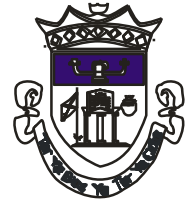

Hawick Community Council



MINUTES OF MEETING OF HAWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL held via Zoom on Monday 11th January 2021 following the AGM

Present:	Cameron Knox (Chairperson)	Marion Short (Vice-Chairperson)
	Jim Adams (Treasurer)	Margaret Hogg (Secretary)
	Brian Bouglas	Jock Campbell
	Braden George	Wilson George
	Keith Irving	Duncan Taylor
	Alan Wear	French Wight
	John Wilkinson	
Attending:	Councillor McAteer	Councillor Marshall
	Councillor Paterson	Councillor Ramage
	Councillor Turnbull	Derick Tait, Future Hawick

There were three members of the public also in attendance, as well as Graham Ford on behalf of the Hawick Paper.

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks** – The Chair welcomed everyone to the monthly January meeting of HCC and hoped that everyone had enjoyed a Merry Christmas and New Year.

Any members wishing to speak were advised to raise their hands, and only the Hawick Paper was permitted to record the meeting, for reporting purposes.

- 2. Declarations of Interest** – The Chair advised that any declarations of interest in any agenda items should be declared prior to discussion of the item. There were none intimated.
- 3. Apologies for Absence** – There were no apologies for absence intimated.
- 4. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting of 14th December 2020** – The Minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting – Proposed by Duncan Taylor and Seconded by French Wight.

- 5. Matters arising** – The Chair reported on the following matters arising:

Commemorative Board for Sporting Greats: following determination of ownership of the proposed site for this Board, the Chair proposed that quotes be sought for the works involved. This was accepted by HCC members as the way forward.

Rent Review of SBC Allotments – The Chair confirmed a letter had been sent to SBC and a response awaited. Councillor Ramage reported again that SBC had in any event continued this matter for a year, before making any final decision.

Teviot & Liddesdale Partnership Proposal – Noted that the Proposal was subject to proposed discussion at the T & L Partnership meeting the following evening, the outcome of which would be advised to the next HCC meeting in February.

Re-opening of Hawick Library and other venues – It was reported that contact had been made with Ewan Jackson, Live Borders, who had agreed to attend the HCC meeting in February when he could be asked to clarify when the town's public services, such as the Library and Museum would be re-opened.

20mph Consultation – It was reported that HCC's response had now been issued to SBC.

Jedburgh Legacy Group – Meeting with George Burt – Brian Bouglas reported that it had not been possible to arrange a meeting with George Burt but that he would continue to seek a date and advise everyone accordingly.

The Chair requested any other matters arising, of which there were none.

6. **High School Pupil Update** – Due to current COVID restrictions and ongoing learning constraints, no High School pupils were able to attend the meeting. Duncan Taylor reported that there had been issues in students being able to download online learning through Microsoft Teams, however, he was hopeful that Microsoft would be able to resolve such issues soon.
7. **Police Scotland Report** – Members had been circulated the latest Police Scotland Report, from which it had been disappointingly noted that there had been a high number of shoplifting occurrences in December in the run up to the Festive Period.
8. **Treasurer's Report** - The Treasurer spoke to his monthly December report, with expenditure only on additional Christmas lights for Bourtree Place and Oliver Place and associated contractor and equipment costs, together with a £20 fee for renewal of HCC's Lotteries Licence. The closing balance at the end of the month was £13,290.67.
9. **Public Forum & Town Issues**
 - (a) Damage to Sonia's Bistro following flooding in 2020 – Councillors were asked to provide any feedback on this. Councillor Marshall stated this matter was sensitive and reported that discussions were ongoing with the owner of the building concerned. Hopefully, something positive would be forthcoming to enable reporting to HCC in future.

It was noted that Conor Price, (CPE Consultancy) Hawick Flood Protection Scheme Project Manager, was willing to attend a future HCC meeting to provide an update on progress with flood prevention works in the town, which overall those attending agreed were going well.

- (b) Dog mess and rubbish in the town – following much discussion and examples of dog fouling reports and scenes witnessed with abusive dog owners when challenged, Councillors agreed

that dog fouling was an ongoing issue being reported to them almost daily and agreed with Members that the matter required much better policing as a deterrent. The owners were responsible for the actions of their dogs however concern was expressed that some owners had been known to turn violent when challenged on their behaviour.

It was noted that Councillor Paterson was in discussion with a private company on engaging a warden-type service to deter dog-fouling, however Councillor McAteer advised that taxpayers in the town were already paying through their Council Tax towards an £850k payment per annum to SBC's Community Action Team (CAT) Project. Whilst it was recognised that the CAT was doing a good job in relation to recovery of drugs, the issue of dog fouling had also been highlighted as another priority issue to tackle but this appeared not to be being considered as a priority for it.

Councillor Turnbull advised that a CAT meeting was scheduled for the following day, and Councillors were requested to ensure this matter was again raised at that meeting, irrespective of the fact it had been previously raised.

It was agreed that dog fouling continued to be a serious matter for monitoring and HCC would await feedback from the CAT Meeting to be held the following day.

On the matter of litter, Councillor Turnbull advised that he was in contact almost weekly with Fraser Dunlop, SBC, who was responsive. Disappointingly, however, as soon as any area is cleaned up, it returns to its former state in no time at all.

- (c) Gritting – It was agreed that many areas in the town had in the previous week experienced treacherous icy conditions causing accidents, following failure on the part of SBC to arrange gritting on time as a preventative measure.

Councillors advised that they had been in receipt of many complaints from townsfolk on this matter and that these had already been addressed with SBC officers concerned. Councillor Ramage also advised that some areas however were not the responsibility of SBC and that the public should be aware that in some instances, local housing providers, such as Scottish Borders Housing Association were responsible for some pathways and areas around housing belonging to them. Councillor Marshall advised that issues in making contact on the Emergency Planning number had not helped nor the lack of grit bins.

It was agreed that HCC would write to SBC formally recording concerns on this matter and including the two issues advised by Councillor Marshall.

- (d) CCTV – Councillors were asked at what stage the matter of withdrawal of CCTV in the town centre was at. Councillor McAteer reported that this had been raised with the Police who were responsible for monitoring of the CCTV. SBC had confirmed that it would not be replacing nor maintaining existing CCTV provisions. Information had been requested on what CCTV was still working and what was being monitored and this was awaited.
- (e) Garden of Remembrance – It was noted that Kay Marie Hughes was pursuing progress with this and Councillor Marshall agreed to contact her for an update to report back to HCC.

- (f) Car Parking issues in Crumhaugh area – It was noted that Crumhaugh House had been used in the past by residents in this area for car parking. Since Crumhaugh House had been closed off, the parking situation in Crumhaugh Road and surrounding streets had become chaotic, not helped by double yellow lines along the junction of Cheviot Road and Crumhaugh Road. Braden George asked if there would be any possibility of Crumhaugh House being opened again to allow for car parking and for the yellow lines to be removed.

Councillors advised that Crumhaugh House was privately owned and as such not a matter for decision by SBC. It was also noted that the yellow lines were on a junction, and therefore parking at junctions was not considered suitable. Councillor Paterson agreed to contact the private owner, however, advised there may be issues with their accepting any responsibility for parked cars at that private location.

10. Reports from Sub-Committees

- (a) A7 Action Group – no updates to report.
- (b) Christmas Event – The Vice-Chair reported she had been in contact with all stallholders, some past, present, and new, and had received an excellent response to their attending our next Christmas event. This event could hopefully revert, due to numbers of interested stallholders, to the town centre around the Horse area, as a one-day event with a proposed date of Saturday, 4th December 2021.

The Chair also advised of the Christmas Competition winners 2020, which had been reported in the Hawick Paper the previous Friday. On the matter of the Christmas Lights, the Chair advised that it was proposed these would be taken down on Sunday, 17th January starting at 8.30am at the Horse. HCC members were asked to provide their assistance if possible, along with any other volunteers.

French Wight requested arrangements be made if possible, for the uplift of the Christmas Tree at the Bridal Shop, and it was agreed the Vice-Chair would arrange this with Fraser Dunlop for Monday. It was also noted that some ducks required collection from shops, and Jock Campbell undertook to ensure recovery of these for future use.

- (c) Hawick Common Good – no updates to report.
- (d) Hawick in Bloom – Noted that whilst there were no updates to report this month, it was proposed to have contact in February/March with volunteers on planting requirements for ordering in April.
- (e) Wind Farms – no updates to report.

