment of 5 paid staff, a large team of volunteers, and the establishment of a community archaeology initiative. Activity now is now (a) in the new museum, (b) over the Trimontium site, and (c) with a wide range of educational projects with different groups. With new funding of £2.2 million, the new Heritage and Landscape Observatory (HALO), will give more space for community archaeology and education after June of this year. This is designed to be a focus of interest for the local community, which is intended to be sustainable into the future.

As the activity grows, its visibility in the local community will increase. The community might need to consider how many visitors it actually needs. Improved signage to find the museum and learning space might be needed, and here, using the currently messy gable end of the Ormiston building might help. There is also potential to leverage the experience for more visitors, if that is what the town wants.

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

4. **Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 16 November 2022:** These had previously been approved.

5. **Matters arising from meeting of Wednesday 16 November 2022:**

With the help of the Melrosians, the Christmas lighting was very successful, but for the future, the substantial maintenance costs of the lights will need to be resourced. Historically, the electrical cost had been part paid by the traders association; in future, perhaps collection boxes might need to be distributed to help fund them.

6. **Additional items:** There were no additional items

7. **Pop up policeman**

A pop-up policeman was to become available. The Community Council decided that the policeman should be moved about, to (a) Gattonside (b) the west end of Buccleuch street, (c) Chiefswood Road, and (d) the junction of High Cross Avenue and Waverley Road.

- 8. Shared use paths**

Pedestrians using the cycle/pedestrian shared use path between Melrose Station and the Borders General Hospital had been scared by inconsiderate cyclists who seemed to regard it as a cycle path. It was agreed that signs to emphasise its shared use status and encouraging consideration for other users might help, and BEAR Scotland who were thought to be responsible for this would be approached.
- 9. Melrose and district groups list:** CC secretary would circulate a spreadsheet to enable CC members to contribute to comprehensive list before the next meeting.
- 10. Planning issues:** Planning issues had all been dealt with by e-mail
- 11. Policing:** Policing reports had been received and there were no comments.
- 12. Any other competent business**

Location of meetings: It was decided to hold Community Council meetings in other different villages in the district. It was agreed to begin this summer in Gattonside village hall, and then in Newstead.

Street lights: Lights No 5 & 6 at the Darnick underpass have failed, making it dangerously dark for those going to and from the hospital. Light 24 on Waverley road has also failed.

Footpath extension in Darnick: There is a need to extend the footpath from the corner of Waverley and Abbotsford roads to Shunters Wood

Rubbish collections: Rubbish bins have not been collected in the Loan, Gattonside.

Building disrepair: The Mason's Lodge building on Melrose High street is in a very visible state of in disrepair; It is understood that Councillors Linehan and Paton Day are addressing this.

Cash Machine: Concern was expressed that the RBS cash machine should not be lost from the vacated former Royal Bank of Scotland building in Melrose.
- 13. Questions from the floor.** No issues were raised
- 14. Time date and location of next Community Council meeting.**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15 February 2023 at 7.30pm in the Ormiston Institute.