WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19th SEPTEMBER 2012

**Present:**
Members:
- Mrs SE Horsburgh Chairman
- Dr SGD Henderson
- Mr A Hoggarth
- Mr E Lavender
- Col JJ Purves MBE
- Ms H Shepherd
- Mrs PS Purves CBE Secretary
Ex Officio:
- Cllr S Bell

**ITEM 1: Chairman’s Introduction.** The Chairman welcomed everyone.

**ITEM 2: Apologies and Notices.** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Garvie and Logan, Mr Brett and Miss McIntosh.

**ITEM 3: Open Questions.** Residents reported that the retaining wall on Peebles Road appeared to be losing more of the facing stones and showing more signs of cracking. The secretary noted that there had been an engineer’s inspection in 2010. Cllr Bell agreed to ask SBC to check the wall again. There was a complaint about wild roses, brambles etc overhanging the pavement on Galashiels Road from the allotments/Jubilee Park. The Secretary of the Development Trust explained that a programme of strimming back overgrown areas had begun with the priority being to strim back areas impacting on most people first but that the area mentioned would be done soon.

**ITEM 4: Police Business.** PC Rogerson had submitted his report in advance. He noted that he was still investigating a case of vandalism against property. He told Members that this was his last meeting since he was leaving soon to take up a training post. He said that he had enjoyed working in Walkerburn and thanked residents for all their support. The Chairman said that PC Rogerson had provided a huge contribution to the Community and thanked him on behalf of everyone for all his hard work. Mr Purves seconded her comments and added that, in his opinion, PC Rogerson had been the best Community Officer the village had seen for many years. Members agreed and expressed their best wishes for PC Rogerson’s future.

**ITEM 5: Monthly Report from WCDT.** The secretary WCDT reported that the planning paperwork for the new paths in Jubilee Park was being progressed.

**ITEM 6: Minutes of August Meeting.** Dr Henderson proposed acceptance of the minutes of the August meeting. This was seconded by Ms Shepherd and passed unanimously.

**ITEM 7: Matters Arising.**

a. **Item 7b: Permissive Path at Tweed Bridge.** A gate has been put into the fence allowing normal access to the permissive path.

b. **Item 7c: Fishing Platform.** An SBC contractor has started to remove and grass over the area. Members asked the secretary to express their thanks to Jason Hedley, SBC, for his prompt action.

c. **Item 9: Community Council Seminar 29th September.** The secretary reported that only Miss McIntosh had expressed an interest in attending and asked if anyone else was available. No one else was available. Afternote: Seminar has been cancelled through lack of interest.

**ITEM 8: Planning.** The Chairman noted that members had already been informed of 2 matters. She asked the secretary to talk through them:


b. Woodland Strategy Paper. Comments required by 11th October. Members enjoyed reading the Advice Note but were uncertain as to its actual purpose other than to give general information on topography. In view of the Scottish Government’s current

**ACTION**

Cllr Bell
consultation it also seemed slightly inappropriate to be putting out this document at present. All agreed that there was a need to find a mechanism to restrict the loss of arable land and the unrestrained planning of commercial forestry which not only impacted upon the tourist-friendly landscape but also had severe environmental impacts. Members agreed that the secretary should draft a suitable reply.

