
**Please find attached the Public Minutes in respect of
Item 6 on the agenda for the above meeting**

6.	<p>Committee Minutes (Pages 3 - 58)</p> <p>Consider Minutes of the following Committees:-</p> <table data-bbox="260 745 1182 1088"><tr><td>(a)</td><td>Planning & Building Standards</td><td>10 January 2022</td></tr><tr><td>(b)</td><td>Audit & Scrutiny</td><td>13 January 2022</td></tr><tr><td>(c)</td><td>Executive</td><td>18 January 2022</td></tr><tr><td>(d)</td><td>Tweeddale Area Partnership</td><td>18 January 2022</td></tr><tr><td>(e)</td><td>Chambers Institution Trust</td><td>19 January 2022</td></tr><tr><td>(f)</td><td>Cheviot Area Partnership</td><td>26 January 2022</td></tr><tr><td>(g)</td><td>Berwickshire Area Partnership</td><td>27 January 2022</td></tr><tr><td>(h)</td><td>Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership</td><td>1 February 2022</td></tr><tr><td>(i)</td><td>Executive</td><td>8 February 2022</td></tr><tr><td>(j)</td><td>Eildon Area Partnership</td><td>10 February 2022</td></tr></table> <p>(Copies attached.)</p>	(a)	Planning & Building Standards	10 January 2022	(b)	Audit & Scrutiny	13 January 2022	(c)	Executive	18 January 2022	(d)	Tweeddale Area Partnership	18 January 2022	(e)	Chambers Institution Trust	19 January 2022	(f)	Cheviot Area Partnership	26 January 2022	(g)	Berwickshire Area Partnership	27 January 2022	(h)	Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership	1 February 2022	(i)	Executive	8 February 2022	(j)	Eildon Area Partnership	10 February 2022	5 mins
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SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTE of Meeting of the PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS COMMITTEE held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 10 January 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

Present:- Councillors S Mountford (Chairman), A. Anderson, S. Hamilton, D. Moffat, C. Ramage, N. Richards, E. Small.
Apologies:- Councillors J. Fullarton and H. Laing
In Attendance: - Lead Planning Officer (B. Fotheringham), Lead Roads Planning Officer (D. Inglis), Solicitor (F. Rankine), Democratic Services Team Leader, Democratic Services Officer (W. Mohieddeen).

1. **MINUTE.**

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 6 December 2021.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute for signature by the Chairman.

2. **APPLICATIONS.**

There had been circulated copies of the Report by the Chief Planning and Housing Officer for applications for planning permission requiring consideration by the Committee.

DECISION

DEALT with the applications as detailed in Appendix I to this Minute.

3. **APPEALS AND REVIEWS.**

There had been circulated copies of a briefing note by the Chief Planning Officer on Appeals to the Scottish Ministers and Local Reviews.

DECISION

NOTED that:

- (a) There remained one appeal previously reported on which a decision was still awaited when this report was prepared on 22nd December 2021. This relates to a site at Greenloaning, The Loan, West Linton.
- (b) Review Requests had been received in respect of:
 - (i) Erection of dwellinghouse with access, landscaping and associated works in Land South and West of Greywalls, Gattonside – 21/00710/PPP.
 - (ii) Change of use of agricultural building and alterations to form dwellinghouse and garage in Land North East of Gamekeepers Cottage, Eckford, Kelso – 21/00734/FUL.
 - (iii) Siting of 2 no. shepherds huts for short term holiday accommodation in Land East of The Old Stables Lennel House, Lennel – 21/01344/FUL.
- (c) The decision of the Appointed Officer had been upheld in respect of:

- (i) Erection of dwellinghouse in Land Adjacent Carnlea, Main Street, Heiton – 20/01327/FUL.
 - (ii) Erection of dwellinghouse in Plot 5 Land South West of Hume Bank, Hume Hall Holdings, Greenlaw – 21/00726/PPP.
 - (iii) Erection of dwellinghouse in Plot 4 Hume Bank Hume Hall Holdings, Greenlaw – 21/00727/PPP.
- (d) There remained 10 reviews previously reported on which decisions were still awaited when this report was prepared on 22nd December 2021 related to sites at:

• Slaters Yard off Charlesfield Road, St Boswells	• Whinfield, Chesters Brae, Chesters, Hawick
• Land East of 15 Howdenburn Court, Jedburgh	• Land North East of Buxton House, Buxton Road, Selkirk
• Land at Station Yard, Traquair Road, Innerleithen	• Waterloo Arms, Chirnside, Duns
• Plot 1 Land North of Cakemuir House, Nenthorn	• Plot 2 Land North of Cakemuir House, Nenthorn
• 2 Winston Road, Galashiels	• Garden Ground of Kilknowe House, East End, Earlston

- (e) One Section 36 Public Local Inquiry had been received in respect of Erection of 45 No wind turbines and associated access tracks, infrastructure including substation/control room buildings and compound, temporary construction compound, meteorological mast and temporary borrow pits in Land West of Castleweary (Faw Side Community Wind Farm), Fawside, Hawick.
- (f) There remained no Section 36 Public Local Inquiry previously reported on which a decision was still awaited.

The meeting concluded at 12.05pm

APPENDIX I
APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Nature of Development</u>	<u>Location</u>
20/00981/FUL	Demolition of stable block and erection of dwellinghouse with associated works	Land South West of Weathercote Rig, The Loan, Gattonside

Decision: Approved as per recommendation, subject to amended Condition 10 and amended Informative 2.

1. The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out otherwise than in complete accordance with the plans and specifications approved by the Planning Authority.
Reason: To ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the approved details.
2. Details of all materials/colour finishes to be used on all exterior surfaces of the development hereby approved (walls, roofs, windows, doors) to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority before the development commences. The development then to be completed in accordance with the approved details. Reason: The materials to be used require further consideration to ensure a satisfactory form of development, which contributes appropriately to its setting.
3. The exact details of any retaining walls, fencing and gates (position, extent, height, design, materials/finish) to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Page 26 Authority before the development commences. The development then to be completed in accordance with the approved details. Reason: To safeguard the visual amenities of the area.
4. Drawings showing existing and proposed ground levels and finished floor levels to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority before the development commences.

The drawings to include: the proposed finished floor level of the consented dwellinghouse;

- (i) the existing and proposed ground levels throughout the application site; and,
- (ii) a clearly identifiable datum point, or clearly identifiable datum points, located out with the site and sufficient for the purpose of establishing the height(s) of the proposed finished floor level(s) and ground level(s) relative to the level of the existing landscape.

The development then to be completed in accordance with the approved drawings.
Reason: To enable the proper effective assimilation of the development into its wider surroundings.

5. No trees within or overhanging the application site shall be felled, removed, lopped, lifted or disturbed in any way without the prior consent of the Planning Authority.
Reason: The existing trees represent an important visual feature which the Planning Authority considered should be substantially maintained.
6. Tree protection measures for the construction phase (in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations) and a Tree Protection Plan for the trees within and overhanging the site to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority before the development commences. The protection measures to be implemented before the development commences and

retained until completion of the development. The development to be carried out in accordance with the approved Tree Protection Plan. Reason: As the trees are worthy of retention and contribute to the visual amenities of the area.

7. A drawing showing the location of the site compound for storing materials, machinery and equipment, any staff accommodation/facilities and parking for staff and delivery vehicles to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority before the development commences. The site compound, staff accommodation and parking then to be provided in accordance with the approved drawing.
Reason: In the interests of preserving the health and vitality of existing trees on the development site, the loss of which would have an adverse effect on the visual amenity of the area.
8. No development shall take place except in strict accordance with a scheme of soft landscaping works, which shall first have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority, and shall include (as appropriate):
 - (i) indication of existing trees, shrubs and hedges to be removed, those to be retained and, in the case of damage, proposals for their restoration,
 - (ii) location of new trees, shrubs, hedges and grassed areas,
 - (iii) schedule of plants to comprise species, plant sizes and proposed numbers/density,
 - (iv) programme for completion and subsequent maintenance.Reason: To enable the proper form and layout of the development and the effective assimilation of the development into its wider surroundings.
9. The construction of the development hereby approved shall only take place in accordance with the Revised Construction Traffic Management Plan dated 6th April 2021, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority. Access to the site during construction shall only be permitted from Monkswood Road and there shall be no access to the site of any kind (vehicle or pedestrian) permitted from the Loan.
Reason: To limit potential impacts on road and pedestrian safety.
10. The precise details of the vehicular parking area and access shown on Drawing 9387-3.02 Rev E (to include details of surface materials and drainage arrangements) shall be agreed in writing with the planning authority before development is commenced. The parking and access arrangements must be completed in accordance with the agreed details prior to the occupation of the dwellinghouse hereby approved and shall be retained in perpetuity thereafter.
Reason: To ensure the development hereby approved is served by adequate access and parking at all times.
11. No drainage system other than the public mains sewer shall be used to service the dwellinghouse hereby approved without the written consent of the Planning Authority. Prior to occupation of the dwellinghouse, written evidence shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority that the dwellinghouse has been connected to the public water drainage network.
Reason: To ensure that the development is adequately serviced and does not have a detrimental effect on public health.
12. No development shall commence until a report has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority that the public mains water supply is available and can be provided for the development. Prior to the occupation of the dwellinghouses, written confirmation shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority that the development has been connected to the public mains water supply. No water supply other than the public mains shall be used to supply the development without the written

agreement of the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the development with a sufficient supply of wholesome water and there are no unacceptable impacts upon the amenity of any neighbouring properties.

13. Details of all surface water drainage shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority before the development commences. The surface water drainage arrangements shall follow sustainable urban drainage techniques. The surface water drainage shall then be installed as approved before the dwellinghouse is occupied.
Reason: To ensure that the development is adequately serviced.

Informatives

1. In respect of condition 6, the Tree Protection Plan should contain the following:
 - (a) No excavations, site works, trenches or channels shall be cut, or pipes or services laid in such a way as to cause damage or injury to the trees by interference with their root structure;
 - (b) No fires shall be lit within the spread of the branches of the trees;
 - (c) No materials or equipment shall be stored within the spread of the branches of the trees;
 - (d) Any accidental damage to the trees shall be cleared back to undamaged wood and be treated with a preservative if appropriate;
 - (e) Ground levels within the root protection area of the trees shall not be raised or lowered in relation to the existing ground level, or trenches excavated except in accordance with details agreed as part of condition 4.;
 - (f) No hard surfacing shall be formed within the root protection area of any of the trees unless the details of the surfacing materials and any excavations have first been agreed with the Planning Authority;
 - (g) No part of the retaining wall shall be formed within root protection area of any of the trees unless the details of its construction and any excavations have first been agreed with the Planning Authority. In order that levels are not radically altered, both above and below the site a free draining aggregate should be put behind the retaining wall with a robust drain in the bottom to stop a build-up of moisture.
2. In respect of condition 8, planting is required along the south eastern boundary of the site adjacent to the access road. Native species hedge planting is also required along the west boundary of the site between the application site and Oakfield.
3. In respect of condition 10, the applicant should satisfy themselves that there is an appropriate regime in place between all interested parties with regards to future maintenance. This is to ensure the track is retained in a suitable condition for household vehicles. This will also include any repairs required prior to the construction period.

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Nature of Development</u>	<u>Location</u>
21/01491/PPP	Demolition of stable block and erection of dwellinghouse with associated works	Land South East of Oaklands, 7 Houndslow Road, Westruther

Decision: Approved contrary to Officer recommendation, subject to conditions and Legal Agreement covering development contributions towards Education. Precise wording of conditions to be delegated to Officers, in consultation with the Chairman.

Councillor Moffat, seconded by Cllr Ramage moved approval of the application on the following basis:-

The proposed development would be consistent with Policy PMD4 Paragraph b) of the Scottish Borders Council Local Development Plan 2016 in that it would represent an affordable housing development justified under Policy HD1. The proposals would provide special needs housing and would offer significant community benefits that outweigh the need to protect the development boundary.

Councillor Anderson, moved refusal of the application as per the officer recommendation but received no seconder so his Motion fell.

Schedule of conditions 21/01491/PPP

1. Details for AMC application:

No development shall commence until the details of the specified matters listed below have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in complete accordance with the details approved in relation to this condition.

Specified matters:

- a) Full details of the layout and siting of the proposed development;
- b) Full details of the external appearance and finishing materials of the proposed development;
- c) A landscaping scheme (full details specified in condition 3);
- d) Full details of the proposed vehicular and pedestrian access to the development from the public road (C98);
- e) Full details of the proposed car parking/vehicle turning area(s) for the proposed development;
- f) Full details of the proposed means of disposal of foul and surface water from the development;
- g) Full details of a bin storage area(s).

Reason: To achieve a satisfactory form of development, and to comply with the requirements of Section 59 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006.

2. No commencement until All Matters Specified in Conditions Approved

No development shall commence until all matters specified in conditions have, where required, been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Thereafter the development shall only take place except in strict accordance with the details so approved.

Reason: To achieve a satisfactory form of development, and to comply with the requirements of Section 59 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006.

3. Landscaping:

No development shall commence until a scheme of hard and soft landscaping works has been submitted to and approved in writing by the planning authority.

Details of the scheme shall include:

- (a) Existing landscape features and vegetation to be retained;
- (b) Protection measures (in accordance with British Standard 5837 (2012)) for the landscape features to be retained;
- (c) Existing and proposed finished ground levels;
- (d) The location of new trees, shrubs, hedges and grassed areas;
- (e) A schedule of planting to comprise species, plant sizes and proposed numbers and density;
- (f) The location, design and materials of all hard landscaping works including walls, fences and gates etc.;

- (g) An indication of existing trees, shrubs and hedges to be removed;
- (h) A programme for the implementation, completion and subsequent management of the proposed landscaping.

All soft and hard landscaping proposals shall be carried out in accordance with the approved planting scheme and management programme. Any planting which, within a period of 2 years from the completion of the development, in the opinion of the Planning Authority is dying, being severely damaged or becoming seriously diseased, shall be replaced by plants of a similar size and species to those originally required to be planted.

Reason: To ensure the implementation and management of a satisfactory scheme of landscaping which will help to integrate the proposed development into the local landscape in the interests of the visual amenity of the area.

4. Removal of trees:

No trees within the application site shall be felled, lopped, lifted or disturbed in any way without the prior written consent of the Planning Authority.

Reason: The existing tree represents an important visual feature which the Planning Authority considered should be substantially maintained.

5. Public water supply – evidence:

No works in connection with the development hereby approved shall commence until a report has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority that the public mains water supply is available and can be provided for the development. Prior to the occupancy of the dwellinghouse, written confirmation shall be provided for the approval of the Planning Authority that the development has been connected to the public mains water supply.

Reason: To ensure that the development is adequately serviced with a sufficient supply of wholesome water and the safety and welfare of the occupants and visitors to the site.

6. Public water supply:

The proposed development shall be connected to the public mains water supply as indicated in the submitted application and shall not be connected to a private water supply unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the development is adequately serviced with a sufficient supply of wholesome water and the safety and welfare of the occupants and visitors to the site.