11. Updates from Community Partners

- (a) Foundation Scotland – The Vice-Chair spoke to her recent email to HCC members regarding the use of funding for 2021 which was anticipated to total £10,366.24 including £1,566.25 carried forward from 2020 and an anticipated FS Grant of £8,800 for 2021.

This funding would allow £7k to be distributed for 10 x £500 grants for constituted organisations and 8 x £250 grants for un-constituted groups. This would leave a sum of £3,366.24. It was then proposed that £1,000 be re-allocated to Hawick in Bloom and £1,000 to Christmas Events for the purchase of additional lighting, with the remaining £1,366.24 to be added to Williestruther ring-fenced fund of £3,417.72, as the quote for works required at Williestruther had been obtained some time ago and costs were likely to have risen.

The Vice-Chair to issue HCC's Distribution Plan 2020 to Foundation Scotland as soon as possible to allow grant funding for 2021 to then be released.

Members agreed with the Vice-Chair's proposals. It was also agreed that availability of Foundation Scotland grants should be better publicised through our website, social media channels and other appropriate methods this year to encourage a wide range of applicants.

(b) Future Hawick – Derick Tait reported on the following:

- i) Property Upgrade Grant Scheme – the £40k budget had now been fully allocated with 28 properties benefitting. Only one or two properties required works to be completed. A new Project Officer had been appointed for the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) which was hoped would see this progressing.
- ii) Hawick Welcome 2021 – This would be subject to COVID restrictions and a “wait and see” how this develops. The campervan situation at the Common Haugh regarding layout provision is however progressing, with meetings having been held with SBC Councillors and Officials. A final decision on this is awaited from SBC.
- iii) Future Hawick had granted funding assistance in recent months towards cleaning in the High Street, Hawick in Bloom to assist with Winter planting costs and for additional Christmas lights at Drumlanrig Square.
- iv) In the run-up to Christmas, the Shop Local Initiative in conjunction with the Hawick Paper was reported to have gone very well, with buy-in from shopkeepers and businesses alike. The community had largely supported this initiative and Future Hawick was now looking at ways to extend this Initiative into the New Year.
- v) The Community Project over Christmas to raise Christmas cheer in the community by providing selection boxes to primary school children had proved a great success. Due to the generosity of local businesses, including HCC, donations allowed selection boxes etc to be provided in addition to care homes, nurseries, and the High School.
- vi) Town of the Horse – It was noted funding was now in place for a Feasibility Study and Business Plan to be prepared and that FH was now looking to set up a Steering Group for this project.
- vii) Other projects reported: The Display for Made in Hawick was now in place in the former Green Café shop front; Hawick Online website upgrade was ongoing; FH was pursuing membership of Dtas (Development Trust Status) and FH was pressing SBC and South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE) in relation to the appointment of a Community Enterprise Manager.

(c) Resilience – The Vice-Chair reported that the Resilience Group was back up and running, with about one-fifth of the numbers of volunteers than previously. Requests were starting to come in, however, concern was expressed that some of the requests were coming from people who had COVID. It had therefore been necessary for the Vice-Chair to contact SBC for further PPE, and she sought assurance from the Councillors present, that they would endorse this request. Councillors were happy to give their support.

12. Planning Issues – The Chair reported that there were no planning issues for consideration.

13. Correspondence – The Chair advised that an email had been received from the Unpaid Work Team at SBC offering the use of a resource for work to be carried out in Hawick under the Community Payback Orders, formerly Community Service. Members agreed that the issue of litter highlighted earlier in the meeting, would be identified for this resource, and a response to be issued to SBC accordingly.

14. AOCB – The Chair referred to a list of HCC Meeting Dates issued by the Secretary to HCC Members for 2021. It was hoped that it would not be too long before face-to-face meetings could again be held however requested members agreement to these dates. HCC members agreed the proposed meeting dates, which would be placed on HCC's notice board and on the website.

Councillor McAteer raised the Flood Scheme mentioned earlier in the meeting and reported since the last HCC meeting, the amount of over £12m, more than any award made to a mid-sized town like Hawick, had been attributed for use as part of the Active Travel Network. HCC's views on use of this funding were requested.

15. Date of next meeting – It was agreed that the next meeting of HCC would be held on Monday, 8th February 2021 at 6.30pm.