

**Galashiels Community Council**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Wednesday July 7th, 2021**

**6.30pm**

**MINUTES**

**In Attendance**

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Rick Kenney, Marion Romeril, Richard Romeril, Gordon Richardson, Jill Forsyth, Alexa Seagrave.

Cllr Aitchison

Cllr Scott

Mike Thomson - Border Telegraph

4 Members of Public

**1.Welcome and Apologies**.

Judith welcomed everyone that attended to the meeting and said Bill White, Cllr Jardine, Liz Jardine

John Birnie, Cllr Anderson, Eileen Frame gave apologies.

***2.* Minutes Approval**

An accurate Minute of the Meeting 2nd June via Zoom was approved by Marion Romeril and Seconded by Gordon Richardson

**3. Matters Arising n/a**

**Comment** Minutes require updating on website and where other than the library can the Community Council put the Minutes, the notice cupboard at the Volunteer Hall was discussed but this is quite unsuitable as there is not enough room to put all the pages of the minutes and reports. Also, the cupboard is in bad condition and is very difficult to open due to being painted over.

Judith advised that the Minutes will also be put on display at the Focus Centre when it is open.

Tracey will ask Dougie who is our IT guy to update the Minutes on the website. He is working way up North at present.

So that the Community Council can obtain their Annual grant from SBC it is required that the **Members agree to abide by the Code of Conduct for 2021. All agreed.**

**4. Police Update**

Report was sent out and a brief discussion ensued.

It was pointed out by Cllr Scott that there is an increase in shoplifting, which could be down to the shortage of money due to covid.

Melrose Gait was discussed, and Eildon are in talks with residents.

**Comment**  A comment was made that there was no reason for Cllr Aitchison to make a comment about the police cars being adorned with Gaelic Language which most do not understand. Cllr Aitchison defended himself saying that it was just a figure of speech and that he has n o problem with the Gaelic language.

**5** and **6** **Gala in Bloom/Chairs update**

Judith thanked Bill White, Dougie Johnston , John Gray and Richard and Marion Romeril for their help with the planters.

**Comment** was made as to why a Just Giving page is required, and that raising money for plants should not be necessary by the public when said m ember of the public made it clear he paid his Council Tax , Tracey pointed out that we all pay our Council Tax and Judith added we fund raise to make the town nice and because we want to.

Cllr Scott said there are high level talks needed at SBC about the roundabouts. It was pointed out that the Asda roundabout is dangerous . The entrances to Gala have been done by Mr Miller, Cllr Jardine and his family and Gala Aisle has been done by Kevin and Lana Thompson.

The Girl Guides have done a great job at the Interchange.

Next month we have the new Chief Executive Netta Meadows attending our meeting.

In September Craig Blackie will attend.

**7. Treasurers Update and questions**

All as in report – Money in bank ringfenced for defibrillator

**8. Secretarys update**

**N /A**

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

Rick went through the planning applications , one of which was a rather big summer house as noted by other CC Members. Rick said if there was no objection to the colour then we put this one down to experience.

Scott Park Group meeting was attended, chaired by Steven Renwick and the next meeting is in about 3 weeks’ time. A good start was made with the suggestion to get an independent consultation .

**QA -** The big tree in Scott Park aka the Story Telling Tree, is this being removed? Suggestion was made for the plans to be looked at.

**Comment made** SBC broke the law with the consultation as it was online due to covid . The member of the public was told that if he thought that SBC had broken the Law then he should seek Legal advice.

**10. SBC Councillors Comments and questions**

**Cllr Aitchison -** Tapestry Building – The Gala Community Council, Energise, Gala in Bloom and Macarts have all been active in making the town look better so should be included in taking the Tapestry building forward.

Darner Statue – funding application gone in to lottery funding.

White line on Melrose Road now been done.

**Cllr Scott**

Please send requests in to Cllr Scott for police issues.

Complaints regarding Cemeteries, these are not cut as often as they should be, and Cllr Scott was disappointed by what he saw when he visited.

Alexa made observations about wild bedded areas and also suggested for the roundabouts to be covered in something like a blanket of thyme.

**11. AOB**

**CC**

Alexa asked about the funding for Build Back a Better Borders – she is aware of various groups doing activities and asked if the Community Council be the focal group for the fun ding application. All agreed

**Public**

**Meeting ended at 19.50pm**

**Date of next meeting by Zoom 4th August 2021 6.30pm**