

MINUTES OF MELROSE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING 7.30PM WEDNESDAY 17th January 2024, ORMISTON ROOMS

1. Welcome, Attendance, Apologies, Declarations of Interest

Present: Mary Douglas (Chair) (CC), Willie Kerr (CC), Jane Bell (CC), Mike Sherlock (CC), Bruce Wilson (CC), Simon Harris (CC), Dougal Stewart (CC), Bruce Jackson (CC), Martin Baird (CC), Lorna Paterson (CC).

In Attendance: Ian Porter (Police Scotland), Rodger Johnson, Lynda MacNamarra

Apologies: John Paton Day (SBC) David Parker (SBC), Jenny Linehan (SBC).

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

No declarations of interest.

2. Police Report

IP had circulated the report prior to the meeting and welcomed any questions.

Asked why none of the theft complainants had been seen, IP replied that two of the incidents were theft of petrol from petrol stations and these will be investigated as they may have been an error on the part of the driver, rather than a deliberate act. If a theft had been of personal property or from a vulnerable person, these would have high priority. The 5 key priorities for the police are not in any priority order, they all carry equal weight.

IP asked that awareness be made of cannabis cultivation, and the circumstances where unused / long empty buildings have been taken over by criminal gangs. If there is any suspicion, then please report to crime stoppers or 101, or via his email.

Eggs being thrown at doors by youths has been dealt with, and the community action team are performing parking checks.

3. Melrose 7s Update – this will be covered next month.

Road closures on the Friday will no longer happen, and the pelican crossing from Gibson Park will be installed before the 7s take place.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting, and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The Gattonside street lights* on the south side of the chain bridge were still not functioning, and there was concern that the path between boat brae and the bridge had not been gritted and were particularly slippery in the recent cold spell.

* this is an item that has been repeated at many meetings and there does not appear to be any action.

Action Councillors

Large vehicles continue to go up and down the loan and get stuck. A property has been damaged as a result. The dust cart situation has been resolved by the use of a smaller truck (on a different collection day), but we request that the Council install width restrictions at the end of the Loan in order that large vehicles are prevented from accessing the road.

Action Councillors

St.Mary's Road one way scheme. This continues to be something that the CC would like to be pursued. A proposition and case will be prepared from the CC to SBC

Action M.Sherlock

Tweed Bank roundabout development. It was noted that the flags have been removed.

Phone Box in Gattonside has been designated as still in use by BT and therefore is not for sale, the one in Newstead has now been purchased by the CC and the box in Darnick is in process of being purchased by the DVDT.

5. Rhymer's Stone.

The CC all agreed that the damaged stone should **not** be replaced as it was likely the apparent frost damage would surely reoccur and the money could be spent on other projects. Cancel purchase order.

Action Councillors

6.Pelican crossing.

Phase 1, which is now complete, involved all of the above ground works to form the crossing and put in place the specialist paving. Phase 1 also involved 95% of the underground works in terms of ducting and cabling. The Contractor will ensure that the road is surfaced after the ducting and cabling is in place and these works will not need to be excavated again. Works are scheduled to be complete by the end of February.

7.AOCB

Melrose traders are discussing ways to promote Melrose. The CC are keen to hear what their thoughts are and invite them to come to the next meeting to discuss. **Action M.Douglas**

Festival update: The eligibility for the Court principals and attendants have been widened after a meeting with the festival committee and School and a special general meeting and the constitution amended accordingly.

Noticeboards: There is only one key for the CC noticeboard, held by Bruce Jackson. Any notices to be displayed should be emailed to BJ who will put them up. Request to Val if she knows anyone who may have a spare key. There may be a possibility of using the Rugby Club noticeboard in the square as it is no longer used for posting information to the teams.

Enquiry to be made

Action B.Wilson

Benches: the benches in the 4 villages have not been touched in 6 years. Simon and Val to perform an audit of state of benches and the CC can then look at the cost of refurbishment, that Simon believes can be done in situ, and if CC provide the paint, the work may be a suitable exercise for the community workplace service, with Melrose in Bloom and Paths group.

Audit

Action S.Harris

Teba town twinning: all agreed that this was a good idea and will discuss with Selkirk and the council to see what the process is to make this happen. We are happy to just have the twinning in name with no activity other than providing information/ publicity for Teba.

Action M.Douglas

Library service and Book Bugs: The library is managed through Live Borders. The current stand in for the Chairperson is not from a Cultural/Heritage background and may not be aware of the benefits of the Book Bug activity. The concern here is that all other libraries have Book Bugs and we do not want Melrose to miss out. Contact head of library services.

Action B.Jackson

8. Questions from the floor

Rodger Johnson lives next to the new flats development on High Cross Avenue. A high wall has been constructed between his property and the new development, which means that there is no sight line for exiting his driveway, and the front of his vehicle will cross the pavement and enter the road before he can see if anyone is coming either on the pavement or the road. He has already had a few close calls with pedestrians and cyclists. He has raised the matter on numerous occasions but always gets reverted back to Julie Hayward in the planning department, who states that there is nothing can be done as it passed planning. He believes that when the building work is signed off in the next few days, then nothing will be done as the builder moves on. He requests urgent action before it is too late and does not want to be responsible for causing an accident.

Post meeting note: David Parker has written to Alan Scott and Philippa Gilhooly asking for a site visit with the appropriate Officers, Jenny Lineham and himself, along with the householders as he is not convinced that the sight lines are acceptable. **Action** D.Parker

Resident of East Port complains that loud music from the Ship Inn plays on an external speaker from 11am to 11pm on Saturday nights, and that customers from the pub use the vennel as a toilet.

Post meeting note: David Parker writes :

Music isn't licenced but the premises are and the anti-social behaviour in and around the premises are a matter for the Police and the Licencing Authority both of whom I am happy to contact but we would need some contact details of the complainer.

The issue of noise is a matter for Environmental Health and they would need to place noise monitoring equipment in the house of the complainer to determine whether the noise was unacceptable and constituted a nuisance. If it was found to constitute a nuisance then Environmental Health would make the operators of The Ship take action to reduce noise levels.

The resident's details have been passed to the Councillors.

Bus shelter at Ravenswood roundabout is in need of repair. **Action** Councillors

Blocked drains continue to be an issue, notably at Lowood Bridge where the flooding covered the whole width of the road. Could the Council clean them on a more frequent basis (say every quarter) ? **Action** Councillors

Meeting Closed at 9.00

9. Next meeting Wednesday 21st February 2024 Ormiston Rooms, Melrose