

**Galashiels Community Council**

**Wednesday 3rd August 2022**

**Focus Centre**

**6.30pm**

**MINUTES**

**In Attendance**

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Richard Romeril, Jane Mele, Jim Johnson,

Cllr Jardine

Cllr McKinnon

Cllr Steel

John Hislop - Border Telegraph

4 Members of Public

**1.Welcome and Apologies**.

Judith welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Cllr Hannah Steel as it was a first-time meeting Cllr Steel. Judith pointed out we were a bit thin on the ground for Members this evening with half of members giving apologies for varying reasons.

Apologies–Alexa Seagrave, Bill White, John Birnie, Rick Kenney, Marion Romeril, Cllr Fay Sinclair

***2.* Minutes Approval.**

An accurate Minute of the Meeting 8th June 2022 was Approved by Jane Mele and Seconded by Jim Johnston

**3. Matters Arising N/A**

**3a. Speaker**

Tracey Brown from Local Area Coordination services, a service across the Scottish Borders area for adults who are isolated in their community due to impact of learning disability, mental ill-health, physical disability, or older age.

Tracey came to speak to the Community Council as the Service wishes to start a pilot scheme for possibly an initial 6 months. Tracey had spoken to Judith about the Focus centre helping with putting in a bid for funding but that would mean that the Focus centre would be putting in a bid to pay themselves as the LAC team think the Focus Centre is the ideal place for service users to do Bingo, Crafts, cookery and other social events for stimulation. That is why she is now here speaking to the Community Council members.

The funding required is £1500 through the Eildon Area Fund and this would cover the costs of the hire of a room at the Focus Centre, arts and crafts and food for cookery lessons. Etc.

QA what would happen after the 6 months, where would the money come from?

Part of the pilot would be to form a fully constituted group to look at funding to run the service.

All agreed it was a great idea and that the CC should help get the initial funding.

Comment made that Bill White who is absent tonight is Chair of the Gala Local relief fund which has money available if the service is going to be in Gala.

**4.Police Update**

New Sergeant now in position so Judith will see if she can get her along to a meeting. Its about time we had the police back at face-to-face meetings.

**5. Subgroups**

Policies

At present the policies are looking quite tidy.

Jane Mele said the open day on July 16th was one of the hottest days we had, and it was roasting in such a small, sheltered area. But it went well

Walking Festival

The Walking festival Brochure has now gone to print. It’s been a job and a half with only 4 of us pulling the whole event together due to the lack of any enthusiastic helpers. We have a good mix of social events on offer in the evenings. There will be a nominal charge of £1 for booklets as they are costing more because of the sustainable paper they are printed on. Thanks to Mr Gray for collecting adverts for us.

**6. Chairs Report**

Good evening, everyone, welcome to the August meeting of Galashiels Community Council.

 I hope you are all enjoying the summer and if you have already had a holiday, that you have come back refreshed and ready to get back to whatever normal is these days.

I was sorry to have missed the ‘conversation’ meeting, held by Cllr Jardine and other elected members on 21st July. I would be interested to know how many people attended and if there is anything we, as a community council, can do to encourage attendance at further such meetings. Also, whether there was anything raised at that meeting that the community council can be of help with.

As I mentioned in my report, I have been asked to provide a planter to sit outside of the Tapestry Building for the winter, and for it to be in place for the official opening of the Tapestry in early September. I now have the cost for the supply of this fully planted up planter – £600, which includes VAT and getting the planter uplifted by Milestone in the Spring for planting up, with the other eight, in time for 2023 summer display. I have discussed this cost with Mr Gray, and we have agreed it is a reasonable price and we will go ahead.

Also, you may be aware that we now have a bowser, mainly paid for by Energise Galashiels, which is much appreciated. But we also need a tractor to pull it. Bill White has passed me a quotation for £11,500 plus VAT and a few extras such as a 5-year warranty.