7. Parking and turning:

The development hereby approved shall not be occupied until parking and turning for two vehicles, excluding garages, has been provided within the curtilage of the dwellinghouse. Once provided, the car parking area shall thereafter be permanently retained and maintained as such.

Reason: To enable vehicles to enter and exit the site in a forward gear and to ensure adequate parking is provided at all times.

8. Floor Levels

The finished floor levels of the building(s) hereby permitted shall be consistent with those indicated on a scheme of details which shall first have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Such details shall indicate the existing and proposed levels throughout the application site.

Reason: To ensure that the proposed development does not have an adverse effect upon the amenity of nearby properties.

9. Removal of PD rights for means of enclosure:

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992 (as amended) or any order amending, revoking or re-

enacting that Order no means of enclosure, other than that approved under condition 2 shall be erected on the site under the terms of Class 3E of Schedule 1 to that Order without an express grant of planning permission from the Planning Authority.

Reason: In the interests of the character and appearance of the development and the visual amenities of the area.

Informatives

1. Roads:

In relation to Condition 1 (d), the vehicular access to the site from the public road (C98) shall be formed as a service layby to approved standard detail DC-3.

It should be borne in mind that only contractors first approved by the Council may work within the public road boundary.

Note

Councillor Rowley and Mrs J. McLeod spoke in support of the application

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of Meeting of the AUDIT AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held via Microsoft
Teams on Thursday, 13 January 2022 at
10.15 am

Present:- Councillors S. Bell (Chairman), H. Anderson, J. Fullarton, J. Greenwell,
N. Richards, E. Robson, H. Scott, S. Scott, and E. Thornton-Nicol

In Attendance:- Chief Officer Roads, Network Manager, Team Leader – Road Assets Team,
Chief Officer Audit and Risk, Clerk to the Council, Democratic Services Officer
(W. Mohieddeen).

1. **MINUTE.**

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 9 December 2021.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute for signature by the Chairman

2. **SCRUTINY BUSINESS ACTION SHEET**

2.1 With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of 9 December 2021, there had been circulated copies of the Scrutiny Business Action Sheet. The Clerk to the Council advised that actions had been added from the Meeting held on 9 December 2021 including a review of Festival Funding. With regard to Rural Proofing, the Clerk to the Council was due to follow up on this action with the Director Resilient Communities. Communications Officers were to attend the Meeting of the Committee to be held on 14 March 2022 to allow Members to have a discussion about a programme of communication in regard to climate change, including waste and recycling. With regard to the Teviot Day Service action from the Meeting held on 30 November 2021, the Chairman advised that he had written to the Director Social Work & Practice who had confirmed that the two actions had been carried out. With regard to Responsible Dog Ownership, Members considered that the action was to determine how dog waste was processed and that a short notification may only have been required. Mr Hedley advised that dog waste could be co-mingled in general waste so long as it was not more than 5% of the total waste collected. It was not practical to have special uplifts of dog waste for separate processing. Members agreed that this action would now be closed.

2.2 The Chief Officer Audit and Risk referred to action 1 (a) from the Meeting held on 29 June 2021, regarding the proposed review of the Income Management Policy, advising that this Policy had recently been reviewed and approved at the Executive Committee meeting held on 17 August 2021. With regard to the benchmarking of charges, these had been related to the Fees and Charges approved by Council in February/March each year as part of budget setting. The Chairman responded that the understanding was that for the 2022-23 budget, work on benchmarking fees was ongoing. The Chief Officer Audit and Risk advised that findings from internal audit reviews would reference the Income Management Policy as part of wider policy. Members agreed that this review be removed.

2.3 The Clerk to the Council advised that with regard to the proposed review of the Management and Maintenance of Public Halls, which would focus on the community contribution e.g. through management committees, public halls were still affected by Covid-19 restrictions. The Clerk to the Council was liaising with the Director Strategic Commissioning & Partnerships on the most appropriate way to bring this forward to

Members. Public transport and communities action was to be addressed in the 14 March 2022 Meeting of the Committee. The action regarding the Jedburgh Contact Centre and Library from the Meeting held on 25 November 2019 was to be addressed by the Director Resilient Communities. In response to a question from the Chairman enquiring whether the action regarding Jedburgh Contact Centre and Library was out of date, the Clerk to the Council advised that an update on the action would be brought to the next Meeting of the Committee.

- 2.4 With regard to the action from 24 October 2019 on Community Access to Schools, the Chairman advised that he had had constructive discussions with the Director Education and Lifelong Learning with regards to the policy aspect of this issue. The Chairman advised that the use and booking of schools by community groups was the result of historic practices in different areas so was complex. On a wider policy point, reference had been made over the years to “community schools” but that had different meanings in different contexts. Referring to community facilities within schools rather than community schools may be the way forward. Determining which schools would have facilities available for use by community groups may be best taken forward as part of the Place Making conversations with communities. Not every school would be made available in this way as there could be other facilities already available within communities or schools in towns could be close together. The Chairman had agreed with the Clerk to the Council that the Committee return to the issue with a scrutiny discussion organised to address community access to schools facilitated by a brief report outlining the issues which would allow Members to express their views on what was meant by community access to schools and how this could best be taken forward.

DECISION

AGREED that:

- (a) the actions regarding the Teviot Day Service petition were now complete;**
- (b) the Responsible Dog Ownership Strategy review action could now be marked as complete;**
- (c) the Income Management Policy would be removed from the Work Programme as the Policy had recently been updated and the benchmarking of charges was undertaken as part of preparation of the Fees & Charges paper for the annual budget;**
- (d) there would be a discussion at a future meeting of Audit & Scrutiny on the use of school facilities by community groups and how this could be taken forward through the Place Making discussions.**

3. ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES PERFORMANCE

- 3.1 There had been circulated copies of the Report by the Director Infrastructure and Environment which set out how Scottish Borders Council resourced its Roads and Infrastructure service; the level of service that resource enabled and how this level of service performance compared against others. The report was presented by the Chief Officer Roads, Mr Hedley, who advised that the Roads and Infrastructure service was located within the Infrastructure and Environment Department and consisted of SBc Contracts, Infrastructure, Engineering, Roads Operations, Fleet Services and the Parks and Environment team. Scottish Borders Council resourced roads services using a mix of revenue and capital funding. Prior to that, road maintenance was predominantly funded through revenue with the capital budget primarily funding improvements to the road network. Regular inspection of Scottish Borders Council’s adopted road network and associated assets was undertaken in accordance with the Council’s Standards on Carriageway/Footway & Footpath Safety Inspections contained in Appendix 4 of the Report. Mr Hedley highlighted further complications affecting roads including winter weather conditions not being conducive to carrying out permanent or significant repairs due to the presence of water on the road surface and throughout the various layers of road construction. The Infrastructure team determined any activities which the Council undertook on the road network and would instruct SBc Contracts or the Roads Operations teams accordingly. As part of their remit they would also monitor and report on

performance and benchmarking activity. In 2021, the spending per kilometre was the third highest of the family group of comparable local authorities with characteristics and challenges common to rural regions defined by the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF). Over the last three years, Scottish Borders Council had overlaid 29 kilometres of carriageways, surface dressed 157 kilometres of the network and undertaken permanent patching repairs to approximately 140,000 square metres of the network. Over the same period, the Council had undertaken £1.285 million of semi-permanent repairs to rural (C and D-class) network roads using jet patching. It was estimated that £1.865 million of reactive patching works was undertaken in the same timeline. Potholes were significantly the largest category of customer enquiry for the service. Customer enquiry numbers may have been found to fluctuate depending on the severity of winter weather. The Roads service had purchased a second jet patching machine and staff were trialling a permanent system of repairs with a JCB Pothole Pro. It was expected that the JCB Pothole Pro would be received in early 2022. The number of insurance claims received due to vehicle damage caused by roads had been declining; however the number of claims settled where the Council agreed it had been at fault had been increasing. As part of Fit for 2024, the Service had initiated a third-party review during 2021 which was scheduled for report in early 2022. To become more effective and efficient the service aimed to increase the use of digital initiatives to improve service provision. As part of the report, the contribution of suppliers, supporters and partners were recognised, particularly in response to the impact of Storm Arwen. Mr Hedley thanked all the staff within the Service for their work over the recent Christmas period and during the Covid pandemic.

- 3.2 In response to questioning from Members, the Network Manager, Mr Young, advised that any additional winter spend over budget was recorded each year by the Finance section but a harsher winter than normal would not normally be eligible for the Bellwin scheme unless there was an extreme weather event such as in 2001 when airlifts were required to outlying areas due to the amount of snow across an extended period. The Team Leader, Roads Asset Team, Mr Scott confirmed that the strategic importance of a route was based on classification, but traffic counts were also carried out by teams at various times. Mr Young advised that a high priority was given for edge lining, however the right conditions were needed and that this would be difficult to undertake in winter months. Lining on A and B-roads was undertaken by external contractors through a procurement exercise which took account of value and quality. Forward visibility was also taken into account when cutting grass verges on higher use roads as well as at junctions. With regards to the contribution of fleet to climate change, the Fleet Manager, Mr Naylor, was reviewing the current fleet and its usage. Any new non-fossil fuel vehicles coming on stream would also need sufficient infrastructure (EV points). The service expected to begin moving away from fossil fuel vehicles from 2025, but fossil fuel vehicles would still be purchased at the moment if they would be at end of life by 2030. Mr Young advised that road lining was often undertaken by an external contractor and adding 'slow' markings would have added considerably to the operation and cost, so these markings were to be carried out separately by the Council. The SBC sign workshop was particularly busy over summer when there were a lot of resurfacing schemes which generated ad hoc signage requirements and production. Where generic signs were needed then these could be bought in bulk from external workshops to help relieve the pressure on the in-house workshop. Assessment had been undertaken on the utilisation of a gully-emptying programme to help address water on roads. There were 2 gully emptier machines, located at Newtown and Hawick, and further work was planned using external suppliers for Tweeddale and the outlying areas of Berwickshire. In lesser classification rural roads, a gully inventory would allow for a better understanding of the conditions of gullies and technology was helping identify the levels of silt. Mr Hedley confirmed that the use of new technology was being investigated on an ongoing basis which could provide more intelligent information on the condition of the infrastructure and how it was performing. Mr Young advised that legislation covered the reinstatement work of the utilities companies. The Council had one Public Utility Inspector covering all public utility works across the Borders to ensure they were keeping up with obligations.

Problems arose when the reinstatement works failed after a period of time, often out-with the legislative framework. Regular meetings took place with utilities companies and where their contractors did not perform to SBC standards these were investigated and, if appropriate, corrective measures undertaken. In one recent case, this had resulted in a contractor being removed from utility companies list for in the Borders. However, it all came down to the Code of Practice to which the utility companies signed up. While the Code of Practice was very rigorous on the type of repair that was required (temporary and permanent), it also depended on the type of road and the amount of traffic using it. As soon as a cut was made in any road, there would be weakness and water would ingress at one point. Discussions were due to take place with the new Roads Commissioner on this matter and Members would be updated on the outcome as may be appropriate. The Chairman suggested that an item be added to the Action Tracker to monitor the trend in road maintenance funding in the 10 year capital/revenue budgets.

- 3.3 With regards to the impact of the age of the Borders roads, Mr Hedley advised that several factors affected road condition including age, design and construction methods used, skid-resistant material and traffic profile. This meant that the roads asset was in a constant process of deterioration, which varied depending on the type of usage e.g. timber, farming, cars, etc. There were requirements on the Council in the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 to maintain roads in reasonable condition and attend to the impact of winter. The road network had to be able to cope with the impact of weather, but there were no viable alternate methods of clearing snow and ice from roads than those currently in use. Deterioration of roads over winter was more to do with freeze/thaw than from the application of salt. Officers were always looking for new opportunities to improve the roads. Mr Scott added that the Council tried to carry out as much preventative maintenance as possible so roads did not deteriorate, rather than carrying out corrective maintenance. The best solution was sought for individual locations and officers were constantly looking at alternative materials and better means of delivering repairs. As an example, cold material was used in potholes in winter as if hot material was used it would go brittle and fail in freezing conditions. In response to a question about resolving water runoff from adjacent fields, Mr Hedley advised that preventative work was undertaken to engage adjacent landowners, where water was issuing from the property onto the public road, in developing solutions. Where officers became aware of an issue, initial contact was made through the Asset Team then officers worked with landowners to try and achieve a collaborative approach. For enforcement issues, if action had not been taken 28 days after receipt of a letter, the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 empowered the Council to pursue appropriate action. In terms of engaging with local communities for information and assistance, this could be progressed through Area Partnerships, although care would need to be taken that no-one was put at risk e.g. inspecting gullies. The use of jet patching was part of an integrated maintenance approach and this was predominantly used on rural roads as it was not felt appropriate to use jet patching on A or B roads. With regards to timber transport, Mr Hedley advised that the Council had a good working relationship with Forest Land Scotland and that timber transport was no different to a supermarket lorry and had as much right to use the public road network as anyone else. The Council had a good relationship with the timber transport industry and had a preferred routes map, which tried to keep to A class roads, but this may be complicated by the location of forestry. The Council had also been successful over the years in accessing the Challenge Fund for Forestry for road improvements and reinstatement. Mr James England, the South of Scotland Forestry Transport Officer, was also very helpful.
- 3.4 Storm Arwen had impacted across the Borders but particularly within Berwickshire. Mr Young explained there had been extensive areas of wind-blown trees, and those impacting on the roads network had been removed. Landowners would also need to remove the windblown trees from their land and this also needed to be managed e.g. no cranes were allowed to lift timber from the side of the road and the safest place to load onto wagons had to be established as this would generate a lot of activity. Mr Scott advised that, in terms of soft verges, the issue predominantly in Berwickshire was roll over, as while roads were meant to have a stepped construction with the lowest level the

widest, on many of these roads there was a vertical construction so once off the tar it was directly onto soil. This latter was often the way the road had been originally constructed and the width available for a road could be another issue. The only way to rectify this was to reconstruct the verges but this cost £150 per m². Where previously there had been ditches, there were now sometimes gas or water pipes so each area had to be considered on a case by case basis.

MEMBER

Councillor Scott left the meeting.

- 3.5 With regard to repair plans for C and D class roads in Berwickshire and the level of insurance claims, Mr Hedley advised that there were failures in road surfaces and these had to be attended to as soon as possible. The preference was to carry out permanent repairs but speed and cost were also factors so a blended approach was used. The intention was to move to more permanent repairs in the first instance and options were being explored on how to best manage this, such as not having to close roads when carrying out repairs and also introducing new machinery which would protect staff from using vibration equipment. There was a detailed programme of work for the coming year and an outline of work for the next 3 years which would include roads in the Berwickshire area. Details of roads where insurance claims had been made were available. With regard to hedges which encroached on roads, Mr Hedley confirmed that roadside hedges belonged to landowners and one of the Asset Team would visit the site and then encourage the landowner to carry out judicious pruning. There needed to be a balance with the time of year i.e. not to disturb nesting birds. If there were any particular areas of concern then Members should contact Mr Scott's team in the first instance. Mr Hedley also advised that the current review of the Roads service should be complete in early 2022. This was an internal operational report and, depending on the outcome, may come forward to Members post-election should strategic changes be proposed.
- 3.6 Councillor Bell thanked the Mr Hedley, Mr Young and Mr Scott for the report and their excellent responses to questions from the Committee. It was good to see the Department trying to find new mechanisms to improve the road network and for continuing to explore new ways of working.

