

MINUTES OF MELROSE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

7.30 PM, TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2023, GATTONSIDE VILLAGE HALL

1. Attendance, Apologies, Declaration of interests:

Present: Mary Douglas (CC), Bruce Jackson (CC), Douglas Stewart (CC), Bruce Wilson (CC), Martin Baird (CC), Mike Sherlock (CC), Cllr John Paton Day (SBC)

Sarah Milne, Ian Millar, Isabel Aitchison, Ian Aitchison, Ms S Hamilton, Ron Bell, Eileen Buchan, Moira Peters, Anne Lyal, Anne Highit, Hayley Wilson, Simon Johnson, Gordon Stewart (NTS), Helen Stewart,

Apologies: Lorna Paterson (CC), Simon Harris (CC), Willie Kerr (CC), Jane Bell (CC), Cllr David Parker (SBC), Cllr Jenny Linehan (SBC), Ian Porter (Police Scotland).

No declarations of interest were recorded.

2. Police Report

A police report had been received; concern was raised that there was a delay that the “complainers” of small theft were not being interviewed in due time.

3. Minutes of Meeting 16th August 2023

Matters arising:

- The Paths Maintenance Grant had been applied for.
- The Minutes were approved.

4. Traffic Calming in Gattonside.

- The Electronic Speed sign on the Westerly approach was now functioning correctly.
- Concern was raised that the Easterly Exit Curb Extension/Chicane was not signposted to give the order of priority. Cllr Paton Day explained that the Double Lines on the road gave notice of priority. A request was made to investigate “Signage” similar to the East Port in Melrose.
- High Speed Tractors are travelling through Gattonside at pace. A debate took place as to whom the culprits were, on balance it was felt that they were non local contractors as GPS were taking them down unsuitable routes.
 - Mary Douglas to speak with local NFU Representative
 - Martin Baird to speak with local farmer

5. Children’s Playgrounds Gattonside

- A request was made to refresh the lower playground, which, was understood to be planned.
- The upper playground was deemed out of commission.

6. Yellow Lines Melrose

- Concerns were raised that there was an increase in the Yellow lines verses previous and without consultation, examples were given, such as, outside Braidwood on Buccleuch Street.
- The point was made that the Yellow Lines are academic when there is no enforcement.

7. Dingleton Road Update

- A number of concerns have been made regarding the state of Dingleton Road, both for motorists and pedestrians, the Community Council have brought this matter up with SBC and below forms part of their response:

A number of traffic surveys were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders Council area as part of the implementation of the 20MPH speed limits. Our most recent survey was carried out in June 2021 with the equipment located at the Golf Course and this recorded an average of 1,618 vehicles per day using the route. This figure would not be considered high, with Dingleton Road being of B Classification (B6359) and this route carries considerably less traffic than Melrose Road in Galashiels for example which recorded an average 7,730 vehicles per day also in June 2021.

The parked vehicles along this route help to keep traffic speeds low and we would expect little public support for restrictions. As mentioned, the majority of the properties on Dingleton Road are on the western side with limited sections of footway on the eastern side meaning that there is limited requirement to cross the carriageway. Unfortunately there are no powers to prevent pedestrians from crossing in between parked vehicles however if there are specific areas of concern, we would be happy to take a look

8. Community Council Organisation and Administration

- A number of interviews are due to be undertaken for a Secretarial Support role.

9. AOCB

Street Sweeping: Overall and throughout the ward, comments were made about the lack of Pavement Cleaning especially the pavement from St Aidans Gate lodge to Lowood Bridge

Newstead Phone Box: A request was made to support Newstead in maintaining the Phone Box, members from Gattonside and from Darnick have also subsequently made a request. The Community Council will investigate with SBC how this can be done.

- Mary Douglas to follow up with SBC

Notice on Chain Bridge: Concerns were raised that cyclists were cycling on the chain bridge and where there is a clear sign on the Gattonside side that this is prohibited, The Melrose side Sign has degraded and requires repainting.

10. Questions from the Floor.

Footpaths: The footpath/ Pavement from Gattonside, past St Aidans to the Lowood Bridge is becoming overgrown. What is already a very narrow pavement is suffering from re wilding to the extent that pedestrians are having to resort to walking on the road. Weeds are growing on the edge of the road, all along pavement and overhanging Bushes/ Trees are impeding preambulation.

- SBC to follow up on this.

St Aidans: Questions were raised as to the current situation with the building. It was noted that the Gate Lodge Gates have been closed recently possibly due to Fly Tipping.

Melrose Nursery: Due to recent security measures, a 6ft steel fence has been erected at the Nursery to prevent break outs, this is impeding "Drop Off's and Pick Up's".

- Cllr Paton Day to arrange Site Visit to see if dispensation/ mitigation can be arranged.

Melrose Primary School: Due to retirement of the School Crossing Patrol and lack of any applications for the advertised role being advertised, SBC are currently investigating the possibility of installing a Puffin crossing on the road outside the school.

Please complete the Form below to note your views by Friday 22nd September 2023.

<https://forms.office.com/e/CBU5DDhb2V>

Unpaid Work Services: Hayley Wilson, outlined the role that unpaid Work Services can have in the local community. This was something that had been previously discounted. A suggestion was made that cleaning the road signs maybe a suitable first opportunity.

St Mary's Road, Melrose: Due to parking congestion, St Mary's Road at weekends and at School Drop Off and Pick up times regularly becomes single file. Suggestions have been made to investigate the possibility of making this a "One Way" street, entering from the Parish Church end and Exiting at Harmony.

- Michael Sherlock to sound out Resident reaction.

Hoebriidge Road, Gattonside: Multiple complaints were received about the condition of this road, not only the condition, but also the overhead lighting.

- SBC to follow up.

Miller of Melrose Butchers: The Shop has now been sold; no further information was given.

The Loan, Gattonside: Street signs are not visible, could the signs be changed from RHS To LHS or an additional sign? Further, Cyclists are travelling down The Loan at speed creating a danger, would it be possible to Cyclist Calming measures or alternatively Signage?

- SBC to investigate.

Harmony Orchard: Concerns had been raised about it's development, Gordon Stewart from NTS reiterated that this was not planned and that they plan to continue replanting the Orchard.

Annual Support Grant, Melrose and District Community Council. All present Community Councillors agreed to abide by the code of conduct for community councillors.

11. **Date and time and location of next Community Council meeting.** Wednesday 18th October, Ormiston Rooms 1930 hrs.