

MINUTE OF MELROSE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

7.30 PM, WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH 2023, THE ORMISTON INSTITUTE

1. Attendance and Apologies

Present: Jane Bell (CC) Cllr David Parker (SBC)
Mary Douglas (CC) Cllr Jenny Linehan (SBC)
Simon Harris (CC) Sue Palmer (Melrose Paths Group)
Willie Kerr (CC) Val Millar
Douglas Stewart (CC) Thelma Wrightson
Lynda Wilks (CC)
Bruce Wilson (CC)

Apologies: Martin Baird (CC); Lorna Paterson (CC); Ian Porter (Police Scotland); Campbell
Bruce Jackson (CC); Michael Sherlock Lightly-West (Earlston School)
(CC); Cllr John Paton Day (SBC)

2. **Declaration of interests** No interests were recorded

3. **Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 15 February 2023** These were approved

4. Matters arising from meeting of Wednesday 15 February 2023

A lower cost way of maintaining the electricity supply in the town square has been identified, and other ways of financing it will be investigated. The request to cite football goals in “the triangle” has been dropped.

5. **Additional items:** At the last Darnick Village Development Trust meeting, the Darnick Resilience committee asked if it was possible to fund replacement torch batteries, first aid kits and the resilience box shelter reroofed. The M&DCC agreed that this can be funded from the special Covid fund.

6. **Melrose Clear-up.** Val Miller, who used to manage the clear-up, outlined what happened pre-COVID so that it might be re-established. It took place over two weekends and the intervening week, after the Melrose 7s and before the festival. This year the plan would be to do it from Saturday 15 April to Sunday 23 April. It involved many groups, and some had already expressed interest in taking part again. SBC is supportive and will supply equipment, and a skip for waste to be located in the St Dunstan’s car park. Walk routes for litter picking will be supplied. Val will do it this year, and following a discussion, Jane Bell volunteered to take it on the following year.

7. **The SEPA survey.** Members had completed the survey. It was agreed that it had been very poorly constructed. Litter had been highlighted.

8. **CC Meetings in Gattonside, Darnick and Newstead.** These were agreed and would be held as follows: Gattonside Hall on 17 May; Darnick Hall on 21 June, and Newstead hall on 16 August.

9. **A Coronation celebration.** It was agreed that a suitable act would be to plant trees in each of the four villages.

10. **Melrose and District Community Groups** A pro-forma had been circulated.

11. **Planning application at the cafe in Melrose.** The community Council held no objection to the citing of solar panels on the café roof near the abbey.

- 12. Make-up of the community council, including the admin role.** This would be discussed at a following meeting. Simon Harris recorded that he would be unable to attend the April, May and June meetings owing to family commitments, and would be rescinding his position as CC secretary before the April meeting. Mary would minute the April meeting and Douglas the May meeting.
- 13. Planning issues.** The proposal to build a new property in the front garden of another in Aldie Crescent was discussed and the council considered it to be highly detrimental to the village. Other issues had been dealt with by e-mail.
- 14. Policing issues.** There were more reports of rowdiness of younger people in the area, and problems at the hospital. It was feared that the building of a large den at the end of Huntly Road would attract use by teenagers as much as by primary school age children.
- 15. Members of Melrose Paths Group were welcomed.** They have been involved in the litter pick. They noted a large sign rotting in “the triangle” from 2022. The Rugby club is responsible for removing it.
- 16. Any other competent business**

The road near the cemetery in Melrose is in very poor repair.

The boarding over the butchers shop at the foot of the high street is an eyesore, but it was thought that little could be done about it.

Fibre Broadband is being rolled out to the villages and work is underway.

Rubbish is piling up when blown into Malthouse Burn alongside Dingleton Road. Enquiries would explore how this eyesore could be addressed.

The parking of vehicles during the Melrose 7s was discussed.

It was noted that a tree that had fallen at the bus shelter near the old Youth Hostel was still blocking the pathway.

It was suggested that a good use of funds from the abbey car park would be to repair the unevenness and poor patching of the pavement in St Mary’s Road.
- 19. Questions from the floor.** No issues were raised
- 20. Time date and location of next Community Council meeting.** Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 7.30pm in the Ormiston Institute.