DECISION

- (a) NOTED the report.**
- (b) AGREED to request the Director Finance & Corporate Governance considered the need to monitor the 10 year capital/revenue trend in funding for roads maintenance.**

The meeting concluded at 12.35 pm

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SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of Meeting of the EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE held via MS Teams on
Tuesday, 18th January, 2022 at 10.00 am

Present:- Councillors M. Rowley (Chairman), S. Aitchison, G. Edgar, E. Jardine,
C. Hamilton, S. Hamilton, S. Haslam, J. Linehan, S. Mountford, R. Tatler,
G. Turnbull and T. Weatherston.

In Attendance:- Chief Executive Officer, Director Education & Lifelong Learning, Director
Finance & Corporate Governance, Democratic Services Team Leader,
Democratic Services Officer (D. Hall)

EDUCATION BUSINESS

Present: - Mr I. Topping, Eleanor Lockey (Pupil Representative)

CHAIRMAN

Councillor C Hamilton chaired the meeting for consideration of Education Business.

1. LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY – COP26 AND BEYOND

1.1 Debbie Matthewson, Principal Teacher of Stow Primary School and Learning for Sustainability Development Officer, joined the meeting to make a presentation on Learning for Sustainability and COP26. Ms Matthewson explained that P2-7 pupils from her school had taken part in an event at Strathclyde University Student Union on 2 November, working with Daydream Believers, Lego, Pecha Kucha, Whitespace, Ellen McArthur Foundation and Napier University prior to and during the event. All of the pupils who attended had performed a rap, song and poem highlighting the necessity for climate action, whilst the pupils from P6/7 used Pecha Kucha to share their own presentations. A group of the students that had been involved in the project joined the meeting, explained how they had taken part and answered questions from Members. Members thanked the pupils for attending the meeting and congratulated them on their outstanding impact and achievements.

1.2 Ms Matthewson outlined further developments in the Local Authority regarding sustainable learning. The review and feedback from primary schools that were part of a recycling pilot with Levensheat was imminent. Discussions were ongoing with 9 primary and 2 high schools over a multi service pilot with Scottish Borders Council catering and cleaning to reduce food waste and recycle properly. Ms Matthewson undertook to send out information on the Dandelion Festival, one of Scotland's largest food growing initiatives. Members thanked Ms Matthewson for her presentation and congratulated her on her outstanding work.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

2. EDUCATION ATTAINMENT 2020-21

2.1 There had been circulated copies of a report by Director, Education and Lifelong Learning informing the Committee of the progress schools were making in the Broad General Education for P1 to P7 and Senior Phase S4-6 Scottish Qualification (SQA) examinations for session 2020-21. Academic session 2020-21 was unique with further school closures across Scotland as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. As well as a second period of extended home learning, all SQA examinations were cancelled and replaced with an Alternative Certification Model (ACM). Digital solutions to ensure excellent home learning

through the Inspire Learning Programme were adopted. Staff across the Education department worked hard to provide high quality learning for children and support for families, whilst up-skilling themselves at pace. In the Broad General Education (P1-S3) attainment data in literacy and numeracy was submitted to the Scottish Government annually, reporting the percentage of pupils in P1, P4, P7 and S3 whom had achieved the national benchmarks. Due to the impact of Covid-19 there was no requirement to report the data in session 2019/20 and only for P1, P4 and P7 in session 2020/21. The data for 2020/21 showed a decline across both literacy and numeracy at all levels.

- 2.2 The Senior Phase SQA exam results for 2020 were part of the attainment journey in the Scottish Borders for pupils in S4-S6. The exam diet of 2020/21 was suspended due to Covid-19 and an alternative model was put in place by the SQA across all schools in Scotland. The ACM required a bespoke approach by secondary schools to validate their evidence gathered to confirm levels of attainment in the senior phase. A seconded secondary depute Head Teacher led the work for the Scottish Borders, supported by 28 subject leads who led moderation sessions from January to May 2021. The approach to moderation was externally validated as robust and reliable by Education Scotland. The Education Service would give a further update to the Executive Committee on attainment and achievement in March 2022 when all the data was available for leavers from May 2021. The number of presentations across the Scottish Borders was consistent with 2021, with approximately 6,000 at National 5, approximately 4,000 at Higher and 620 at Advanced Higher. Schools continued to accredit a broad range of subjects and qualifications at the more challenging SCQF Level 5 award, with an increase of young people gaining qualifications at SCQF Levels 1-3.
- 2.3 Members discussed the report and recognised the unique and unprecedented circumstances that Education staff had worked under throughout the pandemic. Members in particular highlighted that positive destination statistics were positive despite the enormous pressures faced by all teachers and learners across the country. In response to a question on how primary school students in the region compared to national averages in reading and writing, Ms Christian Robertson, Senior Lead Officer, explained that measures were in place to allow teachers to focus on specific areas where learners had performed less well in order to address those areas, and that early indications pointed to progress being made. Regarding school clubs and associations, Ms Catherine Thomson, Senior Lead Officer, explained that schools recognised that participation in extracurricular activities contributed to wider achievement, and that tracking of participation and looking to remove barriers to involvement in activities was ongoing to try and ensure that young people could take part in the activities they were interested in. In response to a question regarding what work had gone on to help school leavers transition from school to an increasingly online based workplace, Ms Thomson explained that the educational focus was on providing core skills and developing independence to ensure that the transition would be as smooth as possible. Members thanked officers for their time and the report.

DECISION

NOTED:-

- (a) **the trends and progress that schools are making, in the Broad General Education and Senior Phase, in terms of attainment and the identified areas for improvement; and**
- (b) **the intention to bring the Equity Strategy for Education to the Committee in the near future.**
3. **PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE HOURLY RATE PAID BY SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL TO FUNDED EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE PROVIDERS**
This item was withdrawn from consideration to allow data in the report to be updated in light of information received since the report was published. The report would be updated and presented to a future meeting

OTHER BUSINESS

CHAIRMAN

Councillor Rowley chaired the meeting for the remainder of the meeting.

4. MINUTE

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 7 December 2021.

DECISION

APPROVED for signature by the Chairman.

5. CORPORATE DEBTS - WRITE OFFS IN 2021/22 MID YEAR UPDATE

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting held on 1 December 2020, there had been circulated copies of report by the Director, Finance and Corporate Governance detailing the aggregate amounts of debt written off during the first months of 2021/22 under delegated authority. The report covered the areas of Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Sundry Debtors, Housing Benefit Overpayments and aged debt from the balance sheet. The total value of write-offs between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021 was £212.1k. The Director, Finance & Corporate Governance, Mr David Robertson, presented the report, highlighted that debts were only written off when they were considered unrecoverable, that where new information arose a debt would be written back on, and that work on debt recovery had been impacted by Covid related recovery work. In response to a question, Mr Robertson acknowledged an error in the dates within Table 1. In response to questions from the Chairman, the Director explained that a full picture of write offs would be available at the end of the financial year, that levels of write offs were relatively low and that the Council compared broadly favourably to its family group of Councils.

DECISION

NOTED the debtor balances written off under delegated authority for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

The meeting concluded at 12.10 pm

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SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL TWEEDDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES of Meeting of the TWEEDDALE
AREA PARTNERSHIP held via MS Teams
on Tuesday, 18 January 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present:- Councillors R. Tatler (Chairman), H. Anderson, S. Bell, S. Haslam, E. Small
together with 20 representatives from Partner Organisations, Community
Councils and members of the public.

Absent:- Councillor K. Chapman

In Attendance:- Principal Solicitor, Locality Development Co-ordinator (K. Harrow), Community
Engagement Officer (H. Lacon), Democratic Services Officer (D. Hall)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Tweeddale Area Partnership being held via Microsoft Teams and outlined how the meeting would be conducted and how those both in the meeting and watching via the Live Stream could take part.

2. FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meetings of the Tweeddale Area Partnership held on 27 September and 2 November 2021 were noted. Mr Harrow advised the meeting that interest had been registered in having a discussion on dementia services, which would be included as an item on the agenda at the meeting in March. Furthermore, the place-making workshop, planned for early January, had been postponed due to the required procurement process taking longer than expected, with the workshop expected to take place at the end of February.

3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR NOTING

3.1 The Chairman explained that the additional information document included reference to a wide range of information that would be referred to during the meeting. The Chairman also raised the issue that the amount of material being sent out with the agenda was too high. Mr Harrow undertook to try to reduce the volume of materials and summarise as much of the content as possible ahead of meetings.

3.2 Common Good Consultation

The Principal Solicitor, Mrs Hannah Macleod joined the meeting to explain what was happening within Scottish Borders Council with regard to Common Good Fund owned property and assets. Common Good Funds were created from the former Burghs of Scotland, managed by local Councillors who acted as trustees. Councillors also met to provide grants. Under the Community Empowerment Act, the Council was obligated to publish and maintain a list of assets, land and art/artefacts, owned by the Common Goods. The consultation on the aforementioned list of assets had opened and would run until at least 31 March 2021. Mrs Macleod invited members of the public to suggest any item or area of land that they thought may be owned by the Common Goods in the area – Innerleithen and Peebles. Mrs Macleod advised the meeting that should there be a large number of responses then the consultation would be extended to allow the full consideration of any item suggested to be Common Good owned. Following the consultation, the representations received would be brought back to each specific Sub-Committee to discuss the comments and evidence received. It was stressed that legal tests would be used to verify ownership. Mrs Macleod advised everyone in attendance that the list would be published once the process was completed, but that it would be open to review – new items could be considered and added. Mrs Macleod circulated her

email address and advised attendees that she was happy to send out paper copies to any interested party wishing to make a representation.

4. **PLACE MAKING UPDATE**

Ms Hannah Lacon, Community Engagement Officer, gave a presentation on Place Making conversations that she had engaged in with young people in the area. Working with Dave Hodson at Tweeddale Youth Action, she had held discussions with 4 young people to get their views on the place that they lived. Those interviewed had been asked what they thought were the positives and negatives of Peebles. The most cited positives of Peebles were: Community Groups were active; public transport within Peebles was accessible; and there was perceived to be less of a drug culture in comparison to other towns within the Scottish Borders. The interviews had also highlighted the perceived negative aspects of the town: public transport to other towns was poor; young people in the town felt demonised due to the actions of small anti-social groups; the support for school leavers was limited; and housing was inadequate and unaffordable. Those in attendance discussed Ms Lacon's work, highlighted the welcome insight into how young people in the area felt and recognised the need to highlight the good work young people across the region were doing within society. Michelle Scott, of Scottish Borders Housing Association, shared her details and welcomed the idea of establishing a working group to assist in future planning of housing provision in the area.

5. **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CONSULTATIONS**

5.1 Mr Malcolm Bruce gave an explanation of work that had been going on to address anti-social behaviour in Peebles. Mr Bruce explained that persistent reports of anti-social behaviour and vandalism had been received by Community Councillors in the area and that the Peebles Community Council had liaised with Peebles community police teams to try and engage with young people in the area. They had also subsequently partnered with Peebles Youth Action, Ms Lacon and Lori Lee at LiveBorders on various initiatives to try and open dialogue with young people in the area. These efforts had not met with a high degree of success, with those involved deciding that a lack of data was hindering their efforts. A survey of the school roll of Peebles High School was planned, and following discussions with, and input from, the Deputy Head of the school, had gone live. The survey was being conducted on school provided iPads, with all data anonymous. Mr Bruce explained that discussions had been held regarding the prospects of engaging a "street pastor" to work with young people in the area, with Tweeddale Youth Action willing to host the post if funding could be found. Mr Bruce suggested that the person who filled that role could help move discussions away from negative social media rhetoric, the prejudgement of young people and help promote meaningful interactions that could improve the local community.

5.2 Those in attendance discussed the survey, expressed some reservations about the nature of the questions asked and what level of honest feedback would be received whilst also recognising the efforts of the Community Council in trying to resolve anti-social related issues in the local area. CLD worker Mr Richard McDowell, Youth Engagement Worker, Ms Pam Rigby and MSYP representative Ally Turnbull agreed to support the group by providing a youth perspective. Members in attendance suggested that engaging with young people in the area by asking for them to be involved in proposing solutions to problems was an avenue that ought to be considered.

6. **PARTICIPATORY BUDGET UPDATE FROM SCDC TRAINING**

The Chairman advised the meeting that there had been a useful series of workshops with SCDC and that he was keen to build on the conversations that arose from those workshops.

7. **FUNDING TABLE OVERVIEW**

A copy of the Tweeddale Area Partnership Funding Table had been circulated. The Chairman asked Mr Harrow to provide an update on funding levels. Regarding the Community Fund 2021/22, Mr Harrow referred to the table and explained that £40,846.90

remained in the fund prior to the meeting. The value of active applications was £37,190, with £3650.50 remaining if all of the applications were successful. In response to a question from the Chairman, Mr Harrow advised that the lawn tennis club had been unable to secure a funding package for their project and had subsequently returned previously awarded grant money. Mr Harrow undertook to investigate with the finance department the ramifications of that. This had not been reflected in the funding table. Mr Harrow drew attention to the Welfare Trust, which had £2,500 available to help support those facing poverty. Two other funds, in Tweeddale East and West had £272.40 and £27.80 in another pot. Regarding the Build Back a Better Borders (BBBB) fund, £23,462.41 remained in the fund prior to the meeting. The value of active applications was £41,976.85, leaving the fund oversubscribed by £18,514.44.

8. **COMMUNITY FUND**

The recommendations of the Tweeddale Area Partnership Assessment Panel on seven applications the Tweeddale Community Fund had been circulated. Esther Daborn referred to the recommendations and advised that she was willing to answer questions or give clarity if required.

8.1 **Peebles Burgh Silver Band**

The application was for a grant to allow the purchase of locally sourced branded polo shirts and hoodies, and free tuition for one year at a revised total of £3,640. The application was unanimously approved.

8.2 **Peebles CAN**

A revised application for a specific project had been submitted to cover the costs of growing herbs sustainably. Members of the Assessment Panel requested more information on the costs of materials and salary for the one year project. Further details were required to allow a decision to be made. Consideration of the application was deferred to allow the aforementioned concerns to be addressed. Ms Lacon undertook to engage and support the group with future applications.

