

MINUTES OF MELROSE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

7.30 PM, WEDNESDAY 16 AUGUST 2023, NEWSTEAD VILLAGE HALL

1. Attendance, Apologies, Declaration of interests

Present: Jane Bell (CC) Bruce Wilson (CC)
Mary Douglas (CC) Cllr Jenny Linehan (SBC)
Simon Harris (CC) Cllr David Parker (SBC)
Bruce Jackson (CC) Charlee Mayers
Willie Kerr (CC) Anne Henderson
Douglas Stewart (CC) Eileen Forbes
John Hislop, (Border Telegraph)

Apologies: Martin Baird (CC); Lorna Paterson Ian Porter (Police Scotland);
(CC);); Michael Sherlock (CC); Cllr John Paton Day (SBC)

No declarations of interests were recorded

2. **Police Report** A police report had been received. There were no comments.

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

4. **Newstead Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan** It was agreed that the conservation staff of the forward planning team at Scottish Borders Council had presented a well prepared plan. Local residents in the meeting believed that it met with the approval of the residents. It was noted that the ability of the plan not to include an expansion of housing in the village was made possible by the massive increase in housing in the Tweedbank expansion in the Lowood estate.

5. **Community Paths Maintenance Grant:** To be discussed at a later meeting.

6. **Community Council Administration.** Advertisements have been posted and issued for the Community Council secretary role.

7. **Electronic Speed Signs.** It was expressed that residents felt that more signage was required to lower speeds at the west end of the village. A local committee (possibly a neighbourhood watch committee) had been consulted who had agreed a location for a new sign, but Gattonside residents on the community council were unaware of that committee or its consultation.

8. Matters arising from the previous meeting and any other competent business

Lynda has resigned; the co-option of Sarah Milne to the community council is in process.

A local Action Group has Development Funding available of up to £20,000 for projects in the borders. Details have been sent out, and the closing date is Monday 4th September. It was suggested that this could be used to replace some decrepit public benches that are no-longer being maintained with benches made of recycled plastic.

The waste bins at Melrose Gate need to be moved to a more sensible position near the bus stop so that it can be more readily accessed and used.

The hand-rail at Boat Brae is installed and is very good.

A stile near Goat Brae in Gattonside needs to be repaired.

A drain near the primary school playground is blocked and causes flooding.

Melrose toilets have been locked because the money has not been emptied. Councillor Jenny Linehan has raised this at SBC and it is being dealt-with.

Bicycles have been cycling against the Melrose one-way system and on the pavement.

Local traders are encouraged to attend CC meetings. Collecting tins are ready for distribution.

Gates on the triangle at Melrose have been removed and need to be replaced.

9. **Time date and location of next Community Council meeting.** Tuesday 19 September 2023 at 7.30pm in Gattonside Village Hall.