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<th>ITEM 9: Correspondence. The list had been circulated as usual:</th>
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<td>1. Various emails about Sunnybrae Lodge and the proposed CPO including comment from the secretary that the War Memorial had been ignored in the latest round. Members noted that the retaining wall onto the A72 was in a state of collapse and that if the owner was left with a small patch of inaccessible garden SBC would have to foot the eventual bill for rebuilding the dyke. Everyone considered that the way in which SBC had dealt with this matter showed a complete disregard for the public purse. Members agreed that the secretary should produce a chronology of Community Council actions since 2002 and send it to Councillors.</td>
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<td>2. Various emails about the Walking Festival 2013 proposals including the minutes and notes of the initial meeting attended by Mr Hoggarth who explained that volunteers were still being sought and that he had involved himself in marketing aspects.</td>
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<td>3. Email from Scottish Government re the analysis of responses to the consultation “Affordable Rented Housing: Creating flexibility for landlords and better outcomes for communities” available. An expert group made up of tenants representatives, landlords and others has been established to help take forward all of the proposals in the consultation, which will inform final decisions about what will feature in the forthcoming Housing Bill. <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/16342/management/consultation">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/16342/management/consultation</a> Follow regular posts and add comments on: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/scottishhousingconsultation">www.facebook.com/scottishhousingconsultation</a>. Contact is: <a href="mailto:socialhousing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk">socialhousing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk</a> or phone on 0131 244 5401.</td>
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<td>4. Lothian and Borders Police Board update for August circulated.</td>
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<td>5. Notice that SBC’s Arts Development department will be throwing open the doors of their “Artstore” community equipment resource on Wed 12 and Thu 13 Sep at the Victoria Halls, Selkirk. The open event is to enable local arts and cultural groups, voluntary organisations, schools, private companies that do charitable work and public sector organisations the opportunity to try the vast range of equipment that is on offer. An inventory of the equipment available can be downloaded from <a href="http://www.scotborders.gov.uk">www.scotborders.gov.uk</a>.</td>
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<td>6. Email on progress of cycle path from Peebles to Innerleithen which included news that funding for a bridge across the Tweed had been gained.</td>
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<td>7. Invitation to join the Scottish Communities Climate Action Network. Members agreed that Walkerburn should join.</td>
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<td>8. Notification that the Mobile Library will operate a 3 week rota from 1 October rather than the current fortnightly rota.</td>
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<td>9. Notification of open meeting in Jedburgh on 13th September on wind energy.</td>
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<td>10. Information on the setting of 18th October for Innerleithen uplift ballot. Official ballot papers will be delivered to all residences early in October. The delivery will include details of the proposal, as well as information on how to cast a vote. To make voting as easy as possible, a Freepost return envelope will be supplied, and volunteers will also visit homes to collect votes a few days after the ballot papers are delivered. <a href="http://aimup.org.uk/">http://aimup.org.uk/</a> or via Facebook ‘Support-the-Innerleithen-Uplift;’.</td>
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<td>11. A number of invitations to very expensive conferences on Welfare Reform.</td>
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| ITEM 10: Resilient Communities. Members once again debated the pros and cons of the Resilient Communities scheme. The consensus was that the village and district already had neighbourly help systems in place which worked well and might be inhibited by the formalisation process inherent in the Resilient Communities scheme. It was decided to drop the idea at present. | Secretary |
ITEM 1: Reports by Members.
   a. Potholes on the bridge and outside the HB Club were getting worse after the last spate of forestry HGV and should be repaired before winter. Cllr Bell would report this but asked the Chairman to report such matters directly to Jason Hedley in future.
   b. Teams were sought for the School Quiz night and it was agreed that there ought to be a Community Council Team. Cllr Bell kindly agreed to join this team.

ITEM 12: Reports by SBC Councillors.
Cllr Bell reported that the annual survey of white lining was complete and a priority list had been drawn up. He would make sure that the white lining in the village was carried out. The road markings 'SLOW' would also be repainted in the village and at Holylee. Verge/grass cutting at High Cottages was planned when weather and specialist machinery were available. Finally he reminded members that the A72 Peebles to Leadburn road would be closed for 5 days from 24th September. This road closure had not been made lightly but was essential to allow road maintenance to be carried out safely.


ITEM 14: Date of Next Meeting. Wednesday 17th October at 7.30pm. The Chairman reminded members that this meeting would start with a discussion about road and pedestrian safety on Peebles Road. A brief note would be circulated by the secretary and members of the public encouraged to attend.

ITEM 15: Chairman’s Closing Remarks. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Date: October 2012
Mrs SE Horsburgh
Chairman
Mrs PS Purves
Secretary