8.3 **Peeblesshire Food Bank**

The application was for a grant of £6,250 to assist in the purchase of a new van. The Assessment Panel noted that the application was well received but concerns remained over monetary reserves, whether purchasing a vehicle was the best option, and the monitoring of usage of the vehicle to ensure it was not used for private purposes. The Panel recommended that a discretionary fund for the running costs of the van was set up; a cost analysis comparing the cost of leasing versus purchasing a vehicle was carried out; and a monitoring system put in place to ensure the van was used solely for Food Bank purposes. The Panel recommended that £5,000 was granted towards either the first year's lease or cost of purchase. The application was unanimously approved.

8.4 **Peebles Community Centre - Craft Box**

The application was for materials, tuition fees and expenses to run 45 classes for 60 elderly/vulnerable adults. The Panel recommended approval subject to confirmation of the number of classes and target number of participants against the actual numbers recorded for the end of year report. The revised grant of £5,000 was unanimously approved.

8.5 **Peebles High School Student Parliament**

The application for a grant of £4000 was to help develop a student voice and life skills through dealing with applications for school projects managed by the Student Parliament. The Panel recommended approval on the basis that projects did not cover areas where Scottish Borders Council Estates had responsibility and that there would be sufficient reports available at the end of the year. The grant was unanimously approved.

8.6 **Innerleithen Lawn Tennis Club**

The application from Innerleithen Tennis Club was for £7,500 as part of a £60,000 project for construction of 2 mini courts and a practice wall for juniors. Further information had

been provided on the value of the mini courts to release main courts for adults and the value of a practise wall for older children to practise ground strokes. The application was unanimously approved.

8.7 Tweeddale Rideability Group

The application was for a grant of £6,300 to purchase a new horse so that the group could offer additional sessions. This would allow the group to offer a valuable service to young people in Tweeddale. The application was unanimously approved.

9. BUILD BACK A BETTER BORDERS RECOVERY FUND APPLICATIONS

9.1 The Chairman asked Mr Harrow to give an outline of each of the applications to the BBBB fund.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Haslam declared an interest in the following item of business in terms of Section 5 of the Councillors Code of Conduct and left the meeting during the discussion.

9.2 St Ronans Bowling Club

The St Ronans Bowling Club were applying for £12,662.23 to construct a wooden framed gazebo to add an outside element to their facility. Councillor Tatler, seconded by Councillor Anderson moved approval of £12,662.23 and this was unanimously agreed.

MEMBER

Councillor Haslam re-joined the meeting following the discussion of the above item.

9.3 Kingsland Primary School Pupil Council

The group had applied for £2,224.62 to create a community shed on school grounds. The shed would provide basic supplies with the aim of improving well-being and attainment in education. The pupil council would provide a free breakfast to pupils, and work with the Peeblesshire foodbank and the school's garden and Food Growing Strategy to provide food and supplies to families in need so they could cook a meal at home. Other items such as second hand school uniforms, books, stationary and seasonal items such Christmas party items would be available. Councillor Bell spoke extremely highly of the application, highlighted the high scores in the assessment form, and seconded by Councillor Anderson, moved approval of £2,224.62 which was unanimously approved.

9.4 The Edible Garden

The application from the Edible Garden requested £2,800 to help make their garden safe and fit for purpose ahead of a new programme of community based workshops. The funding was to meet the cost of urgent repair works to the growing space in the garden. Councillor Tatler, seconded by Councillor Small, moved approval of £2,800 and this was unanimously approved.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Bell declared an interest in the following item of business in terms of Section 5 of the Councillors Code of Conduct and left the meeting during the discussion.

9.5 The Peeblesshire Foodbank

The application for £6,750 was for part funding, in conjunction with the community fund, for a new van. The application noted that people who had accessed the food bank had struggled to transport food home, with the van expected to help relieve that pressure. Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Haslam, moved approval of £6,750, and this was unanimously agreed.

MEMBER

Councillor Bell re-joined the meeting following the discussion of the above item.

9.6 Innerleithen Lawn Tennis Club

The application from the Innerleithen Lawn Tennis Club was for £15,000 to help with the costs of a large project. The funding would help meet the construction costs of 2 mini tennis courts and a practise wall. The Club hoped the construction of the new facilities would help meet a wider community need by providing a place for children to engage in exercise and sport. The Club had also applied to the Community Fund to help meet the costs of the project. Concerns were raised about the total value of the two grants that the Club had applied for from the Area Partnership. Unanimous agreement was not reached, and Members voted on whether or not to grant the application.

Vote

Councillor Tatler, seconded by Councillor Anderson moved that the application for funding was granted.

Councillor Small, seconded by Councillor Haslam moved as an amendment that the application for funding was rejected.

As the meeting was conducted by Microsoft Teams members were unable to vote by the normal show of hands and gave a verbal response as to how they wished to vote the result of which was as follows:-

Motion by Councillor Tatler – 2 votes

Amendment by Councillor Small – 3 votes

The amendment that the application for funding was rejected was accordingly carried.

Members expressed their hope that the project would go on to be successful, and advised the group to discuss further funding options with the Communities and Partnership Team.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Tatler declared an interest in the following item of business in terms of Section 5 of the Councillors Code of Conduct and left the meeting during the discussion.

CHAIRMAN

In the absence of Councillor Tatler, Councillor Anderson acted as Chair.

9.7 The Food Foundation

The application from the Food Foundation had been considered under the fast track provisions. The application had not received a majority vote in favour of granting nor denying the funding and was therefore considered at the meeting. Further information was requested to provide clarity on some unresolved matters. Mr Harrow undertook to provide that information to Members and the application would be considered as a fast track application again.

MEMBER

Councillor Tatler re-joined the meeting following the discussion of the above item and resumed Chairmanship of the meeting.

10. GROUP EVALUATION

Mr Harrow advised that he was looking to receive evaluations following the voting on the Localities Bid Fund rounds one and two, and would look to distribute these in due course.

11. PEEBLES PARKING SUB GROUP UPDATE

The Chairman gave an update on the work of the Group. A meeting had been held on 22 November. The Chairman advised those in attendance that the group had moved on to getting more information. The next meeting would be held on 2 February 2022.

12. NEXT AREA PARTNERSHIP - 29 MARCH 2022

The next full meeting of the Area Partnership was scheduled for 29 March 2022 and the Chairman asked for agenda item suggestions to be submitted.

13. **MEETING EVALUATION VIA MENTI**

Ms Lacon used Menti to get feedback from those in attendance on the meeting. The tool worked by asking users to scan a QR code with a mobile phone or tablet computer and then allowed them to provide feedback or ask questions that could be shared on screen. The Chairman suggested that the mid-meeting use of Menti would be a useful addition to future meetings.

The meeting concluded at 9.25 pm

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL CHAMBERS INSTITUTION TRUST

MINUTE of Meeting of the CHAMBERS
INSTITUTION TRUST held in Via Microsoft
Teams on Wednesday, 19 January 2022 at
4.00 pm

Present:- Councillors R. Tatler (Chairman) H. Anderson, S. Bell, S. Haslam, E. Small
Apologies:- Councillor K. Chapman

In Attendance:- Pensions and Investments Manager, Solicitor (G. Sellar), Estates Surveyor
(T. Hill), Localities Development Co-ordinator (K. Harrow), Democratic
Services Team Leader, J. Hogg (Live Borders)

1. **MINUTE**

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 15 December 2021.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute.

2. **CONSULTATION PROCESS**

With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of 15 December 2021, the Localities Development Co-ordinator advised that given the improving Covid situation there was now the possibility of having an in person event and he was happy to facilitate and also assist with the Stakeholder Group. The former TIC was suggested as a possible venue as the Burgh Hall was being used as a vaccination centre. It was noted that Steven Renwick was due to report back in February with proposals for the first phase of works to be funded from the UK Levelling Up fund. The Chairman advised that he and Councillor Bell had drafted some FAQs and these would also be brought to the next meeting. The possibility of showing the flythrough on a screen in the former TIC window was to be investigated. Mr Harrow confirmed it would also be made available on the Council's website and virtual drop-in session were also an option. It was agreed that the consultation arrangements would be finalised at the next meeting with a view to commencing in early March.

DECISION

AGREED to finalise the consultation arrangements at the meeting on 16 February with a view to commencing the consultation in early March.

3. **FORMATION OF STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of 15 December 2021, the Chairman welcomed Mr Keith Bellville to the meeting. Mr Bellville was the Chairman of the Memorial Hall, Innerleithen Support Group which had been set up in 2007 to allow the main users of the hall to have a voice on how the hall was used and to help increase usage. The Group had been refreshed 4 years ago following the involvement of Live Borders and meetings were open to anyone with an interest in the hall. Councillor Tatler was the Council's representative on the Group. Mr Bellville advised that there were good links with officers from both Live Borders and the Council and the Group had helped with a number of improvements to the hall to increase use including events like weddings. The long term lease of the office space had also been achieved. Although the Group was constituted it did not hold funds so applications for funding were managed through the Innerleithen Community Trust. The Community Trust had also been able to help with match funding to allow grants to be applied for. The Group met around 4 times per year

and focused on user priorities and issues with recent meetings being held on-line. Mr Bellville answered Members questions and confirmed they were a reference group not a management group and were consulted on any refurbishment plans. There was no requirement for members to attend a certain number of meetings and Live Borders passed on meeting invites to any new regular users so they could join in. Ms Hogg confirmed the arrangement worked well. Members agreed to support a similar stakeholder model and the Chairman advised he would put together a proposal for the next meeting.

DECISION

AGREED that Councillor Tatler prepare a proposal for the Stakeholder Group to be considered at the next meeting of the Trust.

4. PLACE MAKING FUNDING

With reference to paragraph 7.2 of the Minute of 15 December 2021, the Estates Surveyor advised that Mr Johnstone was to submit a report to the Executive in February and quotes were being obtained for the works to remove the suspended ceiling in the Burgh Hall together with associated works. In response to a question on the need for Listed Building Consent, Ms Hill advised she would check and report back to the meeting in February. She further advised that the works to the kitchen were almost complete with just the flooring to be laid.

DECISION

NOTED that an update would be provided to the meeting on 16 February.

5. ERECTION OF POLE BY BT

The Estates Surveyor advised that a request had been received from BT to erect a pole in the allotments to allow the provision services to a neighbouring property. She had consulted the allotment holders and there were no objections. It was noted that a payment of £157.50 would be received. Members agreed to the request subject to it being a wooden pole.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the request from BT to erect a pole in the allotments subject to the pole being made of wood.

6. PRIVATE BUSINESS

DECISION

AGREED under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the business detailed in the Appendix to this Minute on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.

SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS

7. PRIVATE MINUTE

Members approved the Minute of the meeting held on 15 December 2021.

The meeting concluded at 4.50 p.m.

MINUTES of Meeting of the CHEVIOT
AREA PARTNERSHIP held remotely by
Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 26
January 2022 at 6.30 pm.

Present:- Councillors S. Hamilton (Chairman), S. Mountford, T. Weatherston, J. Brown, E. Robson, S. Scott together with 18 Representatives of Partner Organisations, Community Councils and Members of the Public.

Apologies: Charles Strang (St Boswells CC), David Watson (Ednam, Stichill and Berry Moss CC), John Taylor (Jedburgh CC), Susan Oliver (Headteacher Jedburgh Campus), Hazel Woodsell (Kelso Heritage), Yvonne O'Hara (SBHA), Sarah Mackie (SBHA).

In attendance: - Locality Development Co-ordinator (C Malster), Community Engagement Officer (David Peebles), Network Manager (Brian Young), Democratic Services Officer (F. Henderson), Principal Solicitor (Hannah Macleod)

1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- 1.1 Microsoft teams, which included elected Members, guests attending within the meeting and those watching via the Live Stream. He outlined how the meeting would be conducted.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chairman varied the order of business as shown on the agenda and the Minute reflects the order in which the items were considered at the meeting.

2.0 FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 24 NOVEMBER 2021

- 2.1 The minute of the meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership held on 24 November 2021 had been circulated and was noted.

SECTION 1: SERVICE & PARTNER UPDATES

3.0 PLACE MAKING UPDATE

- 3.1 The Strategic Community Engagement Officer reported that appointments had been made to the posts of Community Place, Planning and Regeneration Officer and Project Manager - Place Making. The Chairman welcomed Sharon Renwick (Community Place, Planning and Regeneration Officer) and Naomi Sweeney (Project Manager – Place Making) to the meeting and asked them to say a few words about their future plans.

DECISION NOTED.

3.2 COMMON GOOD – CONSULTATION ON ASSET REGISTER

Mrs Hannah MacLeod, Principal Solicitor was present and explained that under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 the Council was required to establish and maintain a register of property which was held by the authority as part of the Common Good (“a Common Good Register”). Common Good was a type of property that local authorities may have, which had been passed down by former burgh councils. It often had strong

historical and emotional value to local communities, as well as its practical use and financial value. Before establishing a Common Good Register, the Act required the Council to publish a list of property that it proposed to include in the Register and consult the public in setting up these registers. The Council approved the process for compliance with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 on 31 January 2019, and work had been ongoing in consolidating all information held in respect of heritable and moveable Common Good assets. From the work carried out, a draft list of assets considered to be a complete list of heritable and moveable assets held by the Kelso Common Good and Jedburgh Common Good had been prepared, and were included on the draft registers which were out for consultation. The consultation would seek representations on (i) whether a proposed asset should be included as part of the Common Good; or (ii) whether there should be other assets included in the Common Good asset list. In addition to the electronic survey, the proposed lists of Common Good assets would be published on the Council's website and paper copies would be made available, free of charge, on request. All Community Councils and other community bodies were being made aware of the publication of the proposed Common Good Asset lists and invited to make representations in respect of these lists. The twelve week consultation would run until 31 March 2022.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

JIM CLARK RALLY

- 3.3 There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment which provided the Area Partnership and the local community an opportunity to consider and comment on the proposals submitted by event organisers of the Jim Clark Rally to hold a rally on closed roads in the Scottish Borders on the weekend of 27 to 29 May 2022. The report highlighted the revised legislation introduced in 2019 to allow motor sports events to take place on closed public roads. The new regulations build upon previous experience through the Jim Clark Rally and other events and were intended to introduce increased rigor to the procedure for organising and running such events. The 2019 Regulations introduced a two stage procedure where organisers must first successfully apply to an "authorised body" for a permit before applying to the local roads authority for a Motor Sports Order. In determining whether to make a Motor Sports Order, Scottish Borders Council, as local roads authority, had to consider a number of factors laid out in the Regulations. The report outlined those factors and provided an opportunity to examine the proposals submitted by the rally organisers in respect of the routes and timings for the rally on 27 to 29 May 2022. The organisers of the Jim Clark Rally, having successfully applied for a permit from "the authorised body", had lodged an application with Scottish Borders Council (within the specified 6 month period required to allow consideration) seeking a Motor Sports Order to undertake the event. It was noted that the event organisers had, prior to submitting the application, been in consultation with representatives of Scottish Borders Council and Police Scotland through the established Safety Advisory Group (SAG). The intention of the Jim Clark Rally organisers was for the event to be based in Duns and to hold a pre-rally 'shakedown stage' on the Friday morning followed by two rally stages starting early evening; then hold 7 rally stages (over 3 different routes) on the Saturday and a further 6 rally stages (over 3 further different routes) on the Sunday. The Shakedown Stage on Friday was scheduled for the road south of Mellerstain Mill with the evening stage being two runs of Longformacus to Abbey St Bathans following a ceremonial start in Duns Square. On the Saturday the three routes were Westruther, Scott's View, and Eccles. This would see a single run, in an anti-clockwise direction of travel, over the three routes followed by vehicle servicing and refuelling in Duns and then a repeat of that earlier sequence. Following a further refuelling there would then be a third run over the Eccles Stage ahead of a

Ceremonial finish in Duns shortly after 1700 hours. Sunday would see routes at Edrom, Ayton and Fogo. The intention being to run a clockwise loop of these routes followed by servicing and refuelling in Duns before a repeat loop over the three routes and a final Ceremonial finish in Duns. Daily overall route plans were provided in Appendix A to the report and provisional stage timings provided at Appendix C to the report.