I Spoke to Cllr Jardine some weeks ago about this and he has kindly arranged an appointment for Bill, Euan, and myself to meet with Craig Blackie on Tuesday 23rd August, to discuss getting pay parking money to buy the tractor. I will let you all know the result of this meeting.

I have been invited to join the Place team, organised by SBC, and consisting of the chairs of various community councils and community groups. This is basically a planning group to build on communities’ uniqueness, strengths etc. I don’t know too much about this yet but will be reporting to the community council on a regular basis.

I will be assisting Tracey at the Walking Festival week, 4th – 10th September. As is usual, my place will be in the kitchen and if anyone could spare any time to give me a hand during that week, it would be much appreciated.

Judith also asked if the Community Conversations event that was held at the Focus centre went well? Cllr Jardine said it was very well attended as were many of them.

Judith also asked about the Burgh Yard and Cllr Jardine replied that the application was in. However, there is still no sign of Starbucks in the old Abbotsford Arms Hotel.

**7. Treasurers Update**

As report but a few donations in tonight for Gala in Bloom.

**8. Secretary’s update**

In order for us to get our annual grant funding from SBC, they require a set of minutes where we all agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and a copy of the Annual Accounts. **All present agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct.**

Tracey advised that there was another garden competition running again for this year. There are 3 categories.

Residential Garden

Residential Garden Hard Landscape

And Residential/Nursing home.

Applications to be sent to Tracey on 07547064592…. WhatsApp or SMS.

**9. Vice Chairs update – Planning and Licensing**

Rick Kenney is away at the Commonwealth games in Birmingham.

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**10. SBC Councillors Comments and questions**

**Cllr Jardine**

It was great to see Gala Fairydean Rovers at the top of the Lowland League after the first four games.

Next year the UCI Championships are at Glentress, and so Euan is pushing for it to include Gala after such a successful Biking event a few months back.

Cllr Jardine asked if everyone was aware of the MiRewards app which is available for shopping in Gala. There are prizes to be had for collecting points for every pound spent.

Business sized cards were handed out from a NHS campaign called Money Worries.

Cllr Jardine then delivered some news that no one was really prepared for.

The Save Scott Park Group are pushing to take SBC to court as they are stating that SBC have not considered all of the options.

If this happens, we could lose the school. We could be pushed back, and Hawick are ready to jump in front of Gala as is Peebles

QA Could the site be changed, Cllr Jardine asked where it would go?

A brief heated discussion took place, Judith asked if it was worth the Community Council writing to say that we are in support of the school in its tendered site. Jim Johnston said that he didn’t wish to be part of any letter of support for the site, only the school.

 Judith said she would write to John Currie with the Community Council support of the school.

**Cllr MacKinnon**

Neil has been away in Ulster for 3 weeks so had very little to say.

He has been dealing with:

Disturbances in Currie Road from speeding cars.

Grassed areas in Broome Drive have now been cut.

Field at back of Focus Centre has volunteers raring to go, Judith pointed out that we had some of those volunteers here tonight as public.

**Cllr Steel**

Cllr Steel was on her first trip to Gala Community Council, Judith hoped she had enjoyed it? she has been dealing with the X95 bus service or rather lack of service, as its not being prioritised due to it not being busy enough.

**11. AOB**

**CC**

QA what is happening with the roundabouts?

Judith replied that nothing can be done till the Autumn, no sponsorship is allowed, however, she has just returned from holiday in Perthshire and made a point of checking if the roundabouts were sponsored, which were sponsored.

The cost is coming in at £22,000 and not all of this is for planting, most of it will go to the traffic lights and the safety aspects,

Focus is hoping to instal a big metal shed at the side of the building to house the Trishaw and other items.

We are drastically short of storage.

**Public**

QA – is there a possibility of adding more perennials to Bank Street gardens?

Mr Gray from Gala in Bloom replied that we have gone against adding perennials to Bank St but are looking at putting more into the gardens at Old Gala House.

Is anyone doing anything about the bins in Channel Street?

**Date of next meeting – Sept 7th AGM 6pm 2022 Normal meeting 6.30pm at Focus Centre**