

CRAILING, ECKFORD AND NISBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting, Lothian Hall, Crailing

21st May 2018 @7pm

MINUTE

Attendees:

Sylvia Seivwright (Chair), Peter Jeary (Treasurer), Victoria Wood (Secretary), Dorothy Willis Caroline Cook, Charlie Robertson, Elliott Lewis, Linda Coles, Nominees – Malcolm McGregor.

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Ron Leddy, Sheila Campbell and Marie Hogg

2. Presentation:

Presentation by local historian and author Norrie McLeish – “The Nisbet Tragedy”

The chairman welcomed Norrie McLeish local historian and author of several books such as Haunted Borders, Death in the Borders and Borderline Cases.

Norrie gave an interesting and informative talk on the Nisbet Tragedy recounting the details of a tragic incident which took place at East Nisbet Farmhouse on 30th December 1856 whereby 24 year old maid Jane Telfer was murdered by 14 year old William Nichol from Eckford. Nichol shot Telfer while she was standing in a passageway near the kitchen in the farmhouse with a firearm belonging to Mr Walker, master of the house. Telfer subsequently died of her injuries and various witness statements led to Nichol being tried at the High Court in Jedburgh where he was found guilty of Culpable Homicide and Reckless Discharge of a Firearm. Due to numerous factors, Nichol only received 6 weeks prison sentence and was later freed. After disappearing from subsequent census records, he was eventually traced aged 38, married and living in Ontario, Canada, now working as a farmer. Jane’s father Thomas who had been a farm steward at East Nisbet Farmhouse and lived at 1 East Nisbet Farm Cottages died in 1889 and was listed as a missionary for the Free church. Jane Telfer was buried in Nisbet churchyard and her grave can still be seen today, a large obelisk type memorial. Nothing on her grave denotes the tragic circumstances

of her death and her gravestone simply states that she died aged 25 – (24 in all the paper records of the incident). Few people are aware of the Nisbet Tragedy, the murder of the young maid Jane Telfer.

A question and answer session followed, and a vote of thanks was proposed by Charlie Robertson.

3. Minutes of previous AGM held on 24th May 2017 (Eckford):

The minutes were approved, having been proposed by Peter Jeary and seconded by Charlie Robertson.

Matters arising from the minutes – there were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Chairman's Report:

The Chairman gave an overview of the activities undertaken over the year including:-

Chairman's Report – 2018

(June 2017 – May 2018)

Over the past year community Council achievements are as follows:

1. At the AGM of the Community Council, the Chairman post became vacant and the Community Council were unable to appoint a new Chairman. Following discussion, it was agreed to hold a further meeting, to allow time for various options to be explored. The retiring Chairman John Campbell agreed to chair the rest of the Meeting. Subsequently, a special Meeting of the community Council was held on 19 June, where I (Sylvia Seivwright) was appointed Chairman. This left a vacancy for Treasurer, which was filled by Peter Jeary and we were pleased to advise that Linda Cole from Crailing would be taking on the role of Secretary. Linda later gave up this role and we are pleased to advise that Victoria Wood from Crailing has now taken over as secretary on an external basis. Many thanks to both for all your help and support.
2. **THE THREE-YEAR PLAN (2014-2017)** Significant progress has been made over the various projects.
 - (a) Jubilee Path A new route has been completed allowing walkers to go under the road on the A698 at Kalemouth, so it is now much safer.

Further changes will be made on the stretch at the top of the Loaning to make it more accessible and be more helpful to the farmer. Charlie will be able to explain more about this. The path is proving very popular with individuals and groups and the booklet is in the process of being updated and reprinted. Many thanks to Charlie, who continues to keep the path trimmed and in good order. A proposal for the erection of a bus shelter at the Teviot Smokery, the starting and finishing point for many of the walkers, is currently being investigated. Concerns raised at the last meeting regarding the speed of traffic on the A698 at the Teviot Smokery has also been raised with the police and is also currently under investigation.

- (b) Website - Sheila Campbell continues to administer the Community Council website, which has been well viewed and has proved a huge success. Work continues on updating the site and website functionality. The addition of the Oil Group is currently being tested. Many thanks to Sheila for all the hard work she continues to put into the project.
- (c) AED Defibrillators - As you are aware, Elliot Smith gave notice that he would be giving up as overall administrator of the project. The pads in all of the AED'S have now been replaced and the batteries will require to be replaced in August. We were fortunate to have Malcolm McGregor from Nisbet agree to take over from Elliot and he now has all the training equipment. Malcolm has already had a hand over with Elliot. So thank you Malcolm.
- (d) The Group Oil Purchase Scheme continues to be a success and Jane Vickers has now taken over the administration from Elliot Smith. It is worth noting that the community have saved around £16,031 by being part of the scheme. Our thanks to Jane for all her hand work.
- (e) Our very successful and much appreciated e-newsletters are now being created and distributed via MailChimp so they have a more professional look. 17 e-newsletters have been distributed in the last year. Many thanks again to Sheila.
- (f) New Three-Year Plan A new Three Year Plan was proposed and the Community Council are currently considering items to include on the Plan.