- 3.4 The report was welcomed as the Jim Clark Rally was a major sporting event and brought significant economic benefit to the Scottish Borders. It attracted a high number of spectators, supporters, staff and competitors to the area, many of whom stayed a number of nights and by extending the route it would spread the benefits throughout the Borders. Organisers of the Jim Clark Rally were present at the meeting to answer questions. They encouraged everyone to make use of the consultation, confirmed that they would be consulting with each of the Community Councils within the rally route and thanked the Area Partnership for their time.

DECISION

- (a) **NOTED the application by organisers of the Jim Clark Rally to run an event on the weekend of 27 and 29 May 2022.**
- (b) **AGREED to make known any comments it had about the proposal to run an event and/or proposed routes and timings for that event.**

4.0 SECTION 2: LOCAL PRIORTIES

4.1 Meeting evaluation

Clare Malster, Locality Development Co-ordinator, explained Mentimeter, an online tool that SBC were using to gather information and feedback during meetings. Those attending the meeting and watching on the live stream we invited to rate a range of presentations that had taken place at Cheviot Area Partnership meetings over the past 12 months. The evaluation would be available for seven days for those who wished to share their thoughts on the meeting and was also available for those who were unable to attend but had comments to share.

5.0 SECTION 3: COMMUNITY FUND

With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting held on 22 September 2021, it was reported that recruitment for the Cheviot Community Assessment Panel was now complete. Mr Dean Weatherston had not sought re-election for Kelso Community Council and had applied to become a Community Representative. Sarah Mackie had also applied and been appointed to the Panel as a community representative. The Quorum had been increased again to 5 following appointment to the remaining vacancies. It was clarified that the Community Councillors could be represented by their deputies if they have a conflict of interest.

DECISION

NOTED.

6.0 CHEVIOT COMMUNITY FUNDING 2020

- 6.1 There was still funds available for community based projects. The cut-off date for applications of £500 and under was the end of February and applications in the £500-£2,500 required to be submitted by 14 February 2022.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

APPLICATIONS

- 6.2 There had been circulated copies of a report which detailed the recommendations of the Cheviot Community Fund Assessment Panel. The report provided a brief description of each application received and a recommendation on the sum to be awarded to each project.
- 6.3 **Jedburgh Community Trust** - An application had been received for assessment work to preserve the historic Capon Tree. The Panel were supportive of the project and the key points influencing the Panel's decision were preservation of a local landmark and heritage, community driven and would have a positive impact on tourism. The Panel recommended awarding £1,798.
- 6.4 **Crailing, Eckford and Nisbet Community Council** - An application had been received for the repainting of the community owned telephone boxes. The Panel were supportive of the project and the key points influencing the Panel's decision were that the telephone boxes housed the defibrillator, would allow provision of information, advice and support for the local community and general public and would support the local community. The Panel recommended awarding £1,026.
- 6.5 **Tweed Valley Railway Campaign** - An application had been received for community engagement costs. The Panel had a healthy discussion on this application, with the majority supportive of the project. The key points influencing the Panel's decision were that it would help establish the level of interest across the community and was community driven. The Panel recommend awarding £2,500.
- 6.6 **Morebattle Institute** - An application had been received for roof repair costs. The Panel were supportive of the project and the key points influencing the Panel's decision were the preservation and maintenance of a valued local resource and community benefits. The Panel recommended awarding £2,500.

DECISION

AGREED that the following grants be awarded:-

- (a) **Jedburgh Community Trust in the sum of £1,798.20**
- (b) **Crailing, Eckford and Nisbet Community Council in the sum of £1,026**
- (c) **Tweed Valley Railway Campaign in the sum of £2,500**
- (d) **Morebattle Institute in the sum of £2,500**

7.0 **SBC BUILD BACK A BETTER BORDERS RECOVERY FUND**

With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of 30 June 2021, there had been circulated copies of an application in respect of:-

7.1 **CHEVIOT TOGS**

The Group planned to create a clothing bank for children and young people in the style of a boutique shop located in Teviot Crescent, Hawick. The project would operate across both Cheviot and Teviot and Liddesdale and the application for funding had been split pro rata across the two community funds. The aim of the project was to reduce the amount of good Quality clothing going to land fill while helping those in need of support with clothing for children and young people and reducing the stigma of second hand clothing. The group

would provide free, clean and suitable clothing to children who found themselves in need of clothing due to domestic violence, flood or fire, homelessness or financial difficulties facing the family. Clothing was sourced by donations, and partner organisations. Jedburgh Grammar had asked Cheviot Togs to manage all excess school uniforms and there were plans to engage with Kelso and Hawick high schools, as well as working with local supermarkets and shops to use excess stock. Clothing would be provide via delivery and in person at the Hawick base if people are able to travel, as well as pop up shops, and events within Cheviot pending setting a base up in Jedburgh and Kelso.

- 7.2 Cheviot Togs had worked with and consulted to establish need with a wide range of organisations including NHS Borders, Jedburgh Grammar Campus, School Nurse Hawick High School, Morrisons, Live Borders, Salvation Army, Borders Women's Aid, local community councils and Tweed Togs in Peebles who mentor the project and whom Cheviot Togs based the business model on. There was a referral process based on the operation of best practice used by Tweed Togs, through health, youth workers and education professionals and the organisation were keen to look at a mechanism for self-referral considering the dignity and confidentiality of the people using the service. The organisation believed that access to clothing was a human right and all children should have access to clean, appropriate clothes to help them participate fully in life and wanted to provide autonomy, choice and dignity wherever possible. Cheviot Togs, although based in Hawick, would be taking over the service in Jedburgh and Kelso areas, currently operated by Tweed Togs, from January, covering a greater area of the Cheviot locality.

DECISION

AGREED to award the sum of £2,227.50, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The applicant must follow Scottish Government Covid-19 guidance when delivering the service;**
- (ii) Moveable equipment should be passed to another community group/organisation should this project cease to operate.**

8.0 Edgerston Village Hall

- 8.1 Christine Wylie, Village Hall Secretary was present to update the Area Partnership on Edgerston Echoes. The book, two decades in the making, charted the stories and memories of rural residents living south of Jedburgh from the 1900s to the present day. The 210 page book was a collection of memories, historical and more recent stories together with more than 150 photographs of Edgerston folk, events and places over the years, as well as entries from old record books and diaries. Originally intended as a Millennium project, work began gathering contributions for the book in 1997. The original deadline was missed, however, the coronavirus lockdown proved the catalyst needed to push the publication over the finish line. Christine and past secretary Marion Anderson spent last summer updating the pages before it was edited and published by Jedburgh firm footprint.

9.0 DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Future Meetings of the Cheviot Area Partnership would be held on the following dates:

Wednesday, 29 June 2022

The next meeting would be held on **Wednesday, 23 March 2022 at 6.30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.**

10.0 **MEETING EVALUATION**

Ms Malster reminded those present about the meeting evaluation form which could be accessed via the link <https://forms.office.com/r/HHH1dEcmz3> and was available until 11.45 p.m. on 29 November 2021. She added that feedback about the Area Partnership meetings was really helpful and always appreciated.

CHAIRMAN

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL BERWICKSHIRE AREA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTE of the Meeting of BERWICKSHIRE
AREA PARTNERSHIP held via Microsoft
Teams on Thursday, 27 January 2022 at
6:35pm.

- Present:- SBC Councillors: J. A. Fullarton (Chairman), C. Hamilton, D. Moffat, and M. Rowley.
Other organisations attendees: Ms J. Amaral (BAVS), Ms. J. Clifford, Mr K. Dickinson (Gavinton, Fogo & Polwarth CC), Mr D. Fisher, Mr A. Haddow, Mr R. Hamilton, Ms S. Hopewell (The Splash Project), Mrs A. McNeill (Heart of Duns), Mr A. Mitchell (Duns CC), Ms R. Parker, Mr D. Paterson (BHA), Mr D. Ramsay (Berwickshire Youth Project), Ms P. Rigby, Ms J. Sutton (Cockburnspath Community), Ms A. Turnbull; Mrs L. Burnip, Mr C. Lackenby, Mr G. Provest and Mrs F. Renton (Jim Clark Rally).
- Apologies:- Councillors J. Greenwell and H. Laing.
- In Attendance:- Locality Development Co-ordinator (G. Jardine), Community Engagement Officer (J. Purves), Portfolio Manager, Community Place Planning & Regeneration Officer (S. Renwick), Clerk to the Council.
-

1. **WELCOME AND MEETING PROTOCOLS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting of the Berwickshire Area Partnership. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams and the Chairman outlined how the meeting would be conducted and how those both in the meeting and watching via the Live Stream could take part.

2. **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Chairman varied the order of business as shown on the agenda, and the Minute reflects the order in which the items were considered at the meeting.

3. **FEEDBACK FROM MEETINGS ON 2 SEPTEMBER AND 16 DECEMBER 2021**

Copies of the Minutes of the meetings held on 2 September and 16 December 2021 had been circulated. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of 16 December, the Locality Development Co-ordinator, Ms G. Jardine, gave an update on the current status of the Community Fund. Ms Jardine thanked the Assessment Panel for promoting the Fund and there were now 16 applications awaiting assessment. Due to the number of applications received, and the time needed for officers to assess them, it was proposed that the meeting of the Assessment Panel would be moved forward by a week and the report from the Assessment Panel would be issued as a later paper for the meeting of the Berwickshire Area Partnership on 3 March 2022. In effect, the Community Fund was over-subscribed with new applications totalling £28k before the assessment process was undertaken.

DECISION

AGREED:

- (a) to approve the Minutes of 2 September and 16 December 2022; and
- (b) that the report from the Assessment Panel on the applications to the Community Fund due to be presented to the next meeting of the Berwickshire

Area Partnership would be issued as a late paper, due to the time required to assess the 16 new applications.

4. BUILD BACK A BETTER BORDERS RECOVERY FUND APPLICATIONS

Ms G. Jardine, Locality Development Co-ordinator, advised that should the application before the Committee be approved, this would leave £29k in the Fund. There were still 2 further applications pending. Copies of the assessment form for the application from Berwickshire Marine Reserve (BMR) to the Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund had been circulated. The BMR sought £15,000 from the Fund to cover salary costs for 6 months for a Community Outreach Officer and to contribute to the salary costs of their Volunteer & Governance Manager. By employing a Community Outreach Officer 3 days per week, the BMR would increase capacity within the team to rebuild BMR's training programme and planned events for 2022 which were intended to encourage locals and visitors to participate in marine conservation and data collection. This would be in addition to the regular summer programme of Marine Ranger-led events. The BMR was also apply to other funders to continue these 2 posts and projects beyond 6 months.

DECISION

AGREED to grant the sum of £15,000 to the Berwickshire Marine Reserve for the project, conditional on the applicant following Scottish Government Covid-19 guidance.

5. PLACE MAKING UPDATE

5.1 With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of 2 September 2021, copies of a briefing paper had been circulated. Mr Keith Dickinson gave a presentation on the content of the paper, which had two aims: to strengthen the role of the Berwickshire Area Partnership by setting up the mechanisms whereby community views could be fed into Place Making discussions in an effective, participatory and constructive way; and it would help address concerns raised about the absence of early and effective consultation, perceived flaws in the currently proposed methodology, and difficulties in the understanding/interpretation of proposals. This in turn would encourage greater community involvement and broader representation. The background and context for Place Making were detailed along with a proposal to set up a Berwickshire Area Partnership Place Making Working Group. Previous Working Groups had worked well in Berwickshire and had made recommendations which had been accepted by the Area Partnership. It was proposed that a Working Group be created, comprising 6-8 community members, with an additional 2-3 SBC Councillors, and this Group would be charged with making recommendations to the Area Partnership relating to the development and implementation of Place Making/ Planning in Berwickshire. This Working Group would report to a future meeting of the Area Partnership and would consider and work towards clarifying the terminology around Place Making and Place Planning; proposed joint principles; the proposed target Place Making Framework; the methodology for determining which communities to prioritise; how to best allocate resources available for Place Planning in Berwickshire; and the Area Partnership-Draft Place Making Role Agreement. As well as being considered by the Working Group, some of this could be the subject of a facilitated workshop.

5.2 Mr James Lamb, SBC Portfolio Manager, advised that he had spoken with Mr Dickinson after the previous meeting of the Area Partnership, and was supportive of the ambition and direction of travel. There had been a similar experience at other Area Partnership meetings and the idea of having time to build an understanding of what Place Making was about was also important to them. It had been agreed with other Area Partnerships that a series of facilitated workshops would be held which would be open for members of the community to attend to learn and understand more about Place Making. A tender had been issued and it was hoped to appoint a suitably qualified organisation to facilitate these workshops and then set up the workshops from the end of February. Details on the workshops would be issued in due course.

DECISION

AGREED:

- (a) **To set up a Place Making Working Group;**
- (b) **To the initial topics for consideration by the Working Group as detailed in the above narrative;**
- (c) **To plan a facilitated Place Making workshop which would explore and agree a way forward;**
- (d) **To propose a facilitated Borders-wide Place Making good practice workshop to learn from other areas;**
- (e) **To receive a further report on a method of recruitment to the Working Group; and**
- (f) **Where possible, SBC Officer support would be made available to the Working Group.**

6. GROUP EVALUATION – COLDSTREAM GATEWAY ASSOCIATION

Ms G. Jardine, Locality Development Co-ordinator, explained that unfortunately representatives of the Association had had to send apologies for the meeting so a written update would be requested.

DECISION

AGREED to ask the Coldstream Gateway Association to attend a future meeting of the Area Partnership to provide an update.

7. SBC COMMON GOOD CONSULTATION

Ms Hannah Macleod, Senior Solicitor, explained to the Area Partnership that under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 the Council was required to establish and maintain a register of property which was held by the authority as part of the Common Good (“a Common Good Register”). The Council was currently undertaking a consultation on what should be included on the Register which included the Common Goods for Coldstream, Duns and Eyemouth. Community Good was property owned by the former burghs in Scotland and when the burgh system was abolished in 19975, everything transferred to a Common Good account which was managed by the Trustees of the Common Good (SBC Councillors) who were responsible for managing these assets and making grants as appropriate. In their efforts to establish what should be included in the Common Good account, officers were finding it trickier to identify arts and artefacts than it was to identify buildings and land. In recognising the community interest in this, the Community Empowerment Act required the Council to consult with communities on draft lists and that consultation which would run until 31 March 2022 was being undertaken online through Citizen Space ([Common Good Consultation 2022 - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#)), with paper copies of the consultation also available. Everyone was encouraged to check the lists and provide information either on something that was there and should not be, or which was missing. Councillor Moffat advised of a collection of books (about 13 or 14 volumes) in Coldstream Town Hall on the First World War which he felt should be kept in the community. Mrs Macleod further advised that once the consultation closed, all representations would be brought to individual Common Good Sub-Committees as well as being published along with officer’ comments. There were a number of legal tests which had to be carried out before assets could be added to a Common Good. The final register would then be published but if any information came to light after that, then assets could still be added. It was anticipated that people from the communities would have greater knowledge on local assets than the officers based at Council HQ. Councillor Fullarton referred to “Thomson’s History of Berwickshire”, a copy of which was in Eyemouth Library which could also contain further information for reference.

DECISION

NOTED the consultation on the Common Good Register and encouraged everyone to participate to ensure that all assets had been included for Coldstream, Duns and Eyemouth.

8. JIM CLARK RALLY

8.1 Copies of a report by the Director Infrastructure & Environment on the Jim Clark Rally Consultation process had been circulated. The report provided the Area Partnership and the local community with an opportunity to consider and comment on the proposals submitted by the event organisers to hold a rally on closed roads in the Scottish Borders from 27 to 29 May 2022. Mr Brian Young, SBC Network Manager, presented the report, advising of the revised legislation which was introduced in 2019 to allow motor sports events to take place on closed public roads. The new regulations built upon previous experience through the Jim Clark Rally and other events and were intended to introduce increased rigor to the procedure for organising and running such events. These regulations introduced a two stage procedure where organisers must first successfully apply to an “authorised body” for a permit before applying to the local authority for a Motor Sports Order. In determining whether to make such an Order, the Council, as local roads authority – had to consider a number of factors that were laid out in the regulations. The report outlined those factors and provided an opportunity to, in particular, examine the proposals submitted by the rally organisers in respect of the routes and timings for the rally in May. It was noted that the event organisers had also been in regular consultation with representatives of the Council and Police Scotland via the Safety Advisory Group system at the Council which also included representatives of Fire & Rescue Services and the Scottish Ambulance Service. The proposal was for the rally to be based in Duns and to have a pre-rally “shakedown” stage on the Friday morning followed by two rally stages early evening; then seven rally stages over 3 different routes on the Saturday; and a further six rally stages over 3 further different routes on the Sunday. Overall route plans, provisional stage timings and plans for all stages including a reserve route were all contained in the appendices to the report. The Council had also launched a public consultation via [Jim Clark Rally 2022 - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#) which was due to close on 9 March 2022.

8.2 Ms Lindsay Burnip, Mr Clayton Lackenby, Mr Graham Provest and Mrs Frances Renton from the Jim Clark Rally were all present at the meeting. Mrs Renton gave assurances that as an organisation they were watched very closely by the local authority and Scottish Government to ensure that everything was correct in terms of health and safety. Safety was the first priority and the organisers worked with Police, Fire and Ambulance services throughout the preparation and the running of the event. The first PR letter to local communities had been issued and there would be at least another two letters coming out before the rally started. Mrs Renton encouraged everyone to take part in the consultation as the organisers were interested in everyone’s views. Mrs Renton could be contacted directly. Ms Burnip added that the consultation was on the Council website and the Jim Clark Rally website was also just about to go live and this would have maps and also a contact email address. Ms Burnip also dealt with accommodation enquiries and would be happy to work with local providers to support the event and put money back into the local area. Mr Provest confirmed that, as a team, they worked closely on safety, reiterating that this was the number one priority. The main part of safety was marshalling and although it was a voluntary sport, a training day would be run for marshals in Duns in April. The team of safety officials had lots of experience of running events. Mr Lackenby also added that from the marshalling point of view, there was a robust training regime in place which marshals had to complete and the Jim Clark Rally also provided their own specific training. Should there be insufficient marshals available on a particular stage, then that stage would simply not run. Mr Dickinson, Chair of Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth Community Council, advised that the consultation process had been widely advertised on line and recent conversations with Frances Renton and Tom Wilkinson had been very helpful, and praised the good consultation/communication process which allowed objections to be overcome in a straightforward way. Mrs Renton was happy to attend any Community Council meeting to explain the plans for any of the routes and answer any questions. Ms Burnip also referred to the plans to reduce paperwork with the use of an online App with separate channels for competitors, officials and spectators, with media staff for the weekend ensuring all these channels were kept updated. The App also gave everyone access to the safety information so they remained safe at each stage. The

Chairman thanked the representatives from the Jim Clark Rally for attending and added that it was vital that spectators had to respond to marshals and treat the rally with respect so that all would remain safe. It was good to see the rally back in Berwickshire and he wished everyone well for the preparations and the event.

DECISION

NOTED the application by the organisers of the Jim Clark Rally to run an event over the weekend of 27 to 29 May 2022 and encouraged everyone to make their comments about the proposed routes and timings either through the Council consultation which was due to finish on 9 March 2022 or directly to the organisers.

9. COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE HUB UPDATE

Ms G. Jardine, Locality Development Co-ordinator, gave a brief overview of the areas of discussion at fortnightly community hub meetings. People from communities were encouraged to attend if they were interested. Recent issues raised included social welfare concerns; the new legislation coming into force about fire alarm systems and how people could afford to install such systems (Citizens Advice had details on their website and there could potentially be help available for householders); concern about the need for care staff across Berwickshire and how that need could be met; householders in arrears with utility costs and how to best support them; the NHS Money Worries App; looking at a whole systems approach in Eyemouth with a park run scheduled for summer along with other outdoor activities; and Eyemouth & District Community Trust producing and delivering their What's On Guide. In response to a question about the rising costs of utilities, Ms Amaral of BAVS, advised that BAVS had been allocated funding from the Financial Inclusion Fund towards support for families in crisis and also to move beyond crisis to a preventative approach. Heating costs were an issue and impacting on incomes, so reliance on this type of support was needed more than ever. However, it had to be done with dignity and an example was given of foodbanks coming up with innovative solutions. Mr Paterson of Berwickshire Housing Association advised of their befriending scheme which was looking for more volunteers, as well as doing a lot around food poverty. It was expected that the 50% rise in wholesale fuel costs would be passed on to customers. The Housing Association was working with a number of other organisations and partners to see how best they could work together to deliver services and support, particularly around heating and food. Cllr Fullarton then advised anyone impacted by the recent Storm Arwen to make a claim to Scottish Power for a hot food allowance and also the loss of power for more than a few days.

DECISION

NOTED.

10. NEXT MEETING OF THE AREA PARTNERSHIP

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Area Partnership would be held online on 3 March 2022 starting at 6:30pm.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Participatory Budgeting

Details of the feedback from the workshops held by the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) at the end of 2021 on Participatory Budgeting, Systems & Structure, Engagement & Involvement, and questions answered on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and clarification on Participatory Budgeting, had been circulated. Ms Jardine, Locality Development Co-ordinator, thanked those who had attended the workshops and advised that there had been some very positive conversations. Anyone wishing to be involved in further conversations should get in touch with the Partnership team. The Chairman also referred everyone to the current consultation on the Council budget and encouraged everyone to take part in this.

11.2 **Additional Information**

Information on current consultations (2022/23 Budget survey and the Common Goods) had been circulated, along with links to other community information.

12. **MEETING EVALUATION BY MENTI**

James Purves, Community Engagement Officer, used the Menti system to allow those at the meeting to give feedback and advised that this would be open for a while after the meeting. Responses would be fed back to the next meeting of the Area Partnership.

The meeting concluded at 8.00pm

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP**

MINUTES of Meeting of the TEVIOT AND
LIDDESDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP held
via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 1 February
2022 at 6.00 pm

Present:- SBC Councillors: N. Richards (Chair), W. McAteer, C. Ramage, G. Turnbull.
Other organisations attendees: Ms H. Batsch (The Bridge), Ms B. Elborn
(Newcastleton CC), Mr P. Kerr (Southdean CC), Ms C. Knight, Mr C. Knox
(Hawick CC), Ms J. Somers (Cheviot Togs), Mr A. Warburton (Upper
Liddesdale & Hermitage CC), Mr F. Wight (Hawick CC), Ms R. Woods
(Southdean CC).

Apologies:- Councillors S. Marshall, D. Paterson.

In Attendance:- Locality Development Coordinator (G. Jardine), Principal Solicitor (H.
Macleod), Community Engagement Officer (S. McKail), Community Place
Planning and Regeneration Officer (S. Renwick), Youth Engagement Worker
(P. Rigby), Clerk to the Council, Democratic Services Officer (W.
Mohieddeen).

1. **WELCOME AND MEETING PROTOCOLS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams and the Chairman outlined how the meeting would be conducted and how those both in the meeting and watching via the live stream could take part.

2. **FEEDBACK FROM MEETINGS OF 16 NOVEMBER AND 7 DECEMBER**

Copies of the Minutes of the Meetings held on 16 November and 7 December 2021 had been circulated. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the Meeting held on 16 November 2021, the Chairman advised that information including details of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund for community groups to organise celebratory events had been circulated and the fund was open for application. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the Meeting held on 16 November 2021, the Chairman further advised that Officers had noted suggestions made during the Menti evaluation and would factor those suggestion for the agenda of the Meeting of the Area Partnership on 22 March 2022.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minutes of 16 November and 7 December 2021 for signature by the Chairman.

3. **IMPACT OF STORM ARWEN ON COMMUNITIES**

3.1 There had been a request for a discussion at the Area Partnership on the impact of Storm Arwen on communities. Mr Philip Kerr of Southdean Community Council introduced the discussion with a verbal update noting there was a need to assess progress with the electricity and telecommunications networks. There had been further issues with the electricity network following Storm Malik which communities were using opportunities to

share updates across social media networks. Mr Kerr suggested that communities should have access to mapping of electricity and telecommunications network lines to readily identify sources. Mr Kerr advised that forestry had been having a difficult time with recent storm events. After speaking with Forestry and Land Scotland, Mr Kerr advised they were still aware of the wheel causeway path issue of needing its path however the recent storms had meant that there were other priorities for the agency to address as matter of priority. The damage assessment from the storms may affect Forestry and Land Scotland's five and ten year plans. Mr Kerr advised he wished to understand how electricity and telecommunications companies were making their lines more resilient and whether lines would be buried underground. With regards to blocked roads, Mr Kerr suggested that Scottish Borders Council could publish a list of affected locations. Mr Kerr further suggested that a Teviot and Liddesdale resilience webpage may help to capture infrastructure incidents in the area. Mr Kerr advised that telecommunications had been in a better status and that he raised the possibility of 'not spots' being covered with more than one source of power. Tree clearing had been taking place at Windhope where it had been suggested that clearing of trees may help strengthen other trees. In response to a question from the Chairman on fibre optic cables shattering when strung along poles, Mr Kerr advised that a 22-day broadband outage had been caused by a similar incident. Mr Kerr further advised that BT had rolled out fibre optic technology by stringing cables between poles and that fibre optic cables were strung tighter than copper lines making them more resilient however they were still vulnerable to trees falling.

- 3.2 Ms Barbara Elborn of Newcastleton Community Council gave a verbal update on the impact of storm incidents in Newcastleton. Electricity had been off in Newcastleton for between 24 – 36 hours, while some properties were without electricity for five or six days. There had been concerns regarding levels of response with questions raised around resilience measures for vulnerable and elderly people requiring generators. Future communications resilience was also raised where there had been experience of digital services failing while analogue services were still live during the incident. Ms Elborn reported that an Executive Officer for Openreach had advised that a deal had been done to supply a 24-hour generator pack which was to be used sparingly. Path clearing had been requested to take place. Ms Elborn advised that there needed to be better understanding of road closures outside of the local authority area so that there was awareness of incidents to the north and south of Newcastleton. Mr Kerr added that he had a digitised telephone service which had lost service while others in Southdean had a copper line and had lost service for 10 to 15 hours. BT provided Mr Kerr with a mini-hub with a 25 megabyte broadband internet connection.
- 3.3 Councillor McAteer advised that conversations had taken place with the Chief Executive of Scottish Borders Council for information and advice on incident response. Scottish Borders Council could provide quick assurances where there were problems in places. The experience of providing information following the Storm Arwen incident was being investigated. Councillor McAteer advised Councillors would get read only access to an incident log. Mr Kerr added that the response from BT Openreach was received poorly which may have been caused by overwhelming numbers of calls. SP Energy Networks also provided an essential service however, Mr Kerr advised, they had large numbers of staff dealing with incidents.
- 3.4 Councillor Ramage advised she had been dealing with the situation at Lyndon Park where there were elderly people. Councillor Ramage reported that when the power cut affecting Lyndon Park had taken place, she called SBC to have a generator supplied. This was initially granted but nothing had arrived due to a breakdown. Councillor Ramage tried to call out Scottish Power however they didn't show for a 4.00 pm appointment and also failed to show the next day for a 3.00 pm appointment. Scottish Power then arrived the following day when a live electrical cable had been identified. Councillor Ramage added that when there was more recent stormy weather, she had been checking social media for community

updates which may not have been available if communication networks failed. Mr Kerr added that BT Openreach had different engineers for copper and fibre cabling and different jobs associated with linking cabling.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

4. PLACE MAKING UPDATE

4.1 Councillor Richards introduced Sharon Renwick, Community Place Planning and Regeneration Officer, to give an update on Place Making. Ms Renwick began her role before Christmas 2021, had been involved in place plans and place making and the role had come about from the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. The Community Place Planning and Regeneration Officer advised that place plans were to be prepared in a bottom-up approach and be representative of the community. Place making workshops were to be held across Area Partnerships in February and March with dates to be confirmed. A facilitator was to be appointed to lead workshops so they were not led by Scottish Borders Council. A procurement brief was published on 21 January 2022 with responses invited and due by 4 February. Responses were to be evaluated by 11 February when a facilitator would be appointed.

4.2 In response to a question from Ms Elborn, the Community Place Planning and Regeneration Officer advised that climate change and net zero may be part of place plans and had been included as part of place plans guidance circulated by the Scottish Government. Mr Kerr added that he had attended a South of Scotland Enterprise talk on net zero and that the organisation was educating their own staff in the issue. It was hoped that the training for staff would be rolled out to companies and hopefully communities and this would contain useful information. The Locality Development Coordinator advised that the place making workshops were platforms at which net zero may be raised.

**DECISION
NOTED the update.**

5. SBC COMMON GOOD CONSULTATION

Ms Hannah Macleod, Senior Solicitor, explained to the Area Partnership that under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 the Council was required to establish and maintain a register of property which was held by the authority as part of the Common Good ("a Common Good Register") - which included the Hawick Common Good. The Council was currently undertaking a consultation on what should be included on the Register. Common Good property was owned by the former burghs in Scotland and when the burgh system was abolished in 1975, everything transferred to a Common Good account which was managed by the Trustees of the Common Good (SBC Councillors) who were responsible for managing these assets and making grants as appropriate. In their efforts to establish what should be included in the Common Good account, officers were finding it trickier to identify arts and artefacts than it was to identify buildings and land. In recognising the community interest in this, the Community Empowerment Act required the Council to consult with communities on draft lists and that consultation which would run until 31 March 2022 was being undertaken online through Citizen Space ([Common Good Consultation 2022 - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#)), with paper copies of the consultation also available. Everyone was encouraged to check the lists and provide information either on something that was there and should not be, or which was missing. Mrs Macleod further advised that once the consultation closed, all representations would be brought to individual Common Good Sub-Committees as well as being published along with officer' comments. There were a number of legal tests which had to be carried out before assets could be added to a Common Good. The final register would then be published but if any information came to light after that, then assets could still be added.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

6. COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE HUB UPDATE

6.1 Scott McKail, Community Engagement Officer, gave a brief overview of the areas of discussion at community hub meetings which were taking place weekly. A range of topics were discussed which included the impact of Storm Arwen, new fire alarm legislation, rising utility costs and specific input from the place making team. Naomi Sweeney, Project Manager, and Sharon Renwick, Community Place Planning and Regeneration Officer, introduced themselves and Place Making at the community assistance hub. There was also attendance from Colin Henderson of Skills Development Scotland (SDS) who gave an insight into statistical information used by SDS and how partners could access the same data. Jill McCoy of Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) gave an update on calls that CAB had been receiving which allowed partners to have an insight into the types of issues for which people were seeking support as well as the numbers of people getting in touch with CAB. Ruth Dickinson of Changeworks and Caroline Hamilton of the NHS introduced the Low and Slow project which aimed to reduce the impact of rising utility costs by giving out slow-cooker recipes and ingredients, and information on energy usage and winter warmer packs and draft excluders to 15 families in the TD9 postcode area.

6.2 In response to a question from Members, on the effectiveness of awareness raising on integrated fire alarms, Mr McKail advised that the discussion held on the matter at the community hub worked well and that there would be potential to work with partners in Changeworks and the NHS that may help in reaching vulnerable people. The Locality Development Coordinator suggested that communications may need to improve as some householders had reported that insurers had said they did not need to do anything to be compliant. With regards to remote outreach in Newcastleton, the Locality Development Coordinator advised that there was help provided through Link with a laptop installed at the Tower Cafe where information was shared.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

7. BUILD BACK A BETTER BORDERS RECOVERY FUND APPLICATIONS FOR ASSESSMENT

7.1 The Locality Development Coordinator, Ms Jardine, presented the funding table for the Community Fund. If the tabled application was successful, there would be £378 remaining in the Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund. An application for the Community Pot A had been received for £2,300 and if it was successful there would be £16,670 remaining. Two further applications had been received which were due to be assessed and if these were included this would leave £13,775 to be awarded.

7.2 The Community Engagement Officer, Mr McKail, presented the summary of an application to the Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund:

Cheviot Togs

An application had been received for £2,722.50 from Cheviot Togs to create a clothing bank for children and young people in the style of a boutique shop, in Teviot Crescent in Hawick. The project would operate across both Cheviot and Teviot & Liddesdale; the application for funding had been split pro rata across the two community funds. The application was assessed as high as it would support families in need via the provision of clothing for children and young people.

DECISION

AGREED to award a grant of £2,722.50 to Cheviot Togs, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The applicant must follow Scottish Government Covid-19 guidance when delivering the service.**
- (ii) Moveable equipment to be passed to another community group/organisation should this project cease to operate.**

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Ramage declared an interest in the following item of business in terms of Section 5 of the Councillors Code of Conduct and left the Teams meeting during the discussion, returning once the item had been finalised.

8. COMMUNITY FUND POT A APPLICATIONS FOR ASSESSMENT

Mr Cameron Knox of Hawick Community Council presented the summary of recommendations by the Hawick Community Council Fund Pot A Assessment Panel. The panel met to consider an application of £2,300 from Hornshole Greenway Development Group for a ground engineering survey for the Border Queen River Sculpture. The Assessment Panel recommended the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Partnership award a grant of £2,300 to the applicant.

DECISION

AGREED to award Hornshole Greenway Development Group a grant of £2,300.

MEMBER

Councillor Ramage re-joined the Meeting.

9. PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING UPDATE

Copies of the slides from the Participatory Budget workshop sessions held at the end of 2021 had been circulated. Ms Jardine thanked all who contributed to the sessions which covered the potential of participatory budgeting. Discussions on participatory budgeting were to continue and attendees were encouraged to contact Ms Jardine or Mr McKail if they wished to participate.

10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PACK

The Chair advised that additional information was included in the agenda pack on current consultations, community empowerment requests and the 20mph trial evaluation.

11. NEXT MEETING OF THE TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP

It was noted the next Meeting of the Area Partnership was 22 March 2022 and the agenda would be issued on 8 March 2022. It was noted that equality and diversity may be an item on the next meeting informed by feedback collected on Menti. Mr Kerr added that he could engage with South of Scotland Enterprise on environment social governance and net zero and approach Colin Banks to give a presentation.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Ms Heather Batsch asked whether funds from Teviot and Liddesdale Area Partnership Community Fund Pot A and Pot B would rollover to the next financial year after 31 March as discussed at the Cheviot Area Partnership. Ms Jardine advised that this was a Scottish Borders-wide agreement and she would check whether funds would be rolled over after 31 March. Mr Kerr asked whether confirmation would be sought for the closing of round 3 for Pot A of the Community Fund for 21 February for recommendations to be completed for the 22 March meeting of the Area Partnership.

12.2 Mr Kerr advised that Muir Hall wind farm application was due for the end of February to early March and there may be a four-month consultation period.

13. **MEETING EVALUATION VIA MENTI**

Attendees concluded the meeting with submission of meeting evaluations using the software Menti.

Meeting concluded at 7.10pm.

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of Meeting of the EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE held via MS Teams on
Tuesday, 8th February, 2022 at 10.00 am

Present:- Councillors M. Rowley (Chairman), G. Edgar, E. Jardine, C. Hamilton,
S. Hamilton, S. Haslam, J. Linehan, S. Mountford, R. Tatler, G. Turnbull and
T. Weatherston.

Apologies:- Councillor S. Aitchison

Also Present:- Councillor S. Bell

In Attendance:- Chief Executive Officer, Director Finance & Corporate Governance, Director
Infrastructure & Environment, Democratic Services Team Leader, Democratic
Services Officer (D. Hall)

1. **MINUTE**

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 18 January 2022.

DECISION

APPROVED for signature by the Chairman.

2. **MONITORING OF THE GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2021/22**

- 2.1 There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director, Finance & Corporate Governance providing budgetary control statements for the Council's General Fund based on actual expenditure and income along with explanations of the major variances identified between projected outturn expenditure/income and the current approved budget. The Council had continued to experience impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic into the new financial year with a number of variations from budget evident. The report explained that due to the very challenging operating environment it remained essential that the Council continue to operate as efficiently as possible to ensure that any financial implications not yet clear could be managed as the financial year progressed.
- 2.2 Forecasts had been completed at the third quarter of 2021/22 at 31 December which projected the Council to be in a balanced position at the financial year end. The position was a net increase of £0.729m in the Covid-19 reserve compared to the reported position at the end of the second quarter of the current year. The forecast position included the carry forward of resources from 2021/22. Impacts from Covid-19 were expected to continue in to 2022/23, the Covid-19 reserve would be drawn down as required to meet identified financial pressures. The latest forecast detailed all known pressures including loss of income, confirmed Scottish Government funding, the effects of the continued freeze on discretionary spend and assumptions around delivery of Financial Plan savings.
- 2.3 The report outlined that significant confirmed funding was in place for 2021/22, with a commitment that additional expenditure incurred through the Integration Joint Board (IJB) delivering Health & Social Care services be funded by the Scottish Government. The report detailed the breakdown of confirmed COVID-19 funding for 2021/22, stating that a total of £32.913M was available. The total COVID-19 funding was split between funding which had been ring-fenced to be used for a specific purpose (£14.733m) such as education recovery, IJB funding, admin funding and funding to support communities, and that which could be used more generally by the Council to address COVID-19 pressures (£18.180m). Full details of funding available was provided in Appendix 2 to the report.

- 2.4 There had been an ongoing impact on the delivery of Financial Plan savings during 2021/22 as a result of the diversion of management time to the pandemic during 2020/21 and into 2021/22. The level of savings required by the financial plan, totalled £9.301, in 2021/22 and an analysis of delivery of savings was provided in Appendix 3 to the report. Following the December month end savings of £2.687m were delivered permanently, £0.696m was profiled to be delivered by 31 March 2022 and £5.918m was to be delivered on a temporary basis through alternative savings.
- 2.5 The Director, Finance & Corporate Governance, Mr David Robertson, presented the report, answered questions from Members, and drew particular attention to the appendices attached to the report. Regarding the Bellwin scheme, an emergency financial assistance programme that allowed local authorities to claim for financial support associated with unforeseen costs arising from emergency incidents, the Director advised members that the Council had incurred approximately half of the costs required to make a claim, and that the costs associated with the flooding event in Hawick and Storm Arwen would therefore have to be absorbed by the Council. In response to a question on forward purchasing of electricity by the Council, the Director explained that the Council had purchased the vast majority of its electricity for the next financial year in advance, alleviating the need to put additional money into that area of the budget. The Director acknowledged that rises in energy prices could become more of a pressure in future years, but that he hoped ongoing work to increase the energy efficiency of Council owned buildings would minimise the impact of rises in price.

DECISION

AGREED to:-

- (a) note the projected corporate monitoring position reported at 31 December 2021, the remaining pressures identified, the underlying cost drivers of this position and the identified areas of financial risk as reflected in Appendix 1 to the report;**
 - (b) the Covid-19 funding detailed in Appendix 2;**
 - (c) the progress made in achieving Financial Plan savings in Appendix 3; and**
 - (d) approve the virements attached as Appendices 4 and 5.**
3. **MONITORING OF THE CAPITAL FINANCIAL PLAN 2021/22**
- 3.1 There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director, Finance & Corporate Governance providing an update on the progress of the 2021/22 Capital Financial Plan and seeking approval for virements and the reallocation of funds. The monitoring tables in Appendix 1 to the report detailed actual expenditure to 31 December 2021. Key issues identified in those tables were summarised within the main report. The report explained that the December month end of position reflected a projected outturn of £66.171m, with a net budget variance of £18.058m. Past expenditure trends indicated that delivering the remaining expenditure of £26.9m in the final quarter of 2021/22 would be challenging, potentially leading to further slippage at year end. There were a number of macro-economic factors affecting the Capital Plan. It was noted that the construction materials supply chain had been subject to unprecedented disruption in recent months. A surge in demand, coupled with constraints on supply had led to price increases, shortages and longer lead times and the impact of this on the Capital Plan was being assessed.
- 3.2 Current legally committed projects had a small risk of impact and block programmes of work could operate within a cash constrained budget and were considered lower risk. The report stated that the most significant risk lay in the small number of contracts to be tendered this year which might result in budget pressure. Any financial implications from those market conditions would be reported through the regular budget monitoring cycle, with any longer term impacts reflected in the financial planning process.

- 3.3 The list of block allocations approved for the year and various approved and proposed projects to be allocation from them within the 2021/22 Capital Plan was outlined in Appendix 2 to the report. The list of estimated whole project capital costs for single projects which would not be completed in the current financial year was outlined in Appendix 3 to the report. The Director, Finance & Corporate Governance presented the report, highlighted the success of ongoing projects and answered questions from Members. Regarding capital costs listed as Wheeled Bins – Street Cleansing, the Director explained that the costs related to the ongoing need to replace bins that had reached the end of their useful life span or otherwise had to be replaced. In response to a question on the repair works on the Union Chain Bridge, the Director explained that the project was being managed by Northumberland County Council, works were ongoing to understand the full extent of repairs required and that money had been earmarked from the Emergency and unplanned budget as contingency. Any additional funding not required would be released back into the capital programme. In response to a question regarding delays to Hawick Regeneration works, the Director of Infrastructure and Environment explained that errors present in the initial tenders received had led to delays in the process due to the inability to compare like for like costs between those tenders. The tender process was now almost complete, and it was hoped that a preferred contractor would be appointed before the end of the financial year.

DECISION

- (a) **AGREED the projected outturn in Appendix 1 to the report as the revised capital budget and approved the virements required.**
- (b) **NOTED:**
- (i) **the budget virements previously approved by the Executive Director, Finance & Corporate Governance and the Director Infrastructure & Environment detailed in Appendix 2 to the report under delegated authority;**
- (ii) **the list of block allocations detailed in Appendix 2 to the report; and**
- (iii) **the list of whole project costs detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.**

4. BALANCES AT 31 MARCH 2022

There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director, Finance & Corporate Governance providing an analysis of the Council's balances as at 31 March 2021 and advising Members of the projected balances at 31 March 2022. The report explained that the unaudited Council's General Fund useable reserve (non-earmarked) balance was £8.831m at 31 March 2021. The General Fund useable reserve was projected to be at least £6.315m at 31 March 2022, in line with the Council's Financial Strategy. The total of all useable balances, excluding development contributions, at 31 March 2022 was projected at £48.948m, compared to £47.672m at 31 March 2021. The report noted the projected balance on the Capital Fund of £8.831m would be affected by any further capital receipts, developer contributions, interest credited and any expenditure authorised to be financed from the Fund during the remainder of the financial year.

DECISION

NOTED:-

- (a) **the projected revenue balances as at 31 March 2022 as contained in Appendices 1 & 2 to the report; and**
- (b) **the projected balance in the Capital Fund as contained in Appendix 3 to the report.**

5. **SUNDRY DEBT WRITE OFF - BEAUNE PROPERTIES LTD**

There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director, Finance & Corporate Governance that informed the Committee of an outstanding sundry debt for Beaune Properties Ltd, and requested approval to write the debt off against the existing balance sheet provision. Appendix 1 to the report contained a statement of account for Beaune Properties Ltd. The Director, Finance & Corporate Governance explained that the write off related to two companies which had both had the same directors. The debts related to works undertaken to secure a site at Harriers Hut, Hawick, and works to stabilise a dangerous building at Wilton Mill, Hawick. The Director explained that as a result of court proceedings, a mediation process had taken place. The outcome of the mediation process was that the Company had agreed to pay the Council £40k, but had not subsequently done so. The Companies were subsequently dissolved in 2013 and 2016, with the debt irrecoverable. Regarding the delay in processing the write off, the Director acknowledged that the process should have happened faster, and cited workload pressures and changes of personnel as an explanation for the delay. In response to a question on future exposure to similar circumstances, the Director explained that the processes for reviewing historic debt were more robust, and that no similar cases were identifiable.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the write off amount of outstanding sundry debt for Beaune Properties Ltd amounting to £100,731.45.

6. **PRIVATE BUSINESS**

AGREED under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the business detailed in Appendix 1 to this Minute on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 4 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.

7. **CYCLING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023**

A report by the Director, Resilient Communities was approved.

The meeting concluded at 11.20 am

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL EILDON AREA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES of Meeting of the EILDON AREA
PARTNERSHIP held via MS Teams on
Thursday, 10 February 2022 at 6.00 pm

Present:- Councillors G. Edgar (Chairman), S. Aitchison, E Jardine, J. Linehan, E. Thornton-Nicol, D. Parker together with 21 representatives from Partner Organisations, Community Councils and members of the public.

Apologies:- Councillors A. Anderson, C. Cochrane, and H. Scott.

Absent:- Councillor T. Miers

In Attendance:- Principal Solicitor, Locality Development Co-ordinator (K. Harrow), Community Engagement Officer (E. Coltman), Community Place Planning and Regeneration Officer (S. Renwick), Network Manager (B. Young), Democratic Services Officer (D. Hall)

1. **WELCOME AND MEETING PROTOCOLS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership being held via Microsoft Teams and outlined how the meeting would be conducted and how those both in the meeting and watching via the Live Stream could take part.

2. **FEEDBACK FROM MEETING OF 11 NOVEMBER 2021**

The Minutes of the meetings of the Eildon Area Partnership held on 11 November 2021 were noted.

3. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Mr Harrow explained that the additional information document included reference to a wide range of useful information and links. In the absence of the Principal Solicitor, Mr Harrow provided a brief outline of the ongoing Common Good Consultation.

4. **PLACE MAKING UPDATE**

Mr Harrow introduced Sharon Renwick, Community Place Planning and Regeneration Officer, to give an update on Place Making. Ms Renwick began her role before Christmas 2021, had been involved in place plans and place making and the role had come about from the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. The Community Place Planning and Regeneration Officer advised that place plans were to be prepared in a bottom-up approach and be representative of the community. Place Making workshops were to be held across Area Partnerships in March, with dates to be confirmed. A facilitator was to be appointed to lead workshops so they were not led by Scottish Borders Council. A procurement brief was published in January 2022 with responses invited and due by 4 February. Responses were to be evaluated and a facilitator would be appointed.

5. **JIM CLARK RALLY 2022 PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS**

There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director, Infrastructure and Environment providing the Area Partnership and the local community an opportunity to consider and comment on the proposals submitted by event organisers of the Jim Clark Rally to hold a rally on closed road in the Scottish Borders on the weekend of the 27 to 29 May 2022. Revised legislation was introduced in 2019 to allow motor sports events to take place on closed public roads. The new regulations built upon previous experience through the Jim Clark Rally and other events and were intended to introduce increased rigor to the procedure for organising and running such events. The 2019 regulations introduced a two stage procedure where organisers must first successfully apply to an "authorised body" for a permit before applying to the local roads authority for a Motor Sports Order. In determining whether to make a Motor Sports Order Scottish Borders Council, as local

roads authority, must consider a number of factors that were laid out in the regulations. The report outlined those factors and provided an opportunity to examine the proposals submitted by the rally organisers in respect of the routes and timings for the rally on 27 and 29 May 2022. Brian Young, Network Manager, joined the meeting and gave an outline of the report. The event organisers, Dan Wright and Frances Renton, were present in the meeting and answered questions from those in attendance. The organisers also indicated their intention to travel to the Community Councils in the relevant areas to gauge opinion and listen to suggestions from the local community. Members expressed their hope that the event would go ahead and their excitement at closed public road rally driving returning to the Scottish Borders.

DECISION

NOTED the application by the organisers of the Jim Clark Rally to run an event on the weekend of the 27 to 29 May 2022.

6. LOW AND SLOW PILOT PROJECT - UPDATE

Mr Harrow provided an update on the low and slow pilot project, an initiative that aimed to help provide families with cheap, nutritional meals. Changeworks, NHS Borders Joint Health Improvement Team and the Burnfoot Community Hub had worked together on a 6 week pilot project to provide 12 participants with a slow cooker. The participants used ingredients from Fareshare and Morrisons and followed menus and recipes provided by the Joint Health Improvement Team to cook healthy food at home. The use of a slow cooker was chosen as it compared extremely favourably in cost versus a conventional oven. Additionally, all 12 participants had received a visit from Changeworks or Home Energy Scotland to assess methods they could use to help reduce their home energy bills. The pilot project had reached its conclusion, with an evaluation to be undertaken. Those in attendance praised the project for its relevance and goals.

7. PARTICIPATORY BUDGET UPDATE FROM SCDC TRAINING

Mr Harrow advised the meeting that there had been a useful series of workshops with SCDC and that there would be ongoing sessions. Mr Harrow invited any interested party to contact the Communities and Partnership team for further information.

8. FUNDING TABLE OVERVIEW

Mr Coltman provided an outline of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund. The fund was not limited to the Eildon area, with £2.5k the maximum amount a group could apply for. Applications would be assessed by the Communities and Partnership Team, with a final decision made by the Director, Resilient Communities, Mrs Jenny Craig. Applications would be decided within three weeks. 23 Applications had been awarded, with £47k remaining in the fund. 10 applications totalling £17k were under consideration. Mr Coltman encouraged any interested party to submit their application. Regarding the Build Back a Better Borders (BBBB) Recovery Fund, the opening balance had been £153,633, with a total of £109,000 awarded to date, resulting in a remaining balance of £44.5k. 7 applications were under consideration, totalling £40,478. Mr Coltman drew attention to the fact that changes had been made to applications since the funding table had been issued with the agenda resulting in differing figures.

9. COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS

9.1 Jenny Mushlin, the Chair of the Eildon Assessment Panel presented the Community Fund recommendations. Ms Mushlin advised that should Members accept the recommendations then the fund would be fully subscribed and consequently closed to new applications until the new financial year.

9.2 Scott's Selkirk

The application from Scott's Selkirk was for £5k to help purchase 10 gazebos to be used at Selkirk market and for use in the wider community. The panel praised the community benefit of the application, but felt that as the group had alternate gazebos that could still

be used it was reasonable to agree to half the requested amount. The panel recommended to fund 5 gazebos at a cost of £2.5k.

9.3 PND Borders

PND Borders were applying for £15k of funding to cover staffing costs to help provide support and therapy for mothers with postnatal depression and anxiety across the Borders. The panel recommended not to fund the project, as the funding was to cover future costs. The group had sufficient funding in place for the year. The Communities and Partnership team would work with the group to explore future funding options and opportunities.

9.4 Lauder Primary School Parent Council

Lauder Primary School Parent Council had requested £4,940.40 to help raise levels of literacy attainment by improving and increasing the quality and diversity of books available in the school library, as well as organising visits to local literary events. The panel recommended not to fund the project as concerns existed regarding wider community access to the resources outside of the school setting. The local book festival trips would also take place in the June, consequently the group was encouraged to submit a new application in the new financial year.

9.5 The Lavender Touch

The application from the Lavender Touch was for £6.8k to assist in the upgrade of its shop and hub in Galashiels. The panel recommended to fund £1,579.79 to help make the shop more environmentally friendly by covering the costs of various in-shop energy improvements.

9.6 Brighter Blainslie

Brighter Blainslie had applied for £4,598.12 to help improve the village by planting flower displays, creating environmentally green spaces, providing outdoor seating and improving access to the village pathway. The panel recognised the important of communal spaces open to all, and recommended to provide the requested sum.

9.7 St Peter's Primary School Parents Association

The Parents Association of St Peter's Primary School had applied for £2,718 to support the continuation of a breakfast club within their school. The funding would pay for staff to continue the club. The group had initially applied for a higher sum, but had subsequently received additional funding from the SBC Community Welfare Trust. The Panel recommended to grant funding of £2,718.

9.8 Borders Talking Newspaper

The group were seeking £4k to cover running costs to continue a talking newspaper service to residents across Eildon. The funding request was a proportion of running costs. There were currently 230 registered listeners, with 73 in Eildon. The panel recommended to fund £4k.

9.9 Tweedbank Guides

Tweedbank Guides had applied for £15k to offer a residential opportunity to the guide groups, one at one home and one in London. The panel recognised the importance of residential opportunities and recommended to fund £600 to help meet the costs of the group attending a local day event.

9.10 Friends of Yarrow

The application from the Friends of Yarrow was for £2,078.38 to fund the creation of a safe walking area to and from the school. The funds would allow the children to walk from the school to a local hall. The landowner had agreed to provide an area of land for the creation of the pathway, and the funds would be used to erect a fence to create a safe route. The panel recommended to provide funding of £2,078.38.

9.11 Members discussed the recommendations, thanked the Members of the Eildon Assessment Panel for their careful considerations and unanimously accepted the recommendations.

10. **BUILD BACK A BETTER BORDERS RECOVERY FUND APPLICATIONS**

10.1 The Chairman asked Mr Harrow and Mr Coltman to give an outline of each of the applications to the BBBB fund.

10.2 **Go Wild Scotland**

The application from Go Wild Scotland was for £4,883 to assist in the creation of a digital and physical nature trail for use by local youth groups. The group also planned to use it as a demonstration project for other community groups in the Borders. They had already acquired the physical nature trail elements and educational materials. The funding applied for would cover the labour costs of creating the trail, the illustration and map of the newly created trail and QR code metal plates.

10.3 **Riddell Fiddles**

The application for funding from Riddell Fiddles was for £2,160 to engage with young people to create a soundscape of a local woodland. The funding applied for would cover the cost of recording/mixing by a specialist producer; two music tutors for fiddle/guitar; woodland guide walk staff; a transform art workshop; and venue costs for the workshop.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Jardine declared an interest in the item below and did not take part in the discussion.

10.4 **Borders Disability Sport**

Borders Disability Sport had applied for £6,544.97 that would allow the group to provide individuals with the opportunity to take part in and experience the positive impact of various sporting activities. The group planned to deliver a new sporting opportunities programme throughout the year with sessions expected in Tweedbank and Galashiels. The funding would allow a variety of archery equipment; cycling helmets; a racing wheelchair and two disability trikes to be purchased. Funding would also cover the expenses associated with venue and pool hire, and coaching costs.

10.5 **Roxburgh Reivers Orienteering Club**

The application from the Roxburgh Reivers Orienteering Club was for £5,265.22 to allow the group to provide a package of 21 specialist maps and equipment to enable the introduction and development of orienteering among targeted groups in the Eildon locality.

10.6 **Abbotsford Bowling Club**

Abbotsford Bowling Club had initially applied for £15k but following discussions with the Communities and Partnerships team had revised their application to £9,793. The application was to help cover the costs of refurbishment of the clubhouse and delivering a two-phase project to benefit the local community. The two phases of the project would engage with older and younger people in a variety of exercise and bowls-based events.

10.7 **Café ReCharge**

The application from Café Recharge was for £8070 to meet the salary costs of a volunteer co-ordinator, the provision of a laptop for that co-ordinator and food hygiene training for volunteers. Employing a paid volunteer co-ordinator/café supervisor would allow the café to open at least one day on weekends and to harness the enthusiasm for volunteering present in the area.

10.8 **Transform Arts CIC**

Transform Arts CIC had applied for £3,762 to host two participatory arts event during the summer, one in the Philliphugh area of Selkirk and one in the Ettrick/Yarrow valley. Each event would be a day of varied arts and crafts activities for people of all ages. The

funding applied for would help meet the costs of staffing and volunteers; marketing materials and signage; snacks and refreshments; arts materials and play equipment hire; and venue costs and insurance.

- 10.9 Members considered each of the applications. In response to a question regarding the financial adjustment to the Abbotsford Bowling Club's application, it was clarified that each of the applications could be funded without the fund being oversubscribed. In response to a query regarding the laptop cost of £400 for café Recharge, Mr Harrow undertook to explore whether Connecting Borders, or an alternate retailer, could provide a suitable laptop at a better cost. In response to a question regarding the use of the phrase "elderly people" it was agreed that an agenda item should be considered at a future meeting of the Area Partnership on the use of inclusive language to refer to all members of society. Members voiced their support for all of the applications, and the grants for funding were unanimously approved. The application from Café Recharge was granted subject to the condition that options were explored to locate a more cost effective laptop computer.

11. **EILDON FUNDING EVALUATIONS**

Mr Coltman provided an outline of work that had gone into evaluations across the Community and BBBB funds. He explained that as part of the agreement when groups are granted funding they are required to complete an evaluation of their project. A group could not apply for any additional funding until they have completed their evaluation. Mr Coltman advised that all of the projects from the Localities Bid Fund 1 had been evaluated, 80% of the evaluations had been received from projects from the Localities Bid Fund 2, and 73% of the evaluations had been received from the 2019/20 Community Fund. Reminders had been sent to all of those with outstanding evaluations.

12. **DATE OF NEXT AREA PARTNERSHIP MEETING**

The next full meeting of the Area Partnership was scheduled for 30 March 2022 and the Chairman asked for further agenda item suggestions to be submitted.

13. **COMMON GOOD CONSULTATION**

At the discretion of the Chairman it was agreed that the Principal Solicitor, who had joined the meeting, would discuss the Common Good Consultation in more detail than discussed at paragraph 3. The Principal Solicitor, Mrs Hannah Macleod explained what was happening within Scottish Borders Council with regard to Common Good Fund owned property and assets. Common Good Funds were created from the former Burghs of Scotland, managed by local Councillors who act as trustees. Councillors also meet to provide grants. Under the Community Empowerment Act, the Council is obligated to publish and maintain a list of assets, land and art/artefacts, owned by the Common Goods. The consultation on the aforementioned list of assets had opened and would run until at least 31 March 2021. Mrs Macleod invited members of the public to suggest any item or area of land that they thought may be owned by the Common Goods in the area – Galashiels, Lauder, Melrose and Selkirk. Mrs Macleod advised the meeting that should there be a flurry of activity then the consultation would be extended to allow the full consideration of any item suggested to be Common Good owned. Following the consultation, the representations received would be brought back to each specific Sub-Committee to discuss the comments and evidence received. It was stressed that legal tests would be used to verify ownership. Mrs Macleod advised everyone in attendance that the list would be published once the process was completed, but that it would be open to review – new items could be considered and added. Mrs Macleod circulated her email address and advised attendees that she was happy to send out paper copies to any interested party wishing to make a representation. In response to a question regarding the use of the phrase "former burghs" it was clarified that whilst, as result of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Burghs were legally abolished, it remained common and acceptable in everyday speech to continue to refer to the former burghs as royal burghs.

14. **MEETING EVALUATION**

Mr Coltman shared a link to the meeting evaluation using Menti, and the Chairman and Mr Harrow asked for feedback on the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm