

**CRAILING, ECKFORD & NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**WEDNESDAY, 30 MARCH 2016**  
**ECKFORD VILLAGE HALL, ECKFORD AT 7pm**

**DRAFT MINUTE**

1. **Attendees:** John Campbell (Chair), Sylvia Seivwright (Secy/Treasurer), Caroline Cook, Marie Hogg, Charlie Robertson, Ron Leddy, Sheila Campbell. Around 20 members of the public were also in attendance.
2. **Apologies:** Community Councillors Donald Linton & Elliott Lewis. Anne Osman, Anne Jackson and Viv Crompton for Buccleuch presentation.

3. **Representative from Buccleuch Estates to discuss Eckford Housing item**

The Chair welcomed Annabelle Scott, Ed Morris and Elin Lambie from Buccleuch Estates to the meeting and explained that the community welcomed their attendance to discuss development proposals in Eckford and also provide an update on the Black Barn, arrangements for the Loaning and the ground on which the Village Hall sits. He also advised attendees that unedited submissions on the proposals received from residents had been forwarded to Buccleuch Estates in advance of the meeting.

Annabelle Scott explained that the South site proposal had been submitted to SBC for outline planning permission. The site is to be sold for one house with access via the cul de sac and will be served by a private septic tank.

The North Site was still under consideration so nothing has yet been submitted to SBC. It is anticipated that this site would accommodate 2 separate houses (with private septic tanks) any new build would be expected to be in keeping with the current adjacent properties. Issues being investigated include the surface condition of the Loaning, extending the parking area for current residents and possible access from Eckford Road. It was recognised that the junction at the Loaning is dangerous and that alternative access routes would be discussed with SBC. **Action:** Cllr Rory Stewart will liaise with Police and SBC regarding accident black spot and the possibility of the 30 mph limits being moved further away from the village.

She advised that the Black Barn does contain asbestos and Buccleuch Estates are keen to repair the building if they can first find suitable tenants. In the meantime they intend to fence off the area around the building for health and safety reasons, deal with any rats and arrange for grass cutting around the barn. It was noted that the Black Barn is out-with the settlement boundary.

They are currently reviewing the Deed of Trust for the Village Hall and will report back with their findings.

**A question and answer session followed and Buccleuch Estates have agreed to the following:-**

- ◆ To do what they can to ensure when the south site land is sold it will be for 1 property only; the north site land for 2 separate properties only; buildings to be no larger than 1½ storeys; all to be serviced by private septic tanks. These conditions would be stipulated in the disposition. It was noted that once the site is sold it would be the Community Council who would liaise with SBC on detailed planning submissions.
- ◆ Liaise with SBC in respect of the steepness and width of the access route to the South Site property between Bernmaur and The Schoolhouse. SBC will be asked to provide feedback. It was noted that the planning process would deal with any matters relating to water and drainage.
- ◆ Give consideration to improving the bins in the Loaning which are unsightly.
- ◆ Resuming responsibility for this maintenance work on the Loaning road surface on request but cannot guarantee the frequency of visits. They do not expect residents to fill in pot holes however they do appreciate this assistance and will make efforts to provide planings more frequently.

The residents present and Buccleuch Estates commended Charlie Robertson on the vast amount of work he does to keep the Loaning area looking attractive and also volunteering to fill in the pot holes.

It was also noted that two cottages at Wester Wooden may come on the market. It was intimated that the road leading to Eckford Hall Steading required attention. There was no significance in the different colours between Tower Cottage and Smithy Cottage on the map provided.

4. **Minute of previous meeting Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016** - Approved.

5. **Matters Arising**

Community Right to Buy Eckford Village Hall – Colin Gray from the Scottish Government Land Reform Unit gave a presentation at Eckford Village Hall AGM. The consensus of those present was to investigate the matter further. Buccleuch Estates have been approached for their views.

Renewal of lease of Crailing Play Park - Lothian Estates are still considering this matter and will write to the CC formally in due course.

Eckford Parish Church - We have been notified that the Church has now been sold and CC contact details have been passed to the Solicitor of the new owner in respect of acquiring artifacts for the village.

Bus Service – Since the Jedburgh to Nisbet journey had been rarely used JC suggested to John Dellow at SBC that this route could be on a needs only basis. Whilst the gesture was welcomed the route will continue until the Bus review is completed later in the year. The CC are continuing to encourage locals and visitors to use the service and a feature of the Jubilee Path launch in June will include distribution of bus timetables for walkers to access different parts of the route. Cllr Stewart added that the bus review will be taking account of linking bus routes to rail times. SS advised that Nisbet residents are more likely to use the bus service in the summer months.

Defibrillator Cold Weather Issue: Longer term resolution under investigation. **Action SC:** Investigating

War Memorial: The addition of Pvte Black is in hand and will be marked at a remembrance ceremony in November.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

Since the last CC meeting in January we have dealt with a grant application (submitted by Margaret Jeary) for updating the names on the War Memorial £329 received and £328.80 paid out. In addition we have paid out £9.30 for AED stickers for Ulston, £6.48 for postage stamps and £20 for walking project launch expenses. £353.38 has been paid out for timber for the Kalemouth stretch of the walking project which we anticipate being reimbursed through the SBC Local Community Paths Maintenance Grant scheme. An application has been submitted and accepted by SBC but the funds have not yet been received into our bank account.

Reserves have been held for anticipated expenses as noted in the minute of 11th November 2015 leaving a current balance available of £302.58. It was agreed not to commit to any further significant unplanned expenses until all of the walking project costs have been concluded.

SS reported that the CC Insurance has been renewed via SBC.

7. **Police Report – PC Gary Chisholm**

The police report for the area included an update on shoplifting, vandalism, anti social behavior, threatening behavior and driving without insurance. These incidents had occurred in Jedburgh and Kelso.

8. **Three Year Plan 2014-2017**

- (i) Walking Route Update and Launch details The way markers and signposts are now in place. The gates will be erected shortly and CR will strim the route again before the launch. The Criminal Justice Team are to be commended for their great work on this project in particular the earth work under the road bridge. CR advised that the route should now be referred to as the “Jubilee Path” as it could be used by cyclists and horse riders as well as walkers. The booklet is now on Draft 8 and is waiting for cartography to be concluded before it can go to the printers.

An update on the plans for the launch of the Jubilee Path were reported by SC.

- (ii) Community Path Grant We can apply to this grant for costs relating to the erection of gates.
- (iii) Website Update The Website has taken much longer than anticipated due to its complexity however the end is in sight. SC has contacted Awards for All and they have agreed to extend the grant offer timetable to enable the project to be completed.
- (iv) Resilient Communities Update CR advised that following the recent flooding issues it was evident that each of the four locations are more likely to deal with emergency situations on their own without calling on neighbouring communities for assistance. As a result he felt that the role of overall coordinator was not required. There was a general understanding of this suggestion.  
**Action SS:** To contact Jim Fraser, Resilient Communities at SBC to identify any complications that may arise as a result of dispensing with the overall coordinator role.

It was felt that there was still a place to hold a Resilient Communities exercise either joint or as individual communities.

CR suggested that whilst the SBAAlert Scheme was excellent there were some items that were inappropriate and sometimes not relevant to this area. Cllr Stewart agreed and will pass this view on at an appropriate time.

### 9. Community Paths Grant Scheme

An expression of Interest in this new grant scheme has been submitted with a view to creating a picnic area and orientation boards on Wooden Hill and some benches at other locations along the route.

**Action :** SC to report back.

### 10. Community Updates from Local Community Councillors

- (i) Crailing – nothing new to report.
- (ii) Eckford – there are numerous pot holes on the road through Eckford which are being reported regularly however this has not resulted in the issue being resolved.
- (iii) Nisbet - Having issues replacing solar bulbs in the phone box. It was agreed that a new solar light should be purchased. The Nisbet Notice Board needs to be replaced.  
**Action SS:** Purchase replacement solar light. **Action Cllr RS** To source a notice board
- (iv) Ulston - RL reported that speeding issues in Ulston were being addressed. A meeting has been arranged for 6<sup>th</sup> April with Cllr R Stewart, Jim McQuillin of SBC, PC Gary Chisholm and local residents with a view to finding a satisfactory solution.

### 11. SBC Update (Councillor R. Stewart)

A review of the schools estate has been taking place over the last 6/8 months with public consultation. Jedburgh has had the most visitors to date. The plan is to improve the schools provision in Jedburgh over the next 10/20 yrs. Views can be expressed online.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April Borders Sports and Leisure will be rebranded Live Borders and will incorporate some libraries, museums, community centres, halls, archives and arts development which were formally run by Scottish Borders Council alongside their existing portfolio of leisure centres and sports facilities/activities.

The Council's budget was approved on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016

### 12. Planning Applications.

- (i) Nisbet Mill Cottages – deadline for observations 27 March 2016 – none received.
- (ii) Bonjedward – since the meeting we have been advised that the application has been rejected.
- (iii) Eckford - Buccleuch Estates have met with residents as noted above and the CC will submit its planning observations to SBC.

### 13. Correspondence

- (i) Budget Briefing Meeting 4 Feb 2016 – circulated.
- (ii) Community Energy Scotland Members Bulletin – circulated.
- (iii) Health and Social Care Network Newsletter – circulated.
- (iv) CARES Conference 15/16 March 2016 – circulated.
- (v) B6401 Road Closure – 21 March for 4 days – circulated to community.
- (vi) LEADER Programme Funding – circulated.
- (vii) Scottish Borders Supplementary Guidance (Housing) Call for sites - circulated
- (viii) Digi Workshop Report – circulated.
- (ix) School Estate Review and Pre-Consultation – deadline - 11 April 2016
- (x) Safer Borders News – March 2016 Edition – circulated.
- (xi) Borders.co.uk website – circulated
- (xii) Floral Gateway – circulated – Closing date 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016 – no further action.
- (xiii) Live Borders – circulated
- (xiv) Pension Wise – offer to present at a CC meeting . As most pension information was personal and specific to individuals it was decided that it would be more appropriate to promote this facility via the e-newsletter. **Action SC:** Respond to offer and circulate via e-newsletter

### 14. AOB

Flogas - RL raised the issue of Flogas contacting individuals and offering them different deals to those agreed and promoted via the CC/Flogas agreement. In some cases the cash back difference was as much as £100 and the per litre difference could be as much as 3p per litre which was felt to be unfair.

**Action SC:** Contact Flogas to raise concerns.

### 15. Date of Next Meeting – AGM

25<sup>th</sup> May 2016 – with Border National Park speaker to be invited. **Action SS**  
Followed by standard meeting.