

# JED VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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## Meeting Minutes

A business meeting of the Jed Valley Community Council held on Wednesday 5th June 2019 at Glen Douglas Community Hall .

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### Welcome and Declarations:

The meeting was opened by the Chair who welcomed all present, thanked people for their attendance and invited declarations of interest.

### Members present:

Peter Hincks, Sheila Wilson, Jenny Brown, Michael Barker, and Nichol Renwick,

SBC Cllr Jim Brown was in attendance, together with Mr Hans Brandstaetter representing Messrs Mossburn Distillers Ltd.

### Apologies:

Anna Bradley, SBC Cllrs Scott Hamilton and Sandy Scott.  
A belated apology was received from Cllr Matt Tile.

### Approval of minutes:

The minutes of previous meeting were unanimously approved.  
Proposed: Jenny Brown.    Seconded: Michael Barker.

### Matters arising:

#### [a] Mossburn Distillery Update:

Mr Hans Brandstaetter presented a short talk on the current state of the Distillery development and stressed that some aspects of the proposed development he was unable comment upon. He explained that construction had been delayed due to a colony of bats that had to be relocated at the appropriate time. Negotiations have been taking place with SEPA in respect of water extraction and various testing requirements. Water would be obtained via a combination of wells and mains supply. Some work had

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progressed in the administration block in accordance with the owners wishes.

It was hoped that the alterations and widening of the A68 access route would commence immediately after the demolition and removal of the old garage planned for October 2019. Excavation works for the warehouses is expected to commence in January 2020 with construction completed by Autumn 2021. The first buildings to be erected would be the warehousing and bottling plants.

It was proposed that the warehouse would hold 6000 casks of alcohol which in the first place would come from the Skye distillery owned by the company but did not have any bottling facility. Mossburn Distillery formed part of a privately owned international distillery organisation spanning from Japan to the USA. The bottling plant would be expected to bottle some 1500 bottles per day with the bottles arriving on pallets from the manufacturers and being dispatched again on pallets but packed in boxes of a dozen bottles. Although plans were very fluid at the present time, it was anticipated that the distillery proper would be in full production by 2040 producing firstly malt whisky and then grain whisky. It was explained this would depend upon global market conditions at the time.

It takes about four years to produce and install a still as there were very limited manufacturers and stills had to be manufactured from copper to a very exact specification but in full production some 500,000 litres of alcohol would be produced. The whole complex was anticipated to cost about £100,000,000, with some £5.5 million having been spent on the site so far.

At the completion of the talk Mr Hans Brandstaetter was warmly thanked for his time and the information imparted to the meeting.

[b] Letham Forest Plan:

A public meeting had been held to discuss the various aspects of the forest plan and, as no representative from the JVCC was able to be present, Scottish Woodlands requested that a consultation comment was raised.

The scheme proposed that the regeneration of the forest allowed a diversity of tree planting, the potential to provide a habitat for red squirrels, to enhance the environmental biodiversity and riparian zones, to control the deer population to limit their destructive ability and to manage the commercial forest to the

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U.K. Woodland Assurance Standard. Concerns were voiced in the control of a potential grey squirrel invasion and the condition of the Hass to Fellside haul road which is in a very bad state of repair and needs to be brought up to an acceptable standard before any further timber was harvested.

[c] Broadband:

The chair attended a presentation organised by John Lamont on 10th May and was able to report on the current situation. When cable laying works are completed 90% of properties in the Borders should be able to receive faster broadband. It is expected that some outlying properties may be too far from a box to be reached. Individuals could be asked to fund any excessive costs, ie fund their own trench excavations. In some cases it might be prudent for individuals to seek a connection via their 4G operator but this would be an expensive option. A further alternative was to try and obtain fixed wireless access but again expensive. Neither of the speakers were prepared to discuss individual areas with the result that there is no final date for connection within the Jed Valley. One should go on line to discover the latest position. Cllr Brown commented that connectivity was not a devolved matter and required further funding above the current level covering Scotland, England, Wales & Northern Ireland. He will, however, endeavour to obtain details of the Scottish Governments programme for the next meeting.

[d] Community Council Scheme Review & Candidate for Working Party:

The chair distributed copies of letter from SBC regarding the appointment of Council representatives from each of the Area Partnerships. Cllr Barker offered to attend meetings as an observer when meetings formally declared.

[e] Unauthorised Stickers at Carter Bar:

This is an ongoing problem as following removal of stickers they reappeared. It was decided to take no further action.

[f] Repairs etc to Bairnkine/Ashtrees Road (C35):

Cllr Brown assured the meeting that the matter is included in this year's budget.

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[g] Meeting date changes:

A revised list of dates for future meetings was distributed and they were approved by all present.

## Police Report:

The Secretary had contacted the local Community Officer but unfortunately no report was available. As soon as it becomes available copies will be distributed.

## SBC Councillors Report:

- (a) The revised Area Partnership date was 19th June at Jedburgh Grammar School.
- (b) South of Scotland Economic Partnership, whose plan is to increase tourist traffic into the Borders, will hold a meeting on the 19th June.
- (c) It May be possible to obtain funding from the Scottish Government to assist with the rebuilding of the dangerous building in Jedburgh. Negotiations are still ongoing for SBC to take over the structure but it may be necessary to issue a compulsory purchase order.

## Secretary's Report:

Nothing to report at this time

## Treasurer's Report:

The balance of accounts stands at £667.89

Code of Conduct. At the previous meeting all members present confirmed that they had read, understood and would continue to abide by the Code of Conduct previously issued to them. An absent member had since confirmed his agreement to the Code. It can therefore be noted that all Community Councillors of the Jed Valley have now agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct

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## Any Other Matters:

- (a) A quote for picnic bench at Carter Bar was received in the sum of £475.20 As there are implications bordering the Southdean CC area. Cllr Barker will take up. In the meantime, the chair will enquire as to the possibility of grant funding.
- (b) An equalities Policy statement had been signed and forwarded to SBC for their records.
- (c) Information had been received concerning the “eBike” scheme via the Energy Saving Trust. There has been no take up from our area, mainly due to the cost and the inadvisability of cycling along the A68.
- (d) An invitation had been received regarding “Fit for 2024” on June 28th. The subject matter was Rural Transport Conference. Replies re attendance were required by 21st June.
- (e) Information had also been received regarding SCDC Supporting Communities Programme. The consensus of opinion was that it needs to be followed up by SBC Cllrs.
- (f) A handout was passed round outlining plans for the VE Day 75 celebrations planned for 8th May 2020 followed by a discussion on the community involvement. Initial suggestions included a piper at Carter Bar, lighting of beacon. The subject would be included in our next meeting and hopefully the matter can be taken forward.
- (g) The Merchant Navy Fund, in association with other seafarers charities, had suggested that the Red Ensign be flown on the 3rd September. Chair will investigate the possibility of Edgerston & Glen Douglas Community halls participating.

## Meeting Close:

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.

## Date, Time & Place of next meeting:

Wednesday 11th September at 7.30pm in Glen Douglas Community Hall.

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Jed Valley Community Council Members  
Michael Barker; Anna Bradley; Jenny Brown (Treasurer);  
Peter Hincks (Chairman); Nichol Renwick; Matt Tile (Vice Chairman);  
Sheila Wilson (Secretary)

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