

# **Melrose and District Community Council**

## **Minutes of Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 7.30pm**

### **1. Attendance and Apologies:**

Attendance: Community Council: , Bruce Wilson, Martin Baird, , Bruce Jackson, Lorna Paterson, Michael Sherlock, Simon Harris, Douglas Stewart

SBC Councillors: David Parker, Jenny Linehan

Visitors: Sarah Milne

Apologies; Lynda Wilks, Mary Douglas, Willie Kerr, Willie Ross, Jane Bell, John Paton Day

There were no declarations of interest.

### **2. Police report**

There were no comments on the latest police report. PC Porter is to be encouraged to attend the next meeting, although we understand the difficulties in making this commitment.

### **3. Minutes of last meeting, matters arising.**

Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> April approved. Rugby 7's - Bruce Jackson has contacted the Council regarding the noise and has had a response. The license has not changed in scope since 2020, however, past complaints from the caravan park are similar to the 2023 event complaints. The Council stated that no complaints about noise had been received until this year, and that measuring noise levels was not a standard practise due to the number of events taking place simultaneously. David Parker said that the police presence on the Saturday meant that if they felt the music was too loud, then they would have turned it down. The Rugby club have offered to have a pre-event meeting with the community council, so we cordially invite them to attend our meeting in November where they can offer us their plans and we can make known our views.

### **4. Planning applications**

The extension to the engine room for the football club was discussed. The general feeling was that the design was not in question, but the planning protocol was in question. Neighbour notifications that were quoted on the planning documents had not been received by 2 of the 5 neighbours. This is the planning department's responsibility. It had not been mentioned by the football club that they would be using land owned by another source ie the Gibson Trust. Councillor Parker stated that the extension would become an asset of the trust, leased to the football club. There was also concern about parking and this comment would be passed back to the Council as H&S aspects that have already been witnessed will become more commonplace unless something is done to improve parking controls.

### **5. Playparks and Gattonside noticeboard**

The CC are happy to support these projects.

## **6. Gifts for Melrosian and Festival queen**

Approved, Mary Douglas to source

## **7. Community Council organisation and administration.**

Simon has resigned as Secretary, so currently other members are volunteering to do the minutes. It was suggested that we could have a paid secretary, but needed to know how detailed they should be, or if the minutes should just reflect that there had been some discussion with bullet points, actions, responsibilities, and progress. It is also important to book rooms a year in advance. It was agreed that initially we should draw up a rota of the 12 members of the CC and see how that works, with swaps when not possible for that member.

There had been a complaint about the minutes being late, but they have to be approved before publication. Michael is looking at the administration of the website through Spanglefish and who is willing to take on the Facebook page. Renewal of the web service was approved.

## **8. Change of dates**

The June meeting has been changed from 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June and will be held in Darnick. There is no meeting in July, and the meeting in August will be in Newstead. September will hopefully be in Gattonside – however date to be confirmed (may be a Tuesday or Thursday to avoid clashes with hall bookings).

## **9. AOCB**

Bear Scotland have still to respond to the request for erection of signs on the Black Path asking for Cyclists to be courteous on the shared space. Jenny Linehan to follow up.

Lamp post 44 on Waverley Road has still not been replaced, JL to follow up.

The lack of a police presence in the town means that a particular individual is consuming alcohol in the street from early in the day and is seen to be a nuisance. There is also abuse of the parking restrictions in the High Street which is felt to reduce commercial activity when visitors are unable to park. Information has been passed to PC Porter.

The road surface on the road to the cemetery is 'appalling'. Councillors to follow up.

Melrose Festival is from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

## **10. Questions from the floor.**

There were no questions

**The next meeting will be in Darnick (Smith's Hall) at 7.30 on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023**