

Ettrick & Yarrow Community Council AGM

Monday 3rd June 2024, Boston Memorial Hall

Present: Miranda Alcock (MA) (Treasurer), Kirsty Irving (KI) (Secretary), , Alison Renwick (AR) (Chair), Jane Telfer (JT), John Wildish (JW) (Vice-Chair), Elizabeth Williamson (EW), Karen O'Brien-Barret (KO), Jane Telfer (JT), John Davidson (JD), Paul Scott (PS), Councillor Caroline Cochrane (CC) and 11 members of the public

1. Apologies: Councillor Leagh Douglas (LD), Councillor Elaine Thornton-Nicol (ET), PC John Murray

2. Minute of previous AGM

The minute of the previous AGM held on 5th June 2023 was proposed as accurate by PS, seconded by EW and agreed.

3. Chair's Report

Chair AR welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Started off by thanking David Currie for his service on the Community Council following his resignation. AR also thanked JW for taking on the role of Vice-Chair.

Pleased to announce we now have a working website and thanked JW & PS for all the hard work in getting us to this place. JW will be updating us on progress in the meeting to follow the AGM.

Efforts around Tour of the Borders and the anti-social behaviour around St Marys Loch are ongoing, neither of these proving to be a quick fix but communication with all parties involved will continue in an effort to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

There also continues to be great concern surrounding the flooding issue in the Upper Ettrick area and we will keep supporting the local community and highlighting concerns and pushing for action to resolve a potentially life threatening situation.

On a more positive note, we have recently taken ownership of the disused telephone box at St Marys Loch, with a view to use it as some sort of community resource perhaps with tourist information or signposting local services – this is work in progress.

The Community Council continue to support our community through grant applications and encouraged anyone to ask for or seek information on what is available. Funds such as the Education and Training Fund are there and are open to anyone living in the Valleys and could provide much needed support. We have also ring fenced funds to cover small schemes such as provision of benches at Yarrowford playpark and potential repairs to fencing around the James Hogg statue at St Marys Loch.

AR thanked EW for all her huge efforts and hard work to ensure we now have working defibrillators up and down both valleys, this has not been a small task and it is ongoing but has been very worthwhile and is very much appreciated by all.

Going forward AR encouraged a growth in partnership working whether it be with community groups or with other Community Councils, an area where we could benefit from greatly with shared experiences to the benefit of the whole community. On that note we will be working alongside the EYCDC to produce a community action plan which will identify areas of concern to residents in the valleys but also highlight what's good too.

AR thanked all the members of the Community Council who willingly give up their time, MA for her work as treasurer and keeping us all right, and to KI for work as secretary.

AR finished by conveying that we are privileged to live in such a beautiful area and it is all our responsibilities as residents to look after the environment and each other. Looking forward to the year ahead and hopefully keeping very positive.

4. Treasurers Report and Annual Accounts

MA presented the Annual Accounts, copies of which were made available at the meeting and are available on request.

Balance as at 7th May 2024 was £15,457.23

Langhope Rig Community Benefit Fund provided two rounds of funding this year compared to none last year, £20k.

SBC offered all Community Councils £500 for Kings Coronation celebrations which could be applied for and three of the village halls in our area organised events which was funded by SBC.

Expenditure – £5744.02 was spent on making sure all the defibrillators in the valleys were updated and in good working order. This is ongoing but next year upkeep should be less.

Grant applications increased with more community groups being awarded funds for various projects.

Insurance premiums – 2 years premiums paid this year but going forward this will be paid by SBC.

This year for the first time EYCC funded remembrance poppies for the 3 churches, it was felt this was a very worthwhile cause and will continue.

6. SBC Code of Conduct for Community Councillors

All Community Councillors confirmed that they agree to abide by SBC Community Council Code of Conduct.

7. A.O.C.B

None

8. Date of Next AGM

The next AGM will be Monday 2nd June 2025 and is due to be held in St Marys Hall, Cappercleuch, Yarrow.