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES.

The equipment in the Resilient Communities sheds, provide by Scottish Borders Council, has proved invaluable, some of which was made good use of during the recent spell of bad weather.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Submissions from Scottish Borders council were considered and discussed.

Other

The Community Council have dealt with a large amount of correspondence sent to us for consideration. We hosted the Annual Crailing Ride-out and provided a wreath for the remembrance service at Eckford Parish Church. The Community Council has also registered an interest in the Watchtower at Eckford Parish Church, should it become available for sale. Following a proposal from the Community Council a 30 MPH speed limit was introduced at Ulston.

THANKS

My thanks to all the Community Councillors, SBC local Members, SBC Officials, grant funders and local residents for their contributions and help and support over the last year and I wish the Community Council all the best for the future. Our Community Council is seen as a shining light and is highly thought of by other Community councils, long may it continue.

5. Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer presented the Annual Accounts which had been independently examined by Jock Henderson, FCMA. The Treasurer then gave a brief explanation of the accounts and of forthcoming financial commitments. No questions were raised however the Treasurer expressed concern that in the future the annual grant from SBC would not cover the anticipated expenditure in relation to AED maintenance and website hosting costs. The annual admin grant currently being £540, AED batteries being approximately £800 and website hosting/SSL certificates £360 for the coming year. The Treasurer suggested that fundraising may be an option for the future and it was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting of the council. The accounts were formally approved and proposed by Sylvia Seivwright, seconded by Linda Coles.

6. Appointment / Election of Community Councillors:

It was noted that Sylvia Seivwright, Caroline Cook and Charlie Robertson were all due for re-election in 2018. Sylvia Seivwright was retiring fully from the Council whilst both Caroline Cook and Charlie Robertson were re-elected to the posts of Crailing

Community Councillor and Eckford Community Councillor respectively. Two new councillors were proposed, Malcom McGregor (Nisbet) proposed by Sylvia Seivwright and seconded by Charlie Robertson and Dinah Faulds (co-opted), proposed by Sylvia Seivwright and seconded by Charlie Robertson.

7. Election of Officials:

- a. **Chairman:** To be confirmed at next meeting
- b. **Vice Chairman:** To be confirmed at next meeting
- c. **Secretary:** Victoria Wood (remaining in post)
- d. **Treasurer:** Peter Jeary (remaining in post)

As a chairman and vice – chairman could not be found, it was decided that this be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

In the absence of a new Chairman, Sylvia Seivwright continued to chair the rest of the meeting

8. Acceptance of Code of Conduct by Community Councillors:

All Community Councillors accepted the conditions of the Code of Conduct.

9. AOCB

- i. Sylvia Seivwright brought up that the Area Partnership Meetings, replaced Locality Committees (previously Area Forums) at the end of 2017 and highlighted that for some reason, CEN had not been receiving invitations or details about meetings. It was unclear where the information had been sent but it was agreed that Caroline Cook would continue as liaison on behalf of the Community Council and that she would attend the meeting on 6th June 2018, and report back at the next meeting. *(Action – Secretary to email the details of the meeting to Caroline and confirm representatives attendance to Community Engagement, SBC)*
- ii. Caroline Cook highlighted that since the refusal by SBC to site a dog waste bin at Mounthooly a “dumpy bag” had been hung from the gate post and dog walkers were putting waste in it. It was agreed to approach SBC again about positioning a waste bin there. *(Action – Secretary to contact SBC.)*
- iii. Malcolm McGregor stated that the standard of the B6400 Nisbet road from its junction with the A68 to the A698 was poorly maintained and with large potholes whereas conversely, the same road through Ancrum was in a much better state of

repair. It was agreed that the problems be reported by residents via the SBC online pothole reporting mechanism and correspondence be sent outlining the issue.
(Action – Secretary to contact SBC)

- iv. There was collective agreement over the non-attendance at the AGM by SBC councillors who had all been invited to the meeting and had been sent the agenda/minutes but from whom no apologies had been received, it was agreed that the Chairman would contact the councillors and specifically ask for attendance, where possible, at the next meeting. It was also agreed that to facilitate better practice for any community issues raised such as points 111 and 1v above then a sub-heading be added to future agendas under SBC Councillors and titled “Action Points”. It is hoped that this will give greater clarity of ownership to matters that CEN ask SBC to take forward on their behalf.

10. Date of next CC meeting

25th June 2018, Eckford Village Hall, 7pm