

Ettrick & Yarrow Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 5th June 2023 Boston Memorial Hall, 7pm

Present: Miranda Alcock (MA) (Treasurer), Kirsty Irving (KI) (Secretary), , Alison Renwick (AR)(Chair), Jane Telfer (JT), John Wildish (JW), Elizabeth Williamson (BW), Karen O'Brien-Barret (KO), David Currie (DC)(Vice Chair), Jane Telfer (JT), Councillor Elain Thornton-Nicol (ET-N) and 30 member of the public

1. Apologies: John Davidson (JT), Fiona Hewson (FH), Councillor Caroline Cochrane (CC), Councillor Leah Douglas (LD)

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2023 were proposed as accurate by KO and seconded by JW.

3. Matters arising (Not on agenda)

Member of the public raised that some details were omitted minutes of the last meeting re Ring of the Loch car parking, that change of use would need to be applied for as this is currently a picnic site – **Action KI to amend minutes. Action: AR to refer back to EYCDC**

Tour of the Borders – Question raised over when the next TOTB event will be – up for discussion at the next CC Meeting.

Community Council Vacancy – Fiona Hewson has now resigned from the Community Council which leaves a vacancy. The Community Council has recently gone through the election process last year (this process can only happen every 4 years), we do have the option to co-opt members should we fall below the required number.

Community Council may consider possible co-option of new members in the future.

4. Police Report

No police present. No issues to report with reference to the Valleys

5. Councillors Reports

ET-N – Ettrick Valley Flooding – SEPA have confirmed their role is to warn of flooding and to ensure waterways are clean. ET-N is being supported by Emma Harper MSP through process. Works to be undertaken on Capital works, no date yet.

New fund for community groups – **Action KI will share once received**

6. Financial Report

- MA reported a bank balance of £22,309.93 at 1 June 2023. We received our 2022 allocation from the Langhope Rig Community Benefit Fund B in May, which was £9.5K, so we have a very healthy bank balance.
- SBC has not yet made a decision about whether the paths maintenance grant that has operated in previous years would be available again this year. SBC will inform community councils once the decision is made.
- MA has still to investigate opening a savings account with RBS. **Action MA**

7. Langhope Rig Community Benefit Fund

Fund A – 3 Community Councils - Decisions made by panel members

New panel members required as per previous correspondence

Fund B – decision made by Community Council

8. Ettrick Valley Flooding

Councillor ET-N previously stated works were to be carried out but no date confirmed.

AR strongly recommended local community was consulted before works carried out to ensure worthy. – **Action ET-N to follow up and ask SEPA to attend next E & Y CC meeting**

No emergency plan in place at the moment, this pertains to Yarrow Valley also.

General feeling is that dredging small areas of the river may alleviate flooding - **Action AR to write to SBC** to suggest specific meeting to discuss with locals and landowners for best way forward.

Action – **ET-N to email Connor Price who has already undertaken Hydrology survey which included Ettrick Valley**

9. Talla Hartfell Wildland Project – Donald Greig

Donald explained he is employed by Southern Uplands Partnership which is a rural development charity. Donald has been asked to talk to as many communities as possible to find out aspirations for the future of the countryside and see if SUP can do anything to help.

All details can be found in the links below;

Southern Uplands Partnership (SUP) – www.sup.org.uk

SUP Talla-Hartfell Wild Land Area project - sup.org.uk/projects/talla-hartfell-wildland-project/

NatureScot Talla-Hartfell Wild Land Area - <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2021-06/Wild%20land%20Description%20Talla-Hart-fell-July-2016-02.pdf>

NatureScot Wild Land Areas general - www.nature.scot/doc/wild-land-areas-map-and-descriptions-2014

SUP event: Communities and Forestry - www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUS4GDIVOI0

AR thanked Donald for coming along to the meeting and welcomed any suggestions to keep valleys thriving. Donalds email address is: dgatwork@btinternet.com

10. New Woodland Creations

Annelshope – Upper Ettrick adjacent to Ettrick Marshes, comprehensive letters of objections have been submitted. Action – **KI to send out details**

Concern raised over planting blanket forestry coverage. **Action KI / AR to formulate CC response**

Any comments to be sent to sam.huddleston@silviculture.co.uk

Todrig – Near Ashkirk

11. Wind Farm Update

1 further wind farm proposed south of Tweedsmuir – Hearthstones Wind Farm. Very early stages with public drop in meetings to be arranged. **Action KI to keep updated**

12. Update from EYCDC

Ettrick Marshes – area of forestry included within site, ready to harvest which has been contracted out.

James Hogg Exhibition now open for summer.

Path has been requested to run from Kirkhope Steading to Ettrickbridge – request for funding will be investigated, letter of support from E & Y CC to EYCDC – **Action KI**

Community Action Plan to be updated, work to undertaken in conjunction with E & Y CC

Issue raised again that picnic site at St Marys Loch is being used as a car park for Ring of The Loch – **Action EYCDC and landowners to discuss.**

Toilets – no update

13. Community Action Plan

E & YCC to work with EYCDC to consult with everyone in the community to produce a joint Community Action Plan – **Action AR to update at next meeting**

14. E Y CC Website

E & Y CC recognises the importance of communication and needs to put resource into development of website. Possibility of using support grant to go towards contracting website development and communications support for E&YCC

Community Action Plan needs to be in place to ensure vision is clear.

Action PS to take forward

15. Planning Applications

Telephone mast to be erected north of Blackhouse, Yarrow

Gordon Arms Hotel – Alterations and extension to guest accommodation

-All planning applications can be viewed on SBC website

16. Correspondence

Letter received to inform of potential dangerous trees overhanging the road in Ettrick Valley around Thirlestane Lodge– **E T-N to take forward**

SBC seeking feedback re 20mph limits, and if any communities.

Emails have been received by E & Y CC re Brown Rig Wind Farm proposal, summary below;

- E&YCC under false illusion that most people living in the Valley were supportive of the proposals for the Brown Rig Industrial Windfarm
- Why nothing has been sent out yet to residents asking their opinions which was an action agreed in a previous meeting.

- Concerns raised re the conflict of interest around Community Council members and interested parties of the wind farm proposal
- Opportunities to consult on the meteorological masts in January 2022 was not undertaken. Community had no say. Failure to deal with conflict of interest issues.

AR stressed that these are peoples opinions and are valid and have been noted by the Community Council

17. AOCB

40mph limits signage at Cappercleuch are still covered – **Action E T-N**

Dates of future meetings

Monday 7th August 2023, Cappercleuch Village Hall, 7pm

Monday 2nd October 2023, Kirkhope Parish Hall, 7pm

Monday 4th December 2023, Yarrowford Village Hall, 7pm

Monday 5th February 2024, Kirkhope Parish Hall, 7pm

Monday 1st April 2024, Yarrow Feus Hall, 7pm

Monday 3rd June 2024, Boston Memorial Hall, 7pm (AGM)