WALKERNBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2010

Present:

Members: Mr G Thornton Chairman
 Mr R Brett
 Mrs S Horsburgh
 Miss MM McIntosh MBE
 Mr JJ Purves MBE
 Mrs L Thornton
 Mrs PS Purves CBE Secretary

Ex Officio: Cllr G Garvie, Cllr G Logan

ITEM 1: Chairman’s Introduction. The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced Nichola Sewell the NHS Healthy Living worker who gave a short presentation on her work. All agreed that the Initiative had been and would continue to be of relevance and importance to the health of local residents.

ITEM 2: Open Questions. There were no questions.

ITEM 3: Monthly Report from WCDT. The Secretary WCDT reported that:

a. Allotments Development. Work was about to begin and the landscape plan was being discussed with SBC: it was hoped that the Sitka Spruce would be felled and replaced with broad leaves. It was hoped to run a competition to name the whole area and further development was under active consideration.
b. Work continued to try to develop an acceptable plan for the old mill site. A number of businesses in the area had expressed keen interest in using units/space on the site.
c. It was agreed that Secretary WCDT should chase Vattenfall to arrange another Community Gain meeting.

ITEM 4: Police Business. PC Craig Rogerson had sent in a police report. Miss McIntosh expressed her congratulations to the local police on an excellent Open Day at Peebles Police Station on Saturday 4th September. Thanks were also expressed for the advice PC Rogerson had given the owners of the Post Office/Store on their security arrangements.

ITEM 5: Apologies and Notices. Apologies had been received from Cllr Herd, PC Rogerson, Ms Ogilivie and Mrs Rodger.

ITEM 6: Minutes of August Meeting. Mrs Horsburgh proposed adoption of the Minutes of the August meeting seconded by Mr Brett. Passed.

ITEM 7: Matters Arising.

a. Item 9a: Licensing Policy Statement. Ms Rodger was going to review the Licensing Policy Statement from the Council and advise on a response. The secretary would chase.
b. Item 9c: Digital Strategy for the Borders. Mrs Horsburgh reported that:
   (1) The paper only discusses concerns re the lack of adequate broadband speeds in large areas of the Borders so the title is slightly misleading.
   (2) Production costs are a problem but the print size in this document made it difficult to read and understand.
   (3) The paper notes the current government target of 2mbit/s download speeds for everyone by 2012. This speed is still not available in all areas and may not be met by the deadline. As the paper points out, this is going to leave us behind, particularly as regards business. Already with the roll out of next generation broadband in some areas allowing 20mbit/s download speeds, we have a lot of catching up to do if we are to keep up with other parts of the country.
   (4) Tourism and businesses generally rely, in this age of rapid technological advances, on fast broadband speeds and the public generally should be able to make use of the leisure activities out there on offer. We cannot afford to get left behind whether promoting the Borders as a venue for sporting events, WiFi access for press or businesses or...
simply being able to watch a film or a programme on B BCiplayer.  
(5) The paper gives examples of world wide solutions and details clearly what the 
posibilities are in this country. It is clear, concise and informative.  
(6) It is clear that a national strategy needs to be adopted including planned funding with 
local and national commitment. We need to be looking beyond 2mbit/s speed now as this 
is becoming out of date as we speak. If we want the Borders to grow and develop, a 
strategy needs to be in place to start rolling at the earliest possible date.  
(7) In agreement with the paper, Mrs Horsburgh believed that WCC should be 
campaigning for as high a broadband speed as possible and at least the 20mbit/s by 
2017.  
Discussion. The Chairman thanked Mrs Horsburgh for her clear explanation. All agreed 
with the tenor of her comments and the secretary would pass them on to MSP Jeremy 
Purvis. Cllr Garvie noted that all Lib Dem politicians were behind an active push forward 
to better broadband provision in rural areas.  
c. Item 11b: Signage. The secretary still did not have an answer on signage at the end 
of Caberston Road and from the back road. She would try to get an answer before the 
October meeting.  

ITEM 8: Planning  
b. Application 10/01290/LBCNN. Alterations to the attic at the HB Club. No objections 
raised.  

ITEM 9: Correspondence. The list had been circulated to Members as usual.  
a. Item 2. SESPlan. The secretary gave a brief report on the meeting attended by Mrs 
Thornton and herself on 18th August. A brief would be circulated to members.  
b. Item 7. Changes to Area Committee System. There was general agreement that the 
loss of the Area Committee System was further indication of the creeping centralisation 
also indicated by SESPlan. Mr Purves made the point that the two tier system now 
operating in the Borders was unacceptable with some Area Committees still operating on 
the weak excuse that members of the public attended their meetings. Either there was a 
requirement for the system or not. Cllr Garvie noted that the system would be reviewed 
but members were clear that democracy in Tweeddale had been struck another blow.  

ITEM 10: Remembrance Sunday Arrangements. Mr Purves reported on a successful 
and amicable meeting attended by the Police, Church of Scotland and Episcopal Church 
representatives with apologies from RC. A programme had been devised for the 
ceremony at the War Memorial based on last year. The usual notice would be sent to 
Burning Issues. The secretary reported that the usual arrangements would be made for 
lunch with the work party required from 9.30am. The Chairman reported that the Lord 
Lieutenant had written asking whether the Chairman of the War Graves Commission 
could lay a wreath at Walkerburn in 2010 in recognition of the huge sacrifice made by the 
village especially in WW1. All agreed that this would be an honour.  

ITEM 11: Reports by Members. Mr Brett reported that the accounts had been 
inspected and sent to SBC.  

ITEM 12: Reports by SBC Councillors. Cllr Garvie asked that he and the other 
Councillors be sent Burning Issues – Mr Thornton agreed to check and ensure action. 
Cllr Garvie ran through the arrangements for the Chambers Institute and the re-
establishment of the Trust to run it for the people of Peebles and Tweeddale. Cllr Logan 
rang through the consultant’s flood report noting the reservations expressed by the 
secretary with which he agreed about the utility of such a very surface report. He would 
continue to press for action. He also explained that no SLOW signs could be painted on 
roads within the 30mph limits and that he would be holding a site meeting later in the 
week, also attended by Cllr Garvie, to look again at the sightlines on the exit from High 
Cottages.  

ITEM 13: Any Other Business. Nil
ITEM 14: Date of Next Meeting. 18th October at 7.30pm. Mrs Horsburgh would act as secretary since the secretary would be absent.

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