



**MEETING OF MELROSE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD ONLINE ON WEDNESDAY 20th OCTOBER 2021**

MINUTE

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

In Attendance: SBC Cllrs David Parker (DP) and Jenny Linehan (JL).

		Action
1.	Apologies for Absence: Dorothy Cameron, Lorna Paterson, Agnes Waldie, Cllr Tom Miers.	
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 15 September were approved.	
4.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>Pavements Opposite the Rugby Club: Work is complete.</p> <p>Christmas Lights: RC reported that funds had now been secured and that work would commence on 1 November.</p> <p>Golf Club Drainage Problem: No work done yet.</p> <p>Bollards: Work has been done.</p> <p>Fence at Darnick: Work has been done.</p> <p>Trimontium Trust: The Trust's programme of lectures available on Zoom is proving popular with in excess of 100 people enjoying them. There is a link on the Trust website for those wishing to attend.</p> <p>Community Council Elections: It was proposed to hold the elections in early 2022. DP will advise on the agreed timetable. Several names were suggested for potential new community councillors.</p> <p>Priorwood Bridge: LP and VM attended the site visit with SBC. The majority decision on cost grounds was for a footbridge. The Criminal Justice team may be able to undertake the work but there is a backlog of work of more than one year.</p> <p>Cemetery Wall Damage: Some work had been done to repair the damage.</p> <p>Leaderfoot Bridge, new electric fence: Negotiations are under way with the owners over the locked gates.</p> <p>Defibrillator: The Bowling Club are to explore the option of locating the additional defibrillator in the Abbey Car Park.</p>	DP

	<p>Boat Brae Banking: There has been no contact from the Bowling Club to Melrose in Bloom to discuss options.</p> <p>Path near the Chain Bridge: JL will check with SBC over who is liable for repair work to the path.</p> <p>Litter Bin Opposite the Loan: Replaced. Another bin near Lowood Bridge has been badly damaged. JL will take this up with SBC.</p>	<p>JL</p> <p>JL</p>
5.	<p>Police Matters: The Police Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that there had been fewer incidents in the town centre. WW will make contact with the Police Board.</p>	<p>WW</p>
6.	<p>Traffic Matters: Melrose Road Works: A number of projects to repair damaged roads in Melrose are now under way. Some disruption to motorists is inevitable but the repairs are welcome. Additional Bicycle Hoops: Locations have been agreed. Weirhill Parking: Concerns were raised about the number of vehicles parking on the Weirhill near the Bowling Club. Members were asked to monitor the situation when in the vicinity and let WW know of any problems. A6091 Noisy Motorbikes: AP raised concerns about the noise from motorbikes using the A6091 late at night.</p>	
7.	<p>Planning Sub Committee: Abbotsford House, Abbotsford, Melrose – Remedial Works and Alterations to the Garden Pavilion and Furnace House: No comments. Tweedview, 25 Main Street, Newstead – Alterations and Extension to dwellinghouse: No comments. 44 High Cross Avenue, Melrose – Erection of Dwellinghouse and Formation of Access: No comments. Hassendean Cottage, Bakers Road, Gattonside – Erection of Timber Summer House: No comments. Land North of Friars Hall, Gattonside – Erection of Dwellinghouse with Associated Access: No comments in principal. Concerns raised over poor sight lines at the access point with the main road, and hopes that as many trees as possible will be retained. Borders Gateway Development: Lidl have delivered a leaflet to all households in the area canvassing views on the proposal to site a new Lidl store in the development. RC raised concerns over the impact this might have on the retailers in Melrose High Street. All agreed with this point of view. AP was also concerned that any development on the site would need more screening as tree felling during site preparation had left it quite exposed. WW will write to Lidl to express the views of the Community Council.</p>	<p>WW</p>
8.	<p>Community Events: Melrose in Bloom: VM reported that the group were busy with end of season work parties. The greenhouses near the Greenyards are now back in use thanks to permission from the new owner. Planning is well under way for next season. A number of new volunteers have come forward this year. River Litter Pick: VM agreed to loan Melrose in Bloom’s litter pickers and</p>	

	<p>bags to AP for this.</p> <p>Remembrance Sunday 14 November: The Community Council have purchased a wreath. Last year's parade was cancelled due to Covid. Plans for this year's parades and local wreath laying ceremonies are awaited.</p>	
9.	<p>Matters Raised by Councillors:</p> <p>Black Path at Darnick: AP reported that there is still occasional flooding despite the remedial work done to improve drainage. There is a question over responsibility for any gritting of the path in icy conditions.</p> <p>Rugby Club Faulty Exterior Light: RC reported a flickering light on the exterior of the toilets at the Rugby Club. It was agreed that this was a matter for the Rugby Club and not SBC.</p> <p>Overgrown Hedges: RC reported overgrown blackthorn hedges that need to be cut back on St. Cuthbert's Way. There is also a problem with the hedges on the private path from Monte Cassino to St. Dunstons, and near to Lowood Bridge.</p> <p>Annay Road to Newstead Footpath: GB thanked SBC for work carried out on the footpath.</p> <p>Rhymers Stone Viewpoint: VM reported that the stone base at the viewpoint is cracking and sinking. Further report to come at the next meeting.</p> <p>Boots Frontage: AT will write to Boots complaining of lack of action following the previous complaint.</p>	AT
10.	<p>Matters Raised by the Public:</p> <p>Compliments from a Visitor: A recent visitor to the town had contacted the Community Council by email saying how much she and her husband had enjoyed their visit and how impressed they were with their experience and with the contributions made by volunteers such as the Trimontium Trust and Melrose in Bloom.</p>	
11.	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 17 November 2021 at 7.30 pm. on Zoom.</p>	