

JED VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

A business meeting of the Jed Valley Community Council
held on Wednesday 11th September 2019 at Glen Douglas Community Hall

Welcome and Declarations:

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

Present:

Peter Hincks, Sheila Wilson, Michael Barker, Nichol Renwick, Matthew Tile, Anna Bradley.

In Attendance:

SBC Cllr Jim Brown; Mr John Bathgate representing the Dunion Hill Project; Mr Chris Bell representing Messrs Amey
A member of the public was also in attendance.

Apologies:

Jenny Brown, SBC Cllrs Scott Hamilton and Sandy Scott.

Approval of Minutes (from previous meeting):

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.
Proposed: Nichol Renwick. Seconded: Michael Barker.

Matters Arising:

- (a) The Dunion Project:
The Chair welcomed Mr John Bathgate who thanked the Chair for the invitation and proceeded to give a very interesting and informative presentation of developing the Dunion Hill site as a Sustainability Centre aimed at aiding Scotland in moving from using three planet resources to using only one. It was hoped this would lead to a large visitor attraction. A map and leaflet were passed around outlining details of the proposal. £20,000 funding has been obtained from SOSET for a feasibility study to look at the concept. Various positives and hurdles were discussed, such as possible contamination issues (ie methane) as part of the area is a landfill site. However, it might be possible to use the methane as a fuel thus meeting one of the objectives of the project. Access was another issue which would need consideration. The question of sponsors was also discussed, hopefully large companies would be interested. Asked about timescale, Mr Bathgate hoped the project could be completed in 5-10 years from the time when planning permission had been granted. A company called '3 to 1' had been set up to mastermind the project.

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- (b) Picnic Bench at Carter Bar:
Michael had agreed a position for the bench with a representative of Messrs Amey. There might be a requirement to adjust the bench size to accommodate the area. The Chair had received notification of the grant of 50% of costs from SBC subject to Messrs Amey's written confirmation being received. Michael to follow up.
- (c) Richards Cleuch Bridge:
Nichol has been in contact with contractors re costings but no confirmation at present. He will contact another contractor around this. Cllr Brown said notification had been received from owner to say she would look at getting estimates. Tesco has a scheme available, open to competition, for this type of conservation work and it therefore a possible source of funding. The historic significance of the bridge was felt to be of importance. Some members of the Committee will meet to look at the bridge and get a clearer perspective.
- (d) VE Day 75 Celebrations:
Suggestions were put forward on how to take forward, ie:
Piper at beacon;
Pipe and/or Brass band
40s sit down meal with music and period dress
Afternoon tea (this was felt to be better option as more people would be able to attend).
Matt will approach Glen Douglas and Edgerston Halls with ideas.
- (e) SBC Audit & Review Committee:
No proposals put forward for subjects to be reviewed.
- (f) Scottish Borders Food Growing Strategy Consultation:
Following discussion around allotments, etc, it was felt people in towns who don't have spare ground areas would be more in need of such facilities. It was also felt more encouragement on seasonal and local produce would be beneficial.

Additional Matter Arising:

A68 Remedial Work at Camptown:

Mr Christopher Bell, Project Manager with Amey attended and updated members on proposed work at Camptown. Maintenance works on the A68 10km south of Jedburgh are programmed to begin on 23rd September and will last for around 12 weeks. Traffic control will be in the form of a closure of the south-bound lane with the traffic flows controlled by Temporary Traffic Lights (TTL); a temporary speed limit of 30mph will also be enforced. A full closure and diversion of the A68 traffic will be required during resurfacing works currently programmed for the first weekend in December. Emergency access will be maintained.

The dates outlined above may be subject to change, any changes shall be communicated in advance.

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During the full closure of the A68 at Campton the diversion route will be as follows:

Southbound traffic will be diverted at Ancrum/Kelso Junction South West on the A698 towards Hawick, traffic will then take the A6088 South East where it will rejoin the A68 at Carter Bar.

Northbound traffic will be diverted at Carter Bar and follow the above diversion in reverse. A6088 towards Hawick, then take the A689 towards Ancrum Junction.”

Police Report:

The Secretary requested report by email but none received.

SBC Councillor's Report:

- (a) Development site at Tweedbank has been approved.
- (b) Planning for Lowood site being worked on.
- (c) iPads for schools progressing well. Jed Campus will be among those to pioneer this project. Cllr Brown outlined benefits of scheme and what they can (or cannot) be used for. Anna, however, pointed out one disadvantage would be the problems with internet access in some areas.

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary had been asked by a member of the public to consider the possibility of a summary of meeting minutes being placed in the Jed Eye. As he was present at the meeting, she gave him the floor. He then commenced to explain the possibility of a summarised version of the Jed Valley minutes being submitted to the Jed Eye for inclusion in the publication. He also mentioned that the Jedburgh CC used to forward copy, but no longer do so. A discussion followed, with some members being in agreement. Michael had volunteered to summarise from the minutes. The Chair, however, felt the matter needed further consideration before any additional action is taken.

Treasurer's Report:

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chair confirmed the following:

- Community Support Grant is unchanged at £540.
- The Insurance premium is overspent by £4.20. (In previous years SBC had paid any excess premiums, but now the system has changed such that any excess premium must be paid for by the Community Council with SBC only paying the basic premium).

Any Other Matters:

- (a) A68 Camptown – Latest Programme:
Covered under 'Additional Matter Arising'

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- (b) Planning Applications between June and September:
There were three planning applications in this period, which the Committee was not notified of.
- (c) Merchant Navy Day 3rd September Update:
Matthew Tile had arranged for the Red Duster to be flown at Glen Douglas Community Hall.
- (d) Edgerston Tofts Woodland:
A communication for comment on the above was received by the Chair, to which he responded. This will follow Best Woodland Management. Further communication is expected if goes for full consultation.
- (e) Proposed closure of Pay Phone boxes at Camptown & Mossburnford.

Following on from a notice from both BT & SBC local residents were informed of the proposals to close the above Pay Phone boxes. Based on the comments received the JVCC responded as follows:-

CAMPTOWN

The Camptown response to the Jed Valley Community Council (JVCC) is one in which it has been stated that the box always needed cleaning but despite requests to BT nothing had been done so the locals clean it themselves occasionally. A further point was made that the contemporary box (a K7 or K8 design) was not really worth saving. Had it been an old style one, (K6 or earlier), the situation would be different. The response noted that it was hardly used and that no one would miss the box if it were removed.

MOSSBURNFORD

The response from Mossburnford to the JVCC stated that the box was dirty, contained wasp nests and nettles. The complete box was not kept clean by BT. These items contributed to the lack of use. Local residents and landowners were constantly maintaining the surrounding vegetation. The response also mentioned that walkers, tourists, horse riders and cyclists who use the "right of way" between Mossburnford and Oxnam were frequently asking to use a nearby private land line phone simply due to the fact that there is no mobile signal in the area and BT were not fulfilling their obligations to maintain a clean, usable phone box.

It seems clear that a properly maintained box would be used, especially as it is situated in a bereft mobile signal area. The pay phone serves not only the community of Mossburnford and the nearby caravan & mobile home park but also users of the right of way. It would be useful in times of emergency.

The preferred option is for the pay phone to continue in public use but should the box remain the subject of removal the community might like to purchase it for another use, but only as a last resort.

- (f) Review of Polling Districts and Stations:
A pilot scheme for recycling in the Jedburgh area is to be carried out between 8th September and 22nd December 2019. The matter was discussed and the JVCC unanimously agreed the scheme was a good idea.

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- (g) Recycling Pilot Scheme for Jedburgh:
A pilot scheme for recycling in the Jedburgh area is to be carried out between 8th September and 22nd December 2019. The matter was discussed and the JVCC unanimously agreed the scheme was a good idea.

Meeting Close:

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Date, Time & Place of next meeting:

Wednesday 13th November at 7.30pm in Edgerston Village Hall.

Chairman's note:

For the benefit of those members of the public who are unaware of the pilot scheme for recycling in Jedburgh, please refer to the 'Newsletter' section of the JVCC web site for further information.