

Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage Community Council

Ordinary Meeting 4th February 2010

Location: Hermitage Hall, starting 7:00pm

Community Councillors present: Geoffrey Kolbe (GK) Chairman, John Scott (JS) Treasurer, Lawrence Scott (LS)

Councillors present: Watson McAteer

Also present: P.C. Allan Patterson, Philip Kerr (Southdean Community Council), Barbara Elborn (Newcastleton & District Community Council) and 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence: CC Andrew Warburton

2. Police Report: P.C. Allan Patterson spoke to his Police Report (copy attached)

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the ordinary meeting of 3rd December were approved

4. Treasurer's Report: JS reported the ULHCC has £1,941.73 in the bank account. There are outstanding payment commitments totalling £181.42 and ring-fenced amounts of £500 (approved at the ULHCC meeting on 03 December/18). This leaves £1,260.31 for ULHCC ongoing activities. A question was raised about the cost of £15 for membership in The Bridge. JS provided an overview of the activities and value of joining The Bridge, which is a volunteer community support organisation in the Scottish Borders (Web link: <https://onlineborders.org.uk/community/thebridge>). The Bridge membership was approved.

JS confirmed the change in ULHCC bank signing authorisations was in process.

JS also confirmed he had discussed with the SBC Financial Services Department the Community Council insurance coverage which had been in abeyance for ULHCC since 2016. ULHCC is eligible for coverage, although much of the coverage is not applicable (e.g., buildings/contents, events, youth oversight). In order to have some basic coverage and policy eligibility for any future insurable activity, JS recommended ULHCC renew the coverage for 2019/2020, which would be at no cost to ULHCC. Approved.

5. Position of Secretary: The position of Secretary was now vacant, upon the resignation of Mary Howlett. However, it was agreed that the duties of the Secretary would be spread out amongst the other CC members and it was not necessary to appoint a Secretary at this time.

6. Co-option onto the Community Council: The CC approved a motion to seek someone to co-opt onto the CC. GK said he would action this.

7. Public Consultation regarding a Community Trust: JS explained that the type of trust which the community might set up would depend on the type of projects and community benefits the community would be trying to achieve. LC asked what the limits were on such projects. It was explained that monies raised by a CT could not be used for personal gain, animal welfare, religious purposes or statutory obligations (such as public roads, which should be paid for by the council) Apart from that, funds could be used for any legal purpose. It was thus necessary to consult with the community with regard to the type of projects it was in favour of pursuing. It was agreed that a public meeting would be arranged at which such projects could be discussed. The meeting would be preceded by flyers (hand) posted out to residents highlighting the various choices. It was agreed that the CC would decide amongst themselves on the nature and content of any such flyers and other information put out prior to a public meeting, and also the date of the public meeting.

8. Public Consultation regarding a Scottish Borders National Park: It was agreed that the model for the public consultation would be as decided for the Community Trust, and that the public meeting would be the same as that for the Community Trust.

9. Pines Burn Windfarm Community Benefit:

It was agreed that references to the term "Area" in the draft agreement with Energiekontor should be replaced by "participating Community Councils" where "participating" would be defined as those Community Councils who were statutory consultees to the original planning application.

It was agreed that the monies available to the Community Councils in the Pines Burn Wind Farm Community Trust be split up equally into 8 shares so that each of the 7 participating Community Councils got one share each, save Hobkirk Community Council would get two shares. There was then some discussion on how the fund would be shared out to the CCs. N&DCC had proposed an overarching SCIO, whose members would be the participating CCs, and into which Energiekontor would pay the whole of the CT funds. The SCIO would then release the funds to the CC members as required up to the limits of the proportion they were due and provided the purpose of the funds was valid. (As defined in item 7 above). The CC is grateful to Barbara Elborn for her clarification on how the SCIO would function in these circumstances. It was agreed that this scheme met the CCs requirements that the CT funds should not be arbitrarily withheld by Energiekontor, or Pines Burn Wind Farm Ltd., if they did not consider the reason for the funds to be valid, or that the funds had to be drawn down in the whole amount during any given year and could not be left to accumulate. It was therefore agreed that UL&H CC would be a participator in the Pines Burn Wind Farm SCIO scheme. This scheme would replace the draft agreement with Energiekontor. JS offered to review and comment on a proposed Memorandum of Agreement and on any draft SCIO application. Councillor McAteer congratulated the participating community councils on the way they had worked together to come to a common agreement on the workings of the Pines Burn CT.

10. Resilience Plan: GK noted that there had been a previous discussion in the CC on this matter, but it had been felt then that it was sufficient that farmers undertook their traditional role of helping out in the community in times of crisis. However, GK thought that it was worth revisiting this item as farmers had their own problems and their own priorities in times of crisis and it was not fair to expect them to shoulder the whole burden of a community response in times of crisis. Too, the response would be more effective and efficient if it was pre-planned, everybody was involved and everybody knew their role. JS explained that SBC had a Resilience Group to which CCs could apply to belong and that advantages of doing so were that we would be provided with

demographic data, flood risk analysis, defibrillator locations, maps showing areas of high risk and other useful crisis response information. We would also be given prior warning in times of potential risk and direct and immediate access to SBC emergency teams during crisis situations. The SBC would also provide Resilience Sheds, in which would be stored hi-vis vests, torches, shovels, wheelbarrows and other equipment which might be needed in a time of crisis. There would also be insurance cover covering the liabilities of those helping out in a time of crisis - necessary in these litigious times. All this would be available at no cost. The question was asked if the sheds would be locked. JC replied that they would, with access available to Resilience Coordinators or other designated local persons. It was agreed that a Resilience Plan for the local community should be drawn up for discussion at a public meeting to-coincide with that for items 7 and 8.

11. Roads: It was agreed that the SBC roads department were doing a good job in keeping on top of the road problems and potholes were being repaired quicker this year.

The cattle grid at Burnfoot on the Hermitage road between the B6399 and the A7 continues to be treacherous. This cattle grid is actually in the D&G area and Watson McAteer said he would coordinate with them to get the grid repaired.

Concern was also raised from public attendees about gritting on the Hermitage Valley / A7 road.

12. Reports of meetings attended: GK reported on the consultation meeting held at Borders College Campus by a parliamentary committee on 23rd January on the South of Scotland Enterprise bill.

13. Communications: None to report. Barbara Elborn was surprised, as N&DCC get lots, so it was wondered if SBC had our address to which to send correspondence.

14. Any Other Business: A Pre-Application Notification (PAN) regarding the grid connection to be put in by Energiekontor to connect Windy Edge to the grid was submitted, though UL&H CC was not on the consultee list ! Barbara Elborn suggested that a fibre optic cable for broadband could be laid along the cable at the same time.

Watson McAteer expressed his disquiet that the local bus services could be cut as a result of economies in the forthcoming SBC budget. The details of the budget, or the cuts therein, were not known so Councillor McAteer suggested the CC write to Council Leader Shona Haslam with concerns about the impacts of possible and hypothetical cuts to the budget in our area, which might include the bus services.

15. Next meeting: 7pm Monday April 1st, 2019 at Hermitage Hall.

The meeting was declared closed at 8:45 pm.