



**MEETING OF MELROSE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD ONLINE ON WEDNESDAY 18th AUGUST 2021**

MINUTE

Present: William Windram (WW) (Chair), Val Miller (VM), Graham Barker (GB), Robin Chisholm (RC), Andrew Panter (AP), Lorna Paterson (LP), Aziza Taylor (AT) (Secretary).

In Attendance: SBC Cllr David Parker (DP).

		Action
1.	Apologies for Absence: Dorothy Cameron, Martin Baird, Cllr Tom Miers, Cllr Jenny Linehan.	
2.	Declaration of Interest: WW reminded members that they should declare any interest they may have in advance of an item being discussed.	
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June were approved.	
4.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>Pavements Opposite the Rugby Club: SBC are to provide dropped kerbs.</p> <p>Christmas Lights: RC reported that grant applications had been made.</p> <p>Golf Club Drainage Problem: No work done yet. The problem is expected to recur after the summer.</p> <p>Bollards: DP reported that all the bollards had been repaired, but a question was raised over one in Buccleuch Street that has not been replaced.</p> <p>Community Council Accounts: GB has applied to SBC for grant funding for the current financial year.</p> <p>Boots, Market Square: AT had written to Boots Head Office in Nottingham and had received a reply from there and a phone call from the local shop manager. Boots will undertake a review of the Melrose shop as part of a national programme of refurbishment. It is now known when any work will be carried out.</p> <p>Fence at Darnick: The work is still to be done.</p> <p>Melrose Abbey: Repair work to the masonry is being done.</p> <p>Trimontium Trust: The new museum is now open and proving very popular with good reviews from attendees</p> <p>Fence at Laundry Corner: This has been repaired.</p> <p>Potholes: Work by SBC to repair potholes was noted.</p> <p>Cutting of Rights of Way: GB reported that the contractor had carried out</p>	

	<p>work which has now used all the funds available. The annual grant of £450 has not been increased for many years and it was agreed that a review was needed.</p> <p>Footpath from Melrose Station to St. Dunstons: This path is privately owned and is in need of repair.</p> <p>Annay Road Footpath: SBC have cleaned the path.</p> <p>Broken Road Sign, High Street, Melrose: This work has been done.</p> <p>Live Borders, Reopening of Halls and Meeting Rooms: Reopening will commence on 30 August with other halls opening from September.</p> <p>Community Council Elections: There is a backlog of elections for Community Councils due to the pandemic, and a date will need to be scheduled with SBC. Community Councillors were asked to bring suggestions for new candidates to the next meeting as several existing Councillors will not be standing again.</p>	
5.	<p>Police Matters: The Police Report for July had been circulated prior to the meeting. Further incidents in the vicinity of East Port were noted, along with incidents in local shops. TM will be asked to raise this with the Police Board.</p>	
6.	<p>Traffic Matters: Additional Bicycle Hoops: The local consultation on where to site additional bicycle hoops met with a positive response and work will now proceed. Chiefswood Road: Figures for usage to date had been circulated and final figures are expected for September. Plans are being made for SBC to reinstate two way traffic after 30 September which may result in the road being closed for one day while work is carried out. A further newsletter will be circulated to Melrose residents once the trial is complete.</p>	
7.	<p>Planning Sub Committee: Dingleton Apartments: The name Lower Court was agreed to for the two flats being created. Tweedmount Road: The large extension being erected here is under the planning permission granted to the previous owner, which has been modified. Main Building, West Grove, Waverley Road Melrose – Alterations to Roof to Form Dormer Windows: No comments from MDCC. Orchard House, Gattonside, Melrose – Alterations to Dwellinghouse: No comments from MDCC.</p>	
8.	<p>Community Events: Melrose in Bloom: VM reported that the group would be holding their annual Garden Party in Harmony House garden on 29 August. Scotts 250 Event: WW had attended events at Abbotsford recently to celebrate the anniversary.</p>	
9.	<p>Matters Raised by Councillors: Fingerposts: VM asked if the fingerposts in the town could be updated to remove reference to the Tourist Information Office which no longer exists, and to include the new Trimontium Museum. Wall at the School: SBC have recently carried out work on the wall and a</p>	

	<p>notice needs to be repositioned. DP will speak to Ian Wilson about this.</p> <p>Wall at the Cemetery: DP will find out what is happening with repairs to the coping stones.</p> <p>Priorwood Bridge: SBC are proposing a pedestrian bridge to replace the existing damaged bridge as grass cutting machinery can access the playing field via the footpath by the Abbey. VM objected to this, but others were in favour.</p> <p>St. Dunstons Fencing: The fencing is in place because the garages are unsafe. It is now known when any work will be carried out.</p> <p>School Playground Cleaning: DP will see what can be done to improve the cleaning.</p> <p>Leaderfoot Viaduct, new electric fence: GB passed on concerns that an electric fence has been erected which could pose a risk to children and prevents access to the riverside.</p> <p>Newstead Green: The Newstead Village Development Trust are to hold a picnic on the green on 29 August. They are to hold a survey about purchasing the green for the community.</p> <p>Bench on the Black Path: It was agreed that GB can proceed with reorienting the seat between Dean Road and Newstead to provide a better view for those using it.</p> <p>Dean Road Electronic Sign: GB reported that the sign is not working.</p> <p>Security Signs at the Greenyards: It was agreed that the large number of security signs put up at the Greenyards was excessive and the matter will be raised with the rugby club by WW.</p> <p>Cauldshiels Loch: AP reported a number of issues with vehicular access and parking at Cauldshiels Loch. It was agreed that this had been a problem for some time but seems to be particularly acute this year.</p> <p>Waverley Castle Hotel: LP reported the new owners are keen to engage with local people. There is no further news on the proposed Premier Inn for the Border Gateway site at Tweedbank.</p> <p>Melrose High Street, Parking: It was noted that local business owners were parking vehicles in the High Street for extended periods limiting the opportunities for customers and visitors.</p>	<p>DP DP</p> <p>DP</p> <p>GB</p> <p>WW</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Matters Raised by the Public:</p> <p>X62 Bus service: A local resident had contacted the Community Council via the website about the reduced service on this route. It was noted that Border Buses were operating in difficult circumstances during the pandemic.</p> <p>Research into Cultural Tourism in Galashiels and Melrose: A researcher from Aberdeen University had contacted the Community Council via the website about this project. WW had been unable to make contact with her to take this further.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 15 September 2021 at 7.30 pm.</p> <p>Details of any venue to be confirmed.